

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Teacher Audrey Noether and students leaving Islesford at the end of a school day in May.

PHOTO: SARAH CORSON



The Schools of the Cranberry Isles

PHIL WHITNEY

The first week of September, 2016 will mark an historic event on Great Cranberry Island. The renovated Longfellow School will open its doors to students after 16 long years of dormancy. Many thought the school would never reopen, but a rapid series of events beginning in 2012 changed the scenario. Before discussing recent developments, it is instructive (and fun) to review the history of the Cranberry Isles schools.

In the late 1800s, there were five grade schools on the Cranberry Isles. Two were on GCI, and one each on Islesford, Sutton and Baker. There were six schools counting the home-schooled children of the lighthouse keepers on Bear Island. There was even a high school on Islesford from 1895-1901. The two schools on GCI were: District 1, once located on Cranberry Road between Dick Haydock's residence and the Elwood Spurling Road transfer station entrance, and District 2, once located at the current Sam Donald house. Today, all that's left of the District 1 building are the cellar steps. In 1904, these

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD

OFFICERS

Phil Whitney
President

Chris Johnston
Vice President

Jim Bradley
Treasurer

Nancy Wood
Secretary

TRUSTEES

Elaine Buchsbaum
Neal Corson
Tim Dalton
Miriam Hinnant
Michael Macfarlan
Ted Madara
Kitty Pierson
Beverly Sanborn
Jim Singerling
Owen Roberts (Honorary)

CRANBERRY CHRONICLE

Editor
Rosalie Kell

Designer
Woodworth Associates

Printer
Penmor Lithographers

CONTACT US

Great Cranberry Island
Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Cranberry Isles, ME 04625
info@gcihs.org



Island Runners are Tough

Three “island boys” competed in the 2016 Boston Marathon. Mike Westphal, with his brother Rolf as wingman, finished in just over three and one half hours courageously overcoming the challenges presented by Parkinson’s disease. Mike’s running partner since high school, Gary Allen celebrated running his 100th marathon after successfully completing the Boston Marathon.

Michael, a guest speaker at the Michael J. Fox, TeamFox MVP Awards Dinner, spoke of how TeamFox had changed his life and how fulfilling life can be when you dig deep and commit to a cause such as research to cure Parkinson’s. The team raised almost \$23K during the Boston Marathon event. This coupled with the \$38K donated during the Great Run appeal last summer speaks to the impressive generosity of his supporters, many of whom have Cranberry Isles connections.

Our island runners will be joined by other world class competitors on June 18th for the Great Run on GCI.

Notes of Appreciation

We wish to thank the following individuals for their volunteer support of Cranberry House and GCIHS this winter and spring:

- Ric Gaither and Karin Whitney for decorating the Cranberry House, Sammy Sanford Cabin, and High Hopes lobster boat with Christmas lights
- Ben and Cooper Sumner for clearing the Whistler Cove Trail of winter tree blowdowns.
- Ben, Jen, Marla, Amber and Carmen Walls for providing two ducks (and future ducklings) to the Blue Heron Pond
- Treasurer Jim Bradley for many hours spent on financial matters, including complicated tax issues and Komusin Estate inheritance issues
- Tom Powell and Alan Cowles for their continued support of our technical needs
- Brad Woodworth and his design team for their dedication and support in producing GCIHS publications
- Rosalie Kell, editor of the *Cranberry Chronicle*, for shepherding it from start to finish

These are just several of many who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make our organization stronger.

Milestones - Passings

- 10.15.15 Dale Brown
- 2.6.16 Jean Cumming
- 5.15.16 Lucille Sayre

PAST PUZZLER

Jim Bradley correctly figured out last December’s puzzler using high school algebra. The ice-house dimension was 24’ x 24.’

NEW PUZZLER

The puzzler this time around is an historical photograph Phil Whitney selected. Identify all or as many of these people as you can, and tell us where they are. Send your answers to anne@gcihs.org.



