

Cranberry Chronicle

Number 27 • December 2013

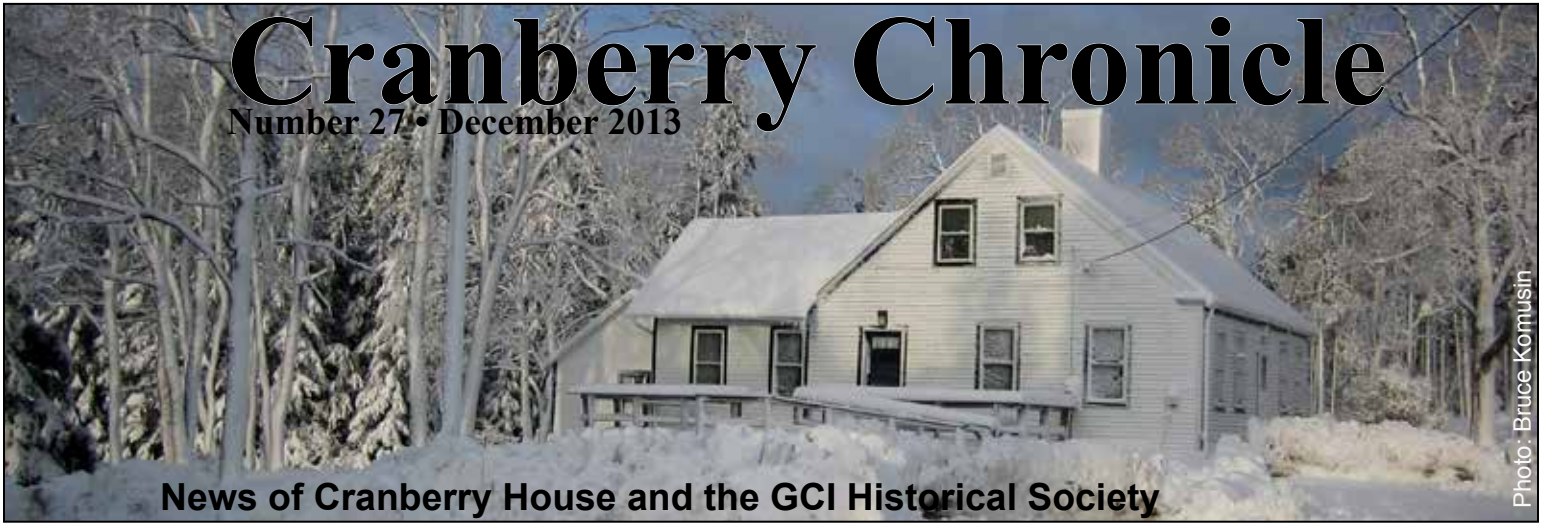


Photo: Bruce Komusin

News of Cranberry House and the GCI Historical Society

The Parsonage, January 2, 2008

180-year-old shoes in Parsonage

Remodeling the Parsonage was not without some historic drama. While removing the chimney last February, stonemason Gerry Brache noticed four peculiar, worn-out shoes and four wooden trinkets under the demolition rubble inside the stud wall around the old north-facing fireplace (now removed.) Later, the remains of two dozen other shoes were found under the kitchen wing. All these artifacts were brought to the GCIHS archives to be photographed and cataloged. While the remnants have yet to be investigated, the four concealed shoes have led us on a trek far beyond the confines of the island.

reported to the Northampton Museum in the UK, and drew a good bit of interest on an historical archaeology Listserv. Several archaeologists dated the shoes stylistically to the 1820s or 1830s—so they were probably hidden about 180 years ago.

The Parsonage cache consists of four single shoes, each of a different size: adult male and female, and two children. All are well-worn, and the man's shoe is patched. They all have pegged soles (tiny wooden pegs attaching the sole to the leather upper), a technique that was popular until about 1870. Hidden in the wall with the shoes was the hull of a carved wooden toy boat, and three small circular wooden objects with holes in their centers.



