

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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

September 2018

NEWSLETTER

Banking History



BRANCH BANK TO OPEN—A branch of the Liberty National Bank of Ellsworth is under construction at Winter Harbor. People of this area have had to drive to Ellsworth for their banking needs, a distance of about 30 miles. (See story page one) (Crane photo)

Early banking in Winter Harbor often depended on creativity and travel. According to a Jonas Crane news article, a steamer ferry between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor carried the cash needed for local businesses and families. The ferry captain might carry ten to fifteen thousand dollars a day to keep the lobster buyers and merchants supplied with adequate cash. The ferry was equipped with a strong box, but the freight carriers were often responsible for substantial amounts of cash with only the freight office waiting room for storage. People from throughout the world could be waiting for a connecting ferry or buggy and the freight handlers would slip bundles of cash in long legged boots under a desk. One freight handler estimated that he had moved a half million dollars of boot legged cash without losing a penny.

Until 1830, merchants, calling themselves banks, were required to keep an amount of gold on deposit, but faced few other requirements. A Bucksport 'bank' and two 'banks' in Ellsworth managed to share the same deposit of gold by transporting the required gold by stagecoach driver. Bank inspectors would visit the Bucksport bank and the driver would transport the gold and the inspector to the next bank, delivering the gold to the merchant, while the inspector enjoyed a cigar before his next visit. The gold sharing worked for years, until one inspector began his route in Ellsworth, instead of Bucksport.

An incorporated bank formed in Ellsworth in 1852 and 'The Hancock Bank,' (also in Ellsworth) started a year later, issuing its own three dollar bill.

Over 100 years later, Liberty National Bank surveyed Winter Harbor citizens and concluded with plans for a Winter Harbor branch. Bernice Richmond monitored the bank's construction in the Peninsula Gazette as follows: "The 'Beacon lot' was cleared by Bill Pierce. Winter Harbor contractor, Alvin Whitten partnered with Vaughn Carlisle of Surry to complete the foundation and brick fireplace of the 30' x 22' Cape Cod style building. The

exterior had natural cedar shingles and the interior was finished with pine paneling and wallpaper. Carlton Tracey was the interior carpenter, who designed a maple counter to greet customers." Beulah Blance of Winter Harbor's Casa Marina opened the branch on May 7, 1960, as our first bank manager.



Liberty National Bank

On November 16, 1995 Winter Harbor's bank transitioned to its current space and became a branch of the Bar Harbor Banking and Trust Company. Bank Manager Judy Newenham welcomed special visitors; Rep. Pinkham, Sen. Goldthwaite, Town Manager Alan Smallidge and Bank President Sheldon Goldthwaite at the formal opening of the new bank. A cash donation from the bank was made to David Fickett, then president of the Winter Harbor Historical Society. (below)

Thank you to Andrew Somes and his staff for continuing our banking service and traditions.



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Programs

Historical Walking Tour

Join Annabelle Myrick Weston (born 1873) Register at winterharborhistory@gmail.com

Winter Harbor Cemeteries

Grace Gerrish, sexton of the Winter Harbor Cemetery Association will share her decades of history with the organization.

September 19 at 7pm at Winter Harbor Historical Society

Thank You

Thank you to Neil & Janet Buffet for their donation of many research and personal papers. Thank you to Dale Torrey for the photo of his brother entering the service. Joanne and Rick Brown donated a sewing table and a handmade model of a dory. A TV screen was donated by Tom Storr. Cheryl Stetson Cohick (Florence Lindsey's granddaughter) visited from Pennsylvania and donated family photos and photos of her grandmother's home.

Thank you to all, who supported our bake sale!

Donations Needed

- *Large Flat Screen Television
- *Window Shades
- *New Entrance (our cement step has become hazardous)
- *Outside lighting

Museum

Visit our museum on Saturday from 1-4pm. We have many new artifacts from the Buffet collection.

Program Thanks

We have been more than fortunate to have professional and thoughtful presentations each month. We are truly grateful to everyone, who has worked to prepare for our monthly programs.

Enjoy the Peninsula Gazette, a local newspaper written from 1954-1960 on the Winter Harbor Historical Society web site.

Receive news and updates on Winter Harbor Historical Society Facebook.
[*winterharborhistory@gmail.com*](mailto:winterharborhistory@gmail.com)

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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