President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

BLUE HERON POND

The Blue Heron Pond was expanded substantially last winter with the assistance of Blair Colby and a generous donation from a local islander. The pond now has a very irregular shape, with several coves and channels, as well as a footbridge to the little island. Two ducks have been transplanted to the pond by the Walls family. We anticipate several of their ducklings to be joining them. Ben Walls has renovated and placed a cozy dog house at the edge of the pond for the ducks overnight lodging. They will be a welcome tourist attraction this summer. In addition, Ric Gaither will be stocking the pond with two dozen rainbow trout.



It should be noted that Mickey MacFarlan is looking forward to catching a Blue Heron Pond fish for dinner. Ric Gaither will also be landscaping around both ponds, including weeding, lawn mowing, tree trimming and spreading mulch where appropriate. He plans on re-stocking the smaller Samson Pond with frogs and turtles.

Ric will also supervise the vegetable garden planted in back of Sammy Sanford's Cabin and plans to restore the scarecrow to its former glory.

– Phil Whitney

Time seems to move more rapidly with each passing year. We are now rushing headlong into our NINTH Summer season at Cranberry House! April through June is a busy time of year as we prepare for another season of programs, events, and exciting activities on the property.

We experienced our most active winter ever at Cranberry House. In past years we only hosted occasional meetings of committees and organizations in the Arts Center and weekly Archives Committee meetings in the basement. This winter was different. Almost every night was taken up with music classes, yoga, aerobics, movies, an occasional special event, in addition to the usual day or night meetings. More Islanders, especially younger people, volunteered their time in support of maintaining and running Cranberry House and participated in winter activities.

The installation of heat pumps upstairs in the Arts Center and in the basement Archives, along with keeping the bathroom facilities open all year, enabled everyone to work and play in comfort. Seeing Cranberry House become a true year-round community center of activity was very gratifying, especially watching folks help fill the huge void left by the passing of Bruce Komusin.



We have heard that people wonder about the relationship between Cranberry House and the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society (GCIHS). Cranberry House is the building owned and operated by GCIHS. It includes the historical museum, Hitty's Café, arts center, basement archives, Sammy Sanford historical cabin, Whistler's Cove Trail, and the gardens, landscaped ponds, and woods. GCIHS also owns and operates the Cranberry Explorer shuttle, which serves the island from mid-June to mid-September. At the heart of all this activity is the goal of preserving and promoting the region's colorful history and distinctive culture.

This Summer promises plenty of fun, entertaining and educational programs, and community enhancement projects. Chef Cezar Ferreira will return for his third season at Hitty's Café. He normally employs several young people from the island. Archivist Anne Grulich will continue her ever-expanding role of organizing and cataloguing our historical archives and artifacts while researching island history. She also leads the team preparing the historical exhibits for the season.

Another new and intriguing project this Summer will involve the GCIHS Cemetery Preservation Committee working with the Town of Cranberry Isles and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to identify and preserve the graves of the oldest cemetery on Great

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Cranberry. The Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Cemetery is located near the Town Dock. The grave stones have fallen into disrepair and we suspect there are several unmarked graves. The Town appropriated \$4,000 at Town Meeting for this project. Having learned a lot from experiences with the 2014 Stanley Cemetery Preservation Project, Anne is thrilled to be coordinating a team to save and restore this cemetery.

The GCIHS Events Committee, under the Chairmanship of Island Fellow Jessi Duma, is planning a potpourri of events, including several fundraisers. The committee has developed into an enthusiastic crew, with several new members who have brought new ideas and additional energy to the meetings. Hallie Sumner has agreed to manage the Jumble Tables (our daily yard sale of old and interesting stuff) during July and August. Hallie will recruit other island children to help out. The kids receive 50% of all sales, and 50% goes to Cranberry House.

We will also be engaged these coming months working on the properties Bruce Komusin left to GCIHS and CIRT. We plan to make decisions that utilize his generous gifts wisely in ways that provide the most benefit to the community, (*see page 21*).