Four 1820-1830 era shoes found in the Parsonage wall during remodeling in 2013

Repatriation

Honoring memory and tradition, members of the Great Cranberry Island Congregational Church decided to return the shoes and trinkets to a non-working hollow in the newly-installed chimney. On October 7, 2013, the original artifacts plus four modern items were placed in a plastic carry case inside the faux flue, on a ledge just below the second floor. *continued on page 4*

Old shoes have been found inside walls around fireplaces and windows in New England and several other states since Colonial times. Two other GCI households have also found concealed shoes. Old, worn, often repaired, mostly single shoes were apparently walled-in as a folk ritual to bring good luck, ward off evil spirits, or simply to be remembered. Historical archaeologists and folklorists record many such discoveries. The Parsonage House cache was



Tom Powell repatriating the shoes

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Notes of Appreciation

The Historical Society wishes to thank the following individuals for their special support in recent months:

- 🍷 Rodney Wimer – For donating another season of free lawn mowing at Cranberry House.
- 🍷 Jim Singerling – For his gift of a 55” television and Blue Ray player, with 3-D capability.
- 🍷 Karin Whitney – For her gift of an air conditioner for the Arts Center.

Current Members and Friends - Starting in 2014, GCIHS is dropping memberships and adopting a more efficient and easier-understood Friends system. Friends’ annual renewal donations are always due in December, though you may pay earlier. This helps us plan for next season’s events. A heartfelt THANKS to the following folks who supported Cranberry House in 2013!

* Members who renewed after Sept. 1, 2013—marked with asterisk below—are already paid up Friends for 2014.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| *Alson, Allan & Sue Ann Glaser | *Dunbar, Charles & Nelia Dunn, Eric & Susan (Susan A. Dunn Charitable Fund) | Keegin, Stafford & Susan Kinsley, Rona Komusin, Bruce | *Pew, Arthur E. III & Judith B. Pierson, Dr & Mrs Richard N. Pinkham, Patricia M. | *Southwest Harbor Hist. Soc. Spencer, June B. |
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| Bradley, Katherine | Gertmenian, Jim & Susan King | Nevius, John & Alison Hess Newell, Morrison & Johnna | Rome, Abigail | Westphal, Gretchen |
| Brawner, James & Julianne | Glaser, Michael & Kathleen Goldberg, Mark | *Newman, Susan & Jarvis Noble, Edna S. | Rome, Dan & Cindy | Whaley, Susan |
| Bryan, Ashley | Harlan, George & Charlotte Harris, Nancy | Olson, John & Elin Blakstad | *Rome, Nathan & Bonnie Alpert | Wheland, Dylan |
| Buchsbaum, Elaine & Peter | Hartley, Holly & Oscar Anderson | *Oppenheimer, Johnathan & Jennifer | Saltonstall, David | White, Chris & Susan |
| Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne | Heyerdahl, Virginia Ann (Friends of Hitty Newsletter) | Ott, Emiline & Marvin Pagels, Capt. Steve & Ivy (Windjammer Cruises) | Sanborn, Beverly | Whitney, Phil & Karin |
| Bunker, David & Wendy Rackliff | *Hogg-Chapman, Chery | | *Schmidt, Kenneth | Whitney-Blake, Judith |
| *Butt, Charles | *Hook, Janet & Bill Patterson | | *Selim, Tarek, Elizabeth, Sarah & Laila | *Williamson, Mark & Sarah |
| *Byington, Whitney | Ingham, Jim & Cathy Jackson, Mr & Mrs Orton P. | | Shaw, Gordon & Joy Shoemaker, Paul & Susanne | Wilson, James & Jane |
| *Carter, Alice G. & Katrina Cleveland, Gail | *Johnston, Chris | | *Shorey, Joan | Wimer, Rodney & Donna |
| Cole-Will, Rebecca (Acadia National Park) | Johnston, Alex & Kate Jordan-Fernald | | Silvers, Damon & Elissa McBride | Sunday |
| Comiskey, Elsa | Kane, ‘Cap’ & Annie Eldridge | | Singerling, Jim & Molly | *Wood, Cameron & Nancy |
| Corley, Karl & Mary | | | Singerling, Chris | *Yorke, Robert & Judith |
| Corson, Neal & Candace | | | Singerling, Abigail | Zimmerman, Sarah & Steven (Astor Street Foundation) |
| Cox, Richard | | | Singerling, Hannah | |
| Craig, Karen | | | | |
| *Cranberry Club | | | | |
| Donald, Malcolm | | | | |
| Donald, Peter (GCI Trust 2007) | | | | |

Milestones

Deaths: Louise Strandberg 7/1/13 Ev Shorey 7/23/13

Arrivals: New Minister, Tom & Becca Powell 9/17/13

80th Birthday: Dick Avery 7/??/13

Miscellaneous: Final (?) GCI Ultra Marathon 7/27/13

Wanted for 2014 exhibit!

