

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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

September 2016

NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the Winter Harbor Historical Society was held on August 17 with the reelection of the current officers and board members. The Society is seeking additional members for the museum, publications, historic sites, fundraising and program committees. Board activities have included conversion of a library of VHS tapes to DVD, organizing and labeling museum artifacts and print materials, multiple building construction and cleaning projects, facebook and web site communication, newsletters, Saturday museum hours, historic walking tour, oral history recordings and joint activities with the library and other area societies. The board continues to raise funds to stabilize the Historical Society building and support additional displays reflecting the culture of the town.

We thank Katherine Heidinger for presenting her writings from 1968-1980 for the Acadian newsletter. She highlighted articles about Marie Clark, Maude Gerrish, Mort Torrey, Flossie Hancock, Florence Chase, Truxton Coombs, Acadia Women's Club and the 1980 Town Meeting.

Donations

Thank you to Steve & Anna Harris, Grace Gerrish, Sharon Conway, Barbara Tagliarino.

Historic Walking Tour

A brochure is available at the Winter Harbor Town Office that highlights some of the former and current buildings along our sidewalks. The Historical Society thanks the Hancock County Planning Commission for developing a map to guide walkers and for including the Society in its pedestrian and bike plan for this area. We join them in encouraging visitors to park their cars and enjoy our village walk.

September 21, 2016 7PM

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Original Movie of Lobster fisherman, Dale Torrey's 2001 presentation to the Winter Harbor Yacht Club.

Enjoy Dale's stories of lobster fishing for decades from Winter Harbor. Join us for the premier of the Winter Harbor Historical Society movies. With a little encouragement this could become a regular event.

Winter Harbor Historical Society

President: Diana Young

Vice-President: Deborah Joy Martin

Secretary: Pearl Follett Barto

Treasurer: Cathy Lilly Carruthers

Building & Grounds: Brent Hurd

Board Members

Johanna Smith Mary Laury

Dan Keegan

Serene Cottage



During the 1880's according to Alan Smallidge's book; *Musquito Harbor*, 'Captain and Mrs. Charles Guptill opened their home, overlooking the Inner Harbor and the ferry wharf to become the first known tourist accommodation in the village.' Captain Guptill's wife, Francena was the daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Pendleton, town doctor for many years. She often accompanied her father and was the area midwife until her death in 1914. Capt. Guptill and his sister, Elmira Pendleton (who had, also married one of Dr. Pendleton's children) helped raise their younger sister, Dr. Almena Guptill Baker Flint. Dr. Flint became a successful practitioner in Boston and was an eventual owner of the Serene Cottage and many other Winter Harbor properties. The Pendleton/Guptill families again merged when Dr. Pendleton's grandson, Maurice married Minnie Guptill, great niece of Capt. Charles Guptill and they became the parents of Mary and Madeline. Serene Cottage reopened as a boarding home during the summers of the 1940's-60's under the ownership of Madeline Pendleton. Mary Pendleton married Alton Gerrish, Winter Harbor's postmaster through the 1960's and the sisters became neighbors on Harbor Point, where the Gerrish's raised their children; Janet and Joseph.

The Peninsula Gazette describes Serene Cottage in September 1955, as the site of the wedding reception for Janet Gerrish and Lt.j.g. Neil Buffett, former long term president of the Winter Harbor Historical Society. Lt. Buffett had been a boarder at the Serene Cottage during his time at the Winter Harbor Navy Base. The house was decorated with floral arrangements by Francis Chase and the upstairs tables were 'loaded with gifts which all brides dream of.' A four tier wedding cake was brought from Portland and author, Bernice Richmond played for the wedding. Janet's bridal gown was 'ankle length, lace over satin and she carried her grandmother, Cora Guptill's prayer book and a single orchid.'

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Madeline visited her nephew, Joe Gerrish and his family in Alaska and they eventually returned to Maine to raise their family at Serene Cottage. Joe and Grace Gerrish brought their six children to fill the house with bustling new energy. Joe and Grace opened the Dairy Barn and the Donut Hole restaurants in Winter Harbor and actively contributed to Winter Harbor's economy, local organizations and town government.

Nathaniel Pendleton purchased an original tract of 110 acres in 1837 and Stillman Guptill purchased another tract in 1840. These two families brought a commitment to place that has survived over eight generations.

Serene Cottage was sold to Sylvia Ong in 2005. Although the house was demolished, the lines and style of the Serene Cottage have been replicated in the Ong's new home.

Lights Out

End of season joint meeting with area societies on October 19, 2016 at 6pm at the Hancock Congregational Church. Guest speaker: Debbie Dyer, President of the Bar Harbor Historical Society. Choose fish or corn chowder and email winterharborhistory@gmail.com before October 10, if interested in attending. Winter Harbor Historical Society members are asked to bring a salad and place setting.