Jessi Duma

Finally, GCIHS is pleased to announce that as the recipient of a two-year \$40,000 grant from the Buchanan Family Foundation Jessi Duma will be hired as our General Manager at the end of her tenure as an Island Institute Fellow in September. This new position is intended to relieve some of the strain and long hours of volunteer work currently done by the President. Jessi will work closely with me, and will spend a majority of her time coordinating fundraising, resolving inheritance issues, and identifying and implementing capital projects. Jessi's work as an Island Institute Fellow has been a resounding success with her Island Farming History project, and working with the school kids to generate interest, not only in current small-time farming initiatives, but also in the old days and old ways of farming on the Cranberry Isles. Jessi has made dozens of friends and acquaintances on the islands since arriving almost two years ago, and has become very fond of this town and our Cranberry House operations. GCIHS is very pleased she has decided to remain on Cranberry a while longer.

Charitable Contributions to the Historical Society from your IRA

For those aged 70 ½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.

On December 18, 2015, Congress passed, and President Obama signed, legislation that retroactively extended the charitable IRA rollover to 2015 and made this provision permanent for future years. Under this provision, a total up to \$100,000 may be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs each year to one or more qualified charities, such as the

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society, free from federal income taxes.

Contributions given this way count toward the donor's required IRA minimum withdrawal amount for the year of the gift. However, since the income is not recognized, such contributions do not entitle the donor to a charitable income tax deduction.

Also, even if you have already met the IRA minimum withdrawal amount, sometimes called the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), this

approach can still have value, as opposed to a withdrawal which is then contributed to a charitable entity, in that it allows for a lowering of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) which in turn may relax the limits on certain other deductible items.

To make such a gift, it is important that you have the donated assets distributed directly from your IRA to the GCIHS. For those with check-writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make a gift directly from your IRA to the GCI Historical Society.

If you are interested in making a gift of IRA assets, please contact your IRA administrator for instructions on making a charitable transfer or, as noted above, simply write a check made payable to Great Cranberry Island Historical Society from your IRA account.

Should you have any further questions about this giving opportunity, you should consult your tax advisor.

Transportation Update: Summer Ferries

PHIL WHITNEY

Sea Queen, Beal & Bunker
Mailboat leaving the
Great Cranberry Island Dock,
2015

PHOTO: ROSALIE KELL



Another significant maritime transport development has involved Blair Colby purchasing the "Cadillac" water taxi business from Newman & Gray. Blair launched his new business on May 1 and it will be available 24/7 for water taxi needs this season.

**Contact Blair Colby at
207.801.1898**

The major topic of discussion this past year has been the status of ferry operations to the Cranberry Isles by Beal & Bunker and Cranberry Cove. The latest report from owner Steve Pagels of Cranberry Cove is that he will be returning to normal operations this summer. Service will resume in mid-May with four round trips daily (every three hours) from Southwest Harbor and Manset, increasing to six round trips daily (every two hours) in July and August, and decreasing to four round trips daily (every three hours) from Labor Day to early October. Pagels hopes to resume the famed Night Boat service, probably on Friday and Saturday nights, extending the day schedule with two extra trips, departing every two hours.

As of this writing, Beal & Bunker (B&B) has not been sold. B&B will operate on the same schedule as in past years. Four round trips will depart Northeast Harbor beginning in mid-May until late June, with six round trips departing in July and August, before scaling back to four round trips after Labor Day. In recent newspaper articles, B & B President David Bunker, has indicated he may terminate operations after Columbus Day. At a Special Town Meeting, on May 14th town residents voted for the Town contracting with a private ferry operator to run the service. The town will contract with a private

ferry operator to assure continuity and safety in the ferry service.

The John Goodwin Company has recently purchased the Beal & Bunker barge and the *Cap'n B'* boat. The *Cap'n B'* was quickly resold to Newman & Gray Boatyard. Goodwin subsequently purchased a new tugboat to push the barge. After dry-dock maintenance, including painting both the barge and tugboat bright red, they are now launched and in full operation. Ronald "Bruiser" Sanborn, General Manager, reports they will operate seven days a week, as demand warrants, serving SWH and NEH and the Cranberry Isles. They are open for general business transport requests (contractors, freight trucks, private vehicles, etc.) as well as transporting their own construction equipment.