Next summer’s exhibit will highlight some of the old photographs in our collection. We have antique daguerreotype, ambrotype, tintype, and cabinet card photographs. We’re looking for cameras or accessories of the type that were used to take them. Do you have any antique cameras in your attic that we might display? And, even better, can you explain how they worked? We’d also like to see more such island-related photos. Please notify Phil Whitney or Wini Smart. Thanks for your help.

—Wini Smart Quackenbush, winis@smart-studio.com

President's Message

Winter has arrived here on the Cranberry Isles. There's still no snow, but temperatures have dipped into the teens several nights this past week, and stayed well below freezing during daylight hours. A rainstorm last week refilled the Cranberry House Pond, and it's now frozen over. It should be a good winter for ice skating.

The memories of another busy summer are gradually fading. The museum and café closed on Oct. 14th, already six weeks ago. The movie season ended Oct. 28th. This was our sixth season of operation. (Where has time gone?) In most respects this was our most successful season ever. We hosted over 270 events, including meetings, movies, art exhibit days, and many special events. Some highlights include the Art of the Cranberry Isles exhibit, Wini Smart's Mailboat art exhibit, Peter Buchsbaum's series of guided nature walks on the Whistler Cove Trail, five Heliker/LaHotan Meet the Artists programs, various other arts and crafts classes, several concerts, and several poetry-oriented presentations. Other notable programs were Memories of Maine Seacoast Mission's *Sunbeam*, Bonnie Alpert's enjoyable Group Play Reading evening, Earl Brechlin's talk on the WWII K-14 Blimp Shootdown off Baker Island, Gary Allen's narrative of his run from Cadillac Mountain to Washington, DC, a well-received Geology Hike & Talk by UMass-Amherst Geology Professor Sheila Seamon, and a Professional Tap Dancing show. Mary Beth Jeffries returned with Yoga Classes in August. Special fund raising events providing lots of enjoyment and much-needed income were the biennial Cranberry House Auction and a Cruise to the island village of Frenchboro under clear skies and fair winds, which garnered rave reviews by all on board. There were also two Open Houses featuring the music of the Mainely Music Barbershop Quartet and Ralph Stanley fiddling, and a Wilfred Bunker Slide Retrospective coinciding with his island funeral. Finally, the Cranberry House Arts Center hosted the Ordination Reception for new year-round resident Minister Tom Powell and wife Becca, with a large crowd enjoying the festivities.

There were so many other positive and memorable happenings this summer that it's nearly impossible to list them all. The museum experienced record-breaking attendance: 3,424 visitors. The receptionists, whose regulars included Gail Grandgent, Chris Johnston, Nancy Wood, Katherine Whitney, and Bruce Komusin, were uniformly professional and courteous, making many new acquaintances in the process. Karin Whitney's café broke all previous records, continuing the tradition of quality meals and gracious service in a country setting. Karin was ably assisted by Peggy Hall, Izzy McCafferty, and Katherine Whitney. Special

mention should be made of Skye Wheland, who volunteered considerable time at the café, and thoroughly enjoyed helping out where needed. Anne Grulich, our part time professional archivist, continued her important work, organizing our historical materials and researching Cranberry Isles history, often with interesting and surprising results. (See her separate articles.) Donna Sunday and Rodney Wimer again maintained the gardens and grounds in pristine condition, thus creating a wholly separate tourist attraction. Terry Towne, Trail Supervisor from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, helped install chicken wire on the Whistler Cove Trail bog bridging to reduce slippery walking conditions in wet weather. Volunteers from many backgrounds and areas of expertise helped out in many ways throughout the year, with Helen Bertles deserving special recognition for many hours donated in various taskings.

Several new projects were approved or initiated. This year's Cranberry Explorer shuttle was a huge success, and we will continue it next summer. (See separate article.) A new membership/fundraising program, the Friends of Cranberry House, will begin in 2014. (See separate article.) A part time advertising/marketing position was approved, to begin in March 2014. (See February newsletter.) The Wall of Fame photos were expanded upstairs in the Arts Center, helping ensure prominent past islanders are appropriately remembered. Two 10' x 20' canopy tents were purchased for larger lawn events. The generosity of our supporters was evident with the gifts of two air conditioners for the Arts Center (which made a substantial difference in heat levels), and a 55" TV and Blue Ray player, with 3-D capability, to be wall-mounted in the Arts Center. We also welcomed Mary Wallace, Tim Dalton, and Chris Johnston to the Board of Trustees. (See February newsletter for more details.)

