

Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

July 2021

NEWSLETTER

Argo Inn 292 Main Street



Captain Herbert Tracy (1853-1923) with his wife Lucinda Southard Tracy (1856-1910) are the first recorded residents of this Main Street house. An early census lists Capt. Tracy as a master mariner. A 1920 Bar Harbor Times story recounts his entry into World War I in 1917 to command a converted yacht patrolling the coast and to oversee the construction of the base at Otter Cliffs. The article, also details Capt. Tracy's experience in several rescues, while at sea. The Tracy family genealogy connects Capt. Tracy to an English baron in 1610, to Gouldsboro's first settlers and to a 1762 veteran of the French and Indian War. Mrs. Tracy's family were listed as lighthouse keepers in an early Gouldsboro census. The Tracy property was split with a sale to William Harrington in 1891. The Tracy home was sold in 1911 to Dr. Jesse and Ina Bragg. Dr. Bragg became one of Winter Harbor's 26 residents to, also be recruited into the service for World War I. A departing celebration was held at the Baptist Church with patriotic music, speeches from first selectman; Frank Weston, the Masons, Odd Fellows, Eastern Star and students from Winter Harbor High School.

In 1921 the house was transferred to another physician: Dr. John Dyer and his wife, Edith. Born in New Sharon, Maine on October 31, 1869, John Small Dyer devoted his life to his family, friends, and patients. He graduated from the Medical School of Maine in 1904, was a member of the Maine Medical Association and worked as a physician in his hometown from 1904 to 1910. He relocated to Harmony, Maine and worked there from 1911-18. From 1918 until his death, on July 9, 1922, Dr. Dyer worked and lived in Winter Harbor, Maine. They had one daughter, Madelyn Edith Dyer, who was raised in Winter Harbor.

Mrs. Dyer continued to live in Winter Harbor during the summers and transformed the house to 'Argo Inn.'

THE ARGO INN

TOURISTS ACCOMMODATED

Day or Week — Home Cooking

Telephone 75-2

Winter Harbor

She traveled to California in the winters and managed this summer guest house for over sixty years. Mrs. Dyer (1890-1981) was active in the Acadian Women's Club and employed many local young people to clean and make her famous balsam bags. Madelyn Dyer (1915-2001) graduated from the University of Maine and the Massachusetts School of Optometry to become the first female optometrist registered in Maine. Madelyn and her husband, Albert Conley; a research chemist went on to found the Conley Speech and Hearing Center at the University. They were donors for multiple scholarships, the Winter Harbor gym and were benefactors for the Pathology wing of Maine Medical Center; named for them. Madelyn is credited for the largest single bequest of over \$4 million ever made to Maine Medical Center. Dr. Conley transferred the Inn to the University of Maine and it was purchased by Larry and Jeannette Smith in 1986. We are grateful to the Smiths for preserving this structure.

Programs

Annabelle Myrick Weston (1873-1943), granddaughter of Schoodic Point's first settler will lead a walk through Winter Harbor's past at 1:30pm for \$15 donation on July 8, 15 & 22, 2021 Registration required at winterharborhistory@gmail.com

Museum

Visit our museum on Thursday and Saturday from 1 to 4pm. We have several books including: [A Summering Place](#) by Alan Smalldge for sale at the museum. Joanne and Rick Brown have created a diorama of the Mark Island lighthouse and an 1890's lighthouse keeper's kitchen. Also see their scale models of the Prospect Harbor Light and Eggrock Light, and an informational poster on the use of herbs in colonial America.

Congratulations

The new Hancock Historical Society building at 11 Captain Bill Road, Hancock are planning a grand opening on July 9, 2021.

Annual Meeting

Our election of officers and board members is long overdue, as we were unable to meet in 2020. Please contact Diana Young at 207-963-7818 or any board member to express interest in becoming a board member or officer. Please attend on July 21 at 5pm at museum.

Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

July 2021

NEWSLETTER

History Repeats



From Gordon Rand's postcard collection

Building Fund Donations Needed

Please renew your membership now and consider making a donation to maintain our aging building.

Winter Harbor Historical Society

President: Diana Young

Vice-President: Johanna Smith

Secretary: Pearl Barto

Treasurer: Cathy Carruthers

Building & Grounds: Brent Hurd

Board Members

Deborah Martin Barbara Campbell

Joanne Brown Charles Arnett