

Winter Harbor Historical Society

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

September 2021

NEWSLETTER

Save Our Museum

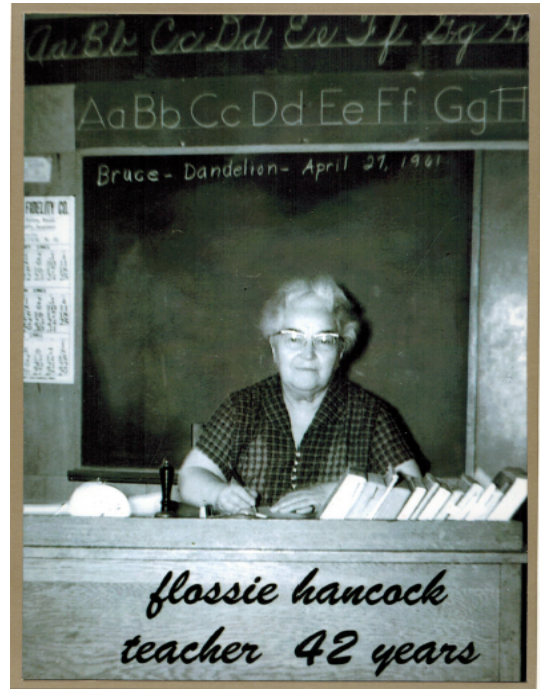
The museum was built in 1877 to serve as a common school and meeting hall on land previously owned by the Pendleton family on the site of the current Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. The school obstructed views from the neighboring Beacon Hotel and it was moved in 1887 over two weeks by five yoke of oxen to its present location on Hammond Lane. It served Winter Harbor children until 1952, when a new school was built off Harbor Road and the Schoodic Grange took over ownership. In 1965 the town placed the building under sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce. It was later used by contractor, Joseph Gerrish, until becoming the home of the Winter Harbor Historical Society in 1976. The society has raised funds (including a decade of weekly beano games) to shingle the building, add a bathroom and stabilize the foundation, among other projects.



Medallion in the center of the second floor ceiling of the Winter Harbor Historical Society

The Winter Harbor Historical Society faces the great challenge of preserving our large two story former school. Outside walls are leaning to the west and turnbuckles from previous attempts to stabilize the walls are sinking into the building. Window casings and fascia boards are rotting and the weight of the roof and belfry are hastening the structural compromises.

Please, Please if you have ever considered a donation to our society and have an interest in the preservation of this important building, we need your help! We need engineering assessments or expert advice on saving the building and we need donations to support a capital fund raising effort. Any ideas for safely storing our collection during possible construction would be welcome!



Miss Hancock taught generations of Winter Harbor's children

Programs

Send ideas for future programs and projects to:
winterharborhistory@gmail.com

Museum

Visit our museum on Saturday from 1 to 4pm or call 207-963-7818 to arrange another time. We have several books including: A Summering Place by Alan Smallidge for sale at the museum. Browse through the Winter Harbor High School yearbook: Pythia from 1913 through 1952. Town reports from 1895 to the present can be reviewed and the transcription of Dr. Nathaniel Pendleton's diary is on display. Many visitors enjoy looking at class photos from the Winter Harbor Grammar School collection. Clippings of Jonas Crane articles from several newspapers are organized in a notebook for viewing. Many local artifacts are waiting to be discovered during your visit.

Thank You

Thank you to Vicky Simpson and the family of Myra Smith Earl for the donation of her pump organ. We appreciate the efforts of board member, Joanne Brown for making arrangements for having the organ moved to our museum.

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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 Sandra Daley

Joanne Brown Charles Arnett

Rose Arnett

Annual Membership Renewals are due every July. Lifetime memberships and Donations are welcome anytime!

Freeland Bunker Diaries

Freeland Bunker (1845-1909) kept daily diaries for 37 years, offering unique insight on the day to day lives of Winter Harbor residents during the 19th century. Dr. Todd Little-Siebold, member of the history faculty of the College of the Atlantic has facilitated student support to scan the diaries and he has used these scans, as primary source materials in his classroom. Students have provided our society with a summary of the diaries from 1876-1889. They have highlighted Mr. Bunker's travels and varied activities in business, fraternal organizations and community governance. His travels range from Italy to Gouldsboro using every means of conveyance available. His labors include a major coal distribution business to digging clams. Please visit the museum to enjoy these summaries and the unique past of our community.