It's been a great personal pleasure to work with all these wonderful people and help develop the fun-filled programs and events each year. We will continue making every effort to create a quality experience for all GCIHS and Cranberry House Friends and visitors. Wishing you the Merriest of Christmases and Happiest of New Years. —Phil Whitney, President

Cranberry Explorer a big hit

As one of 20 volunteer Cranberry Explorer drivers, I took delight in the response of the riders. People from many places, some quite far away, took interest in our island and the beauty and activities thereon. High on the list of stops enjoyed were Cranberry House, the "Million Dollar View" (MDV) and the Pool. As often as I emphasized the MDV, no one offered me the \$1M, but the tips to support GCIHS were generous. The Cranberry Explorer is an island experience which should be continued and enjoyed.—Fred Quackenbush

Parsonage shoes, cont'd from page 1

The modern items are: one pink-and-white flip-flop sandal with 2013 written on it, a church bulletin, a roster listing 2013 church members, and a GCIHS report explaining the shoe find. The flimsy sandal is a fitting contrast to the four heavy-duty leather shoes hidden years ago. Today, GCI is a summer vacationers' haven, while in the 19th century it was home to seafarers, shipbuilders, and farmers with large families.

Research

But the story didn't end when the box was closed and the chimney sealed. These shoes demanded answers. Who put the shoes in the wall? When was the house built? Research of deeds, census reports, oral histories, and features of the house indicates Enoch Spurling's family placed their shoes in the chimney wall ca. 1840 when the house was constructed by neighbor Michael Bulger. The 1845 probate of Robert Spurling (Enoch Spurling's father) gives Enoch title to a house. In the next generation, a series of deeds stemming from Enoch's daughter, Sarah Jane (Rosebrook) (1841-1916), definitively document the transfer of the Parsonage to the church. If you can provide additional information, we'd welcome it. Here's what we've found so far.

Robert Spurling (1782-1844) married Mary Stanley in 1804. They had eight children (including Enoch). Then the widowed Robert married Abigail Yeaton of Steuben Maine in 1843. His 1845 probate records that his second wife and four of his children gave the land "on which his house stands" to Enoch. It's not clear if the probate refers to Enoch's house or the deceased Robert's house, but it is believed Robert Spurling's dwelling was on The Pool. In that case, this deed would be referring to the house in which Enoch Spurling and his young family were already living. The probate record also notes that part of the property is "east to land of Thomas Spurlings [sic] heirs" which oral history indicates may refer to the stone wall between the present day Dowling/Meyers and Mountain properties.

In 1834, Enoch Spurling (1812-1890) married Mary Ellen Young and started their family of nine children. Their daughter, Sarah Jane (1841-1916), married Ebenezer Cobb Rosebrook (1835-1911) in 1861 and raised two children on GCI. We know that in 1908 Sarah Jane and Ebenezer C. Rosebrook donated a plot of land to the Ladies Aid. And in 1914, Widow Sarah Rosebrook gave 3.14 acres "with the buildings thereon" to Sarah Wheelwright, who in turn donated it to the Ladies Aid in 1933. In 2012, it became property of the Great Cranberry Island Congregational Church.

Builder Michael Bulger

While following the footsteps of the shoes, four very similar Cape-style houses came into focus. It seems the Parsonage and three other GCI houses were likely

built by Michael Bulger ca. 1835. Bulger (1801-1859) arrived on GCI from Ireland via Newfoundland about 1820, married Dolly Newman, fathered four children, and lived in the old Bancroft house. Thanks to Chuck Liebow, we know Bulger built the Liebow house on The Lane ca. 1835. We now suspect he built three other GCI houses about that same time: the Parsonage, the Dowling-Meyers house, and the Rice house. The four are Cape-style houses with the same steep, narrow, quarter-spiral staircase, single chimney with three fireplaces, similar flooring and beams.

So, it seems these four concealed shoes do indeed lend credence to the old folk ritual. They led us to the Spurlings and Bulgers, and leave us pondering human nature and the power of the past. And they remind us to be alert when renovating the historic houses of GCI. —Anne Grulich, atgrulich@smcm.edu

Parsonage Renovation and Hearse House Construction

The Parsonage was donated to the Church by the Ladies Aid in 2012. Recent research by Anne Grulich has revealed the building was constructed in the 1830s or 40s by Michael Bulger, who arrived on Great Cranberry around 1820, and subsequently lived in the former Trudy Bancroft residence.

