

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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

June 2019

NEWSLETTER

Benjamin Bickford Home 137 Main Street



Nathalie Hahn recognizes this home in her *A History of Winter Harbor*, as one of the three oldest structures in Winter Harbor. Margaret Grammer's cheerful mint green home on Main Street's eastern side of Bow Arrow Hill is believed to have been built before 1840. Benjamin Bickford married Lydia Sargent in 1807, but their presence in Winter Harbor is first recorded in an 1850 census. This small home sheltered multiple generations, until becoming the home of Reynold and May Bickford and their nine children. In 1943 the Bickfords moved to a larger neighboring house (Littlefield Gallery). During that 100 years, Sargent relatives built on this original Bickford Main Street land. Emma and Lester Sargent raised their three children in the current neighboring 'Bakery' and their daughter, Sylvia (born 1906) married Lamont Perry and moved beside her parents.

Sylvia Perry is one of the most frequently referenced residents in our town newspaper; the Peninsula Gazette during the 1950's. Her lovely alto voice graced many Baptist Church services, and the Perry's dedicated their lives to their church. Sylvia hosted and organized the Sewing Circle that became the primary funding for the church and its parsonage. Children flocked to her Sunday School classes to enjoy crafts and stories. Sylvia and Mary Gerrish inherited the responsibility for town meeting dinner from Sylvia's mother and she was active in Rebekahs and Acadian Women's Club.

An Ellsworth American article by Jonas Crane credits Lamont Perry with beginning the use of fish by products for animal feed. He ran the Parkhurst Oil Factory in Prospect Harbor collecting fish liver from the many local fish buyers and markets. The livers were filtered for medicinal fish oil that was shipped

throughout the world. Lamont would row the fish waste into the harbor and dump it, but offered it to a large Winter Harbor chicken farm for feed. The Parkhurst Oils were tested by the Squibb Company, which ultimately patented Lamont's discovery that chickens thrive on fish byproducts, making fishmeal universally available for animal feed.

Emma and Lester Sargent's granddaughter, Margaret Grammer shares: "I have memories of being small in a house of glorious comfort: big, stuffed living room chairs with crocheted doilies, soft beds layered with handmade quilts and pretty curtains made to match each room. Aunt Sib, a seamstress was delighted with a sewing room addition to the house and her sewing business thrived with many customers from the Navy Base. My sisters and I enjoyed handmade dresses for every holiday of the year.

Aunt Sib could make a feast in no time and when I would run into the warm kitchen, Aunt Sib was in her apron and Uncle Lamont would be seated by the window with the sweet smell of tobacco rising from his pipe. On the counter would be fresh donuts, date nut and tomato soup cakes and always a fresh blueberry pie. She gave fragrant hugs; powder soft, like the spring flowers from the bed that Lamont kept around the house. The vegetable garden would produce enough to be serving turnip, carrots and potatoes into the next season. Sylvia's brothers, Casper and George cherished their visits to Winter Harbor and in the mid 80's my father, Casper and my mother, Bernice moved here to help care for the Perry's. I then moved to Winter Harbor in 2000 to help my aging parents. My father received the Boston Post Cane in 2009 and proudly remarked; 'The oldest resident in town, living in the oldest house in town.' Our families have loved this old house and our memories of running to Hamburger Hill on foggy nights for the best fried clams or climbing the great wooden steps to the general store across the street for ice cream or soda pop."

Thank You for Donations:

- *Photo of Dr. & Mrs. Holt from Faye Torrey
- *Early Grindstone photo from Alita Reed
- *Filet knife from Mike Faulkingham
- *Ledgers from Blance house estate auction from Browns
- *Anonymous donations toward steps
- *Night photo of belfry from Megan Moshier
- *Dory model from Rick Brown
- *Photo of Leonice Whitten as a child with a black doll and a sign from the Whitten Laundry from Peter McKenzie
- *Eggcup and silver seafood fork from Grindstone Inn from Everett Smith
- *Jonas Crane news articles and research papers from Janet Buffet
- *Grindstone Inn Ledgers from George Blance, Jr.
- *Alice Hammond photo given by Charlie Arnett
- *Three books from Nathalie Hahn
- *Umbrella from Winter Harbor Town Office
- *Donations in Memory of Neil Buffet
- *Grindstone Inn cream pitcher from Barbara Potter

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Sylvia and Lamont Perry

Programs

At 7pm at the Winter Harbor Historical Society
June 20 Whitten family businesses presented by Peter McKenzie and Michelle Bierman
July 17 Lobsters and Boatbuilding presented by Alan Johnson
August 21 Winter Harbor Yacht Club and Grindstone History
September 18 Winter Harbor Business History presented by Larry Smith

Museum

Visit our museum on Saturday from 1-4pm. A Summering Place by Alan Smallidge is for sale at the museum and the Winter Harbor Public Library.

Town Reports

Winter Harbor Town Reports for 1897-1950 are available to read through the new Maine Digital Library:

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs-winterharbor/>

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*

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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