Treasurer's Report

JIM BRADLEY

All gifts are tax deductible and sincerely appreciated.

From the Treasurer's perspective, 2015 was a good year. The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society ended the year in a slightly improved cash position relative to 2014. The liabilities due to the Congregational Church and the estate of Bruce Komusin were forgiven, thus presenting a stronger balance sheet. As for the Profit and Loss statement, contributions to the Friends of Cranberry House Membership Program (the structured giving levels, i.e. Friend, Family Friend, Donor, Supporter, Patron and Benefactor) in its second full year saw contributions grow from \$21,400 to \$35,200. This increased support from the membership was needed to offset higher operating and archival costs in 2015.

Contrary to 2015, the year 2016 is starting out slowly. Contributions to the Friends Membership program are lagging behind those of the prior year. Please make your membership contribution NOW and be even more generous than you were in 2015. Friends of Cranberry House Membership Program forms can be found on back cover.

There is a lot going on at Cranberry House this year, and we need your support!

* THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2015 CONTRIBUTION

FRIEND

Avery, Dick & Marianne
Cormiskey, Elsa R
Fernald, Anna
Fernald, Jean
French, John A.
Fuerst, Joanne & Richard
Lamontagne, Deborah
Little Family Trust
McShea, Naomi
Mountain, Ronald
Nevius, Mary
Noether, Gregory
Pinkham, Patricia M.
Polky, Adrian & Diane
Ponczek, Henryetta
Richards, Eileen
Sanborn, Beverly
Spurling, Norma
Valenta, Jerry
Wallace, Mary
Westphal, Gretchen
Westphal, Ruth

FAMILY FRIEND

Bradley, Philip & Julie
Bradley, Stephen
Bryan, Ashley
Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne
Corley, Karl & Mary

Corson, Sarah & Dick Atlee
Dwellely, Shirley
Fitch, Dorothy
Freeman, Ruth
Goldberg, Mark
Harlan, George & Charlotte
Lim, Chong & Judith
Lutz, Janet
Marsoobian, Armen & Fulvia
Miles, Robert & Nancy
Murch, Creighton & Janice Smith
Nelson, Dale & Catherine
Ott, Marvin & Emiline
Perry, Gail A.
Pierrepont, Lisa & Jay
Raup, Henry
Richardson, Amy, Christina, Mathew, & Steve
Rome, Abigail
Rome, Nathan & Bonnie Alpert
Selim, Tarik & Elizabeth
Singerling, Chris
Spurling, Norma
St. Germain, Robert & Lucille
Sullivan, Richard & Ann
Tyrrell, John & Veronica
Wallace, William & Lena May

DONOR

Alson, Allan & Sue Ann Glaser
Bennett, Charles & Nancy
Brawner, Jim & Julie
Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine
Bunker, Polly

Butt, Charles
Chandler, Susan & Wells
Colby, Gaile & Savage, Arvard
Cowles, Alan & Linda
Dalton, Timothy & Nina Lilja
Dunbar, Charles & Nelia
Garnett, James & Margery
Gifford, Sarah
Glaser, Michael & Kathy
Great Cranberry Island Trust
Hinnant, Miriam
Holland, Thomas & Linda
Ingham, Jim & Cathy
Issacs, Henry A.
Johnston, Alex & Kate
Keegin, Stafford & Susan
Liebow, Paul
Lyman, Ronald
Maher, Gayle A.
McCall, Hugh
Murphy, Alice D. & Bill Bancroft
Neilsen, Janneke S.
Newell, Morrie & Johnna
Newman, Jarvis & Susan
Pierce, May H.
Quackenbush, Fred & Wini Smart
Roberts, Owen & Janet
Rome, Dan & Cynthia
Schmidt, Jeannette
Shaw, Gordon
Smith, Peyton & Megan
Watson, Tom & Leslie
White, Chris & Susan
Williamson, Mark & Sarah
Wilson, James & Jane

SUPPORTER

Bradley, James
Corson, Neal & Candace
Cranberry Club
Gertmenian, James & Susan King
Guth, Polly
Harris, Nancy
Hartley, Holly