Though unsuitable as a full time year-round residence, the Church decided to save the existing historical Parsonage rather than build new. Jesse Jameson was chosen General Contractor for the project, with a completion deadline in early December, so the new minister and his wife can move out of their non-winterized interim housing before the onset of deep winter weather.

Since late spring the building has been undergoing extensive renovation. There have been a number of sequential phases to the project. The chimney and interior fireplaces were first demolished. All plumbing and electric utilities were disconnected. The rear shed was set back ten feet onto new concrete pillars. The entire house was then moved off its foundation and shifted about thirty feet toward the Church. The basement was then completely dug out, with additional space excavated under the kitchen. A new cement foundation was poured. The house was then moved back onto the new foundation, surviving fully intact with no damage to the fragile old structure.

A new high efficiency propane heating system was installed in the basement. Portions of the house were rewired, and the former overhead exterior utility lines were replaced with underground lines.

A new septic system was dug on the northwest corner of the lot. The chimney was re-built with a redesigned

flue. The old, narrow, twisting stairway was replaced with a wider, spiral staircase encircling the chimney to the second floor. An additional third bedroom was constructed on the second floor. The bulkhead basement entrance door was moved around to the opposite (northwest) side of the house. An entirely new handicap access ramp was constructed at the rear of the building, with access into the kitchen. All new porches with steps were constructed on the north, south, and east (road) sides of the building. New vinyl flooring was laid in the kitchen. Structural beams in the basement were enhanced. Several interior floors and walls were painted. A new wood stove will be installed in what was formerly the dining room, and a generator will be purchased in case of power failure.

This has been a huge undertaking for the Church, and one of the most extensive renovation projects of an old historical building in the history of the island. With the construction finished, and the house occupied once again year round, it should be a source of pride, not only for the Church, but also the entire island community.

By coincidence, the author lately discovered an historical item dated October 1913 reprinted in a recent issue of the Ellsworth American newspaper. The one-line item noted “a hearse house is being constructed at the rear of the Church.” This addition still exists, though no longer used by the island hearse. It’s very ironic that this construction was happening exactly 100 years ago, as renovations were being completed in October 2013 to the old Parsonage.

—Phil Whitney, President

Echoes of the past

From *The Bar Harbor Times*, May 10, 1952

Cranberry Isles Rose Wedge, Correspondent

Mrs. Alta Bunker is home from Patton, Me., after spending the winter there with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Hulbert and Mr. Hulbert.

Kenneth Buckley, who has been working at the Bangor Daily News, has enlisted in the Marines. He is here with his sister waiting for his call to duty.

Herman Jacobs was the week end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hillard Hardy. Mr. Jacobs is in the Coast Guard service.

Mrs. Mary Vaux of Philadelphia arrived Saturday and will be at her cottage for the summer.

New Cranberry Isles Minister

When Tom and Becca Powell arrived Sept. 17th on Cranberry Island, it marked an historic occasion for the islands. Tom will be serving as year-round minister to both the Great Cranberry and Islesford Congregational Churches. Rev. Melvin Hutchins was the last GCI resident minister (May 19, 1949 to May 1, 1951), so it’s been 62 years since we had a year-round minister, and no one remembers Islesford ever having one.



Photo: Pablo Ocampo

The couple are originally from Pennsylvania, but have been living in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area. They will reside in the Parsonage on Great Cranberry, starting in early December.

Becca will continue her full time work in the Graphic Arts Department of Gordon College, Mass., telecommuting from Great Cranberry. Her hobbies include gardening and pastry cooking.

Tom received a Divinity Degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Mass. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister at an Oct. 12th ceremony on Great Cranberry. He has spent many summers on Vinalhaven, and developed a fondness for islands, boats, and the ocean. Tom will spend about 25% of his time ministering on Great Cranberry, 25% on Islesford, and 50% in non-church related work.

The Powells are very interested in becoming involved in community organizations and activities on both islands. Tom has already been hired as General Manager of CIRT, the Cranberry Isles affordable housing trust. He also joined the Cranberry House Operations Committee, and Becca is on the Publicity Committee.

They hope their ministry will help bring the island communities closer together. Current winter church services are planned for every Sunday—on Great Cranberry in the morning, and Islesford in the late afternoon or early evening.

We look forward to having lights shining again from the 1840s era Parsonage on dark winter nights, and the presence of these energetic young people on the islands.

—Phil Whitney, President

Museum Happenings

☞ **The museum's Finding Aid**, an online list of archival items in our holdings, was created in 2002 by Wini Smart and Bruce Komusin under a grant from the Maine State Archives. Due to press of other work, it lay moribund until Peggy Hall, and later Archivist Anne Grulich, started updating it in 2012. It will never be finished, since new artifacts are donated every year. But it now lists more than 1,900 items, many with thumbnail images. A link to it is on our web site home page at gcihs.org

Please be patient; it is slow to load and you may notice that many entries have only the barest description. We need your help in these two areas. Do you have web expertise? We want to develop a more user-friendly, Finding Aid based on our FileMakerPro (v7) catalog database. And if you can provide any information about an item in the finding aid that lacks a proper description, please send it along, too.

☞ **The museum's Hitty exhibit** continues to attract doll enthusiasts from all over. A recent email says:

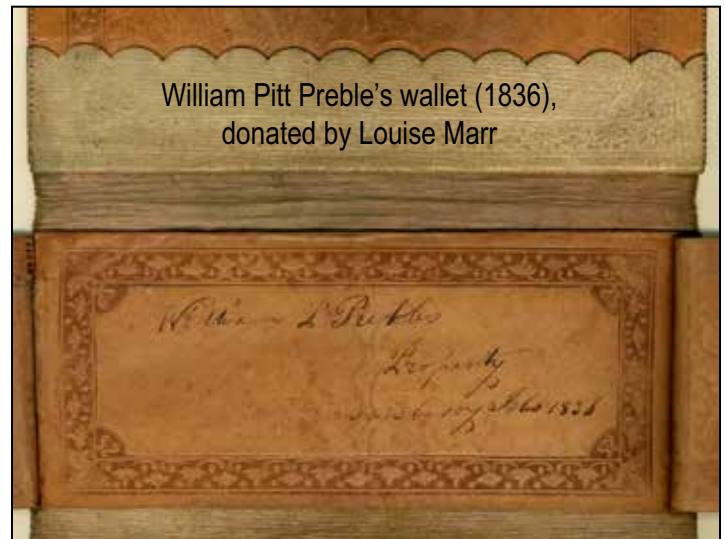
Dear Friends -

A month ago my family visited Great Cranberry Island and your museum. My daughter, Whitney, had already decided to be Hitty for Halloween this year, but her costume wasn't done in time for her to wear it during our visit. Here are two pictures of her in her costume. In the picture with the outer dress, she is also carrying the tote bag from your museum store (which will be her treat bag on Halloween). Please share this with Bruce, he was such a wonderful host at the museum.

Thank you so much,
Kathy *****
Birmingham, AL



☞ **The Preble house** (now Macfarlan) is the subject of a Maine Memory Network online exhibit. (Visit www.mainememory.net and look for the exhibit: "Great Cranberry Island's Preble House.") The exhibit is the culmination of a Community Mobilization Grant awarded to GCIHS in 2012. You may be familiar with the Hadlock-Preble era (1827-1911) of the house, but will probably be surprised by just how well the Marr and Macfarlan artifacts in the GCIHS collection illustrate this history, and just how complex it is. The grant stipulated that only original artifacts and documents could be used. This forced GCIHS to scrutinize and properly catalog its known Preble materials, go through its un-cataloged Preble items, and double-check dates, photographs, and prior research. In short, it made GCIHS more appreciative of the depth of its collection on this subject. The resulting exhibit just scratches the surface of the social and economic history that could be developed about this early 19th-century island property. The house, property, and recovered artifacts raise intriguing material culture questions that could be delved into with architectural and archaeological surveys.



Unfortunately, the Preble House exhibit went online at the end of the summer so it wasn't properly publicized or celebrated. Next summer we intend to display an exhibit panel in the museum and produce a publication based on the online exhibit. We can then include more in-depth interpretations and new images—including things like the ca. 1830 potsherds and pipe stem fragments Mickey Macfarlan has since donated.

Several of the tintype and daguerreotype photos shown in the online exhibit will be used in the 2014 photography exhibit Wini Smart is developing this winter.

☞ **Natalie Merchant**, singer-songwriter and musician, visited Cranberry House on August 30th. It was a casual tourist visit, but she was very interested

in our Rachel Field collection. Natalie had researched Rachel for her 2010 album, *Leave Your Sleep*, a collection of songs inspired by 19th and 20th century poems about childhood. The track, *Equestrienne*, on that album was adapted from Field's publication, *A Circus Garland*. Natalie knew quite a bit about Rachel Field, but was surprised and delighted to hear her actual voice, which we have in the form of a poetry recitation that Rachel recorded for a radio show in March, 1939.

☞ **Herman Savage**, of Southwest Harbor, recently requested photos and measurements of a ship model on display in the museum. The original vessel was owned by Tud Bunker (under the name *Thetis II*), then owned by Parky Shaw, and named *Lucia Cutts*. Herman made the model in the museum for Parky in 1983. Now a duplicate model was requested by Andy Pew. Herman figures it will take all winter for him to finish the job.

Stanley Cemetery Rehabilitation

The Stanley Cemetery Committee met this October to look into repairing and maintaining the cemetery just off Cranberry Road, in front of Moorfield Storey's original house on Great Cranberry Island. This cemetery has fallen into disrepair, with many stones fallen, tipped, or overgrown with moss.



Rehabilitation projects completed at cemeteries on Baker Island, and in Tremont and Trenton may prove useful as models for any work to be done at the Stanley Cemetery.

No deed for the cemetery land has been located, but it's been referred to over the decades as a family cemetery in deeds for the surrounding property. Anyone with historical information or experience with similar projects should contact chairman Chris Johnston at cvjohnston@myfairpoint.net. Other committee members are: Louise Millar, Patty Pinkham, Malcolm Donald, Charlotte Harlan, Tom Powell, Susan Michalski, and Anne Grulich, with Phil Whitney acting as advisor/liaison for GCIHS and the Church. —Anne Grulich, atgrulich@smcm.edu

Treasurer's report

The year 2013 to date has been, financially speaking, a good year in no small part because member contributions and fundraising events brought in significantly more than in prior years. However, we've spent significantly more this year for our archivist program, in the person of Anne Grulich. At mid November 2013 our \$17,000 operating cash balance is the same as it was a year ago. However, as we head into winter and as we continue to fund the archivist program, we need to continue receiving strong support from our members. And stepping out of my treasurer's role to speak as someone who contributed or loaned several items from the old shed behind our house, it gives me comfort to know that the historical society is professionally recording and caring for those items. I assume other donors and potential donors will likewise take comfort that their items will be archived and maintained to high museum standards. This in turn enhances the stature of the museum in its core mission of being a repository of island history as seen in the artifacts in its collection. So to keep the archiving and all of the other activities of the historical society properly funded as we move into 2014, I encourage you to continue and increase, if you're able, your financial support.

In that regard the new Friends of Cranberry House support program is designed to encourage everyone to reconsider the value of the historical society and Cranberry House to themselves, their families, and the entire island community. Rather than simply sending in a standard individual or family membership, the Friends program asks for your support at a contribution level consistent with that perceived value.

On a totally unrelated subject, I have seen several incidents reported in the press recently where a non-profit organization was defrauded by a long-time employee or volunteer who was solely entrusted with the accounting for and control of the funds—with little or no oversight. I want to assure you that such is not the case with the historical society. We have several different people involved in the process of receiving funds and making and/or approving disbursements. The treasurer provides financial statements at all board of director's meetings, and we have an audit committee which reviews the books and records of the treasurer at the end of each fiscal year. —Jim Bradley

Friends of Cranberry House

GCIHS finds it difficult to maintain our facilities with just minimal membership dues. So starting in 2014, we will adopt a more efficient and easier-understood "Friends of Cranberry House" support program.

Friends' annual renewal donations are always due in December (though you may pay earlier.) This is easy

for you to remember, and eliminates our need to compose and mail renewal reminder letters throughout the year. It also helps us plan funding for the next season's events.

Many thanks to those of you who've already become 2014 Friends in response to our October letter. Your names are marked with an asterisk in the list of 2013 Members and 2014 Friends, on page 2.

We urge you to reconsider the value of the historical society and Cranberry House to your family, and indeed the entire island community; we ask for your support at a level consistent with that perceived value.

An annual tax-free gift to the society at the Friend (\$25) or Family Friend (\$50) level corresponds to our previous individual or family membership. But perhaps you'll be moved to more generously gift Cranberry House, or underwrite a program you particularly enjoy or propose, as a Donor (\$100), Supporter (\$250), Patron (\$500), or Benefactor (\$1000 and up.)

Friends giving will preserve Cranberry House for current and future generations. Friends also receive discounts on museum purchases and trips, and receive invitations to special events. They receive our newsletter three times a year. All Friends will be listed in the year-end newsletter (amounts not shown) unless they wish to be anonymous.

Thanks again for your support.

—Fred Quackenbush, Finance Committee member

Christmas Memories

Annie Alley remembers when she was young there were two Christmas trees in the church, and there was always a Christmas program that the children put on. Everyone looked forward to the last item on the program, when Santa arrived to distribute presents. Annie said that it wasn't uncommon for people to bring some gifts from home and put those under the trees, too.

The year that her father, Buster, was Santa Claus, she knew it was him because she recognized him by his wedding ring. Every year there was always a hand-knit gift from the Seacoast Mission that could be counted on for each of the school children. Would it be a sweater, a scarf, mittens, or a hat? And what color? There's the suspense to opening presents!

—Gretchen Westphal

Polly Bunker remembers going to bed at Christmas and looking down the floor heat registers and seeing what was going on. (This was at what is now St. Germain.) Mother would be wrapping presents. We knew we would get a new doll and carriage. We played like those dolls were real!

My sister Ada had horses—May Ann and Daisy. And

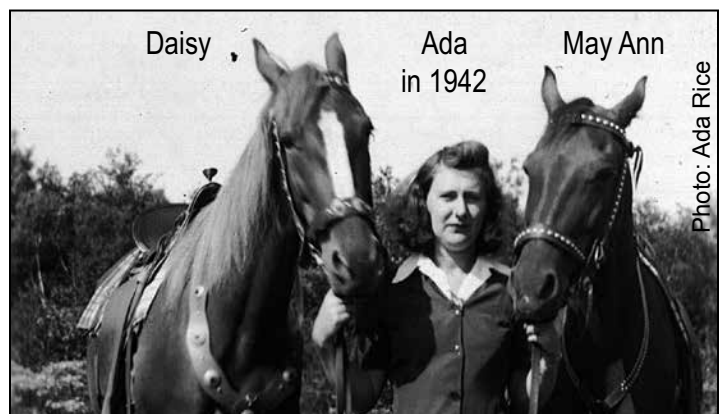
they could pull a sleigh. She would dress them up for Christmas. They'd get special blankets. We'd all get rides on the sleigh. The horses would get sugar cubes and carrots for treats. She treated those horses real good. She taught them to not wet in the barn. One time a vet came out and he saw them horses pounding their feet on the ground in the barn. He said, "What are they doing?" She said, "Oh, they've got to go out." One horse would go out to the left and the other would go to the right of the barn. That vet couldn't believe it! But she always had a nice dry barn! —Ingrid Gaither



Gaile Colby remembers a story about Ada's horses too... Ada's horses were like the racing horses, the kind that never stop moving, and hard to get on. One year we were going to take them out for a Christmas sleigh ride. She couldn't get one of them to back into the sleigh, it kept going around and around it. So finally I said, stick its head in that door, and we trapped her and I hurried to get the sleigh on her. I took Eileen and Lynn wrapped in blankets.

One time I dressed as Santa. I remember Carla Wedge, sitting in the house, near the dooryard, with her little face pressed up against the window, and we went by there on the sleigh with Santa and a big bag but of course we couldn't stop. Because the horses wouldn't stop. And little Carla there, looking at the window at us going on by.

I remember we didn't get all the big expensive gifts like kids get now. We were happy to get coloring books. And we got oranges, candy, and apples that were then called 5 point apples, I believe they are called red delicious apples now. —Ingrid Gaither



Photos from the archives



Photo: Joyce DePalmer

Wilfred and Norma Bunker's children, Mary Anne (Young) and Joyce (DePalmer), with their dog Queenie, in front of Wilfred's house (now the Strandberg family's.) Photo ca. 1948.



Photo: Oner Mountain

Four or five men shoveling snow from the main road, near the town dock, February 12, 1934. When Elwood Spurling was Road Commissioner, most work was done by hand.



The Firehouse (left) and the former Helen Parker house (right), now Sordyl, both taken January 2, 2008.



The Parsonage, December 4, 2013, with additional bedroom above the kitchen, and rebuilt decks. Compare this with the 2008 photo on the first page.



The Cranberry Explorer, July 18, 2013. Phil Whitney escorts six happy day-trippers down the island, with a finely tuned commentary.

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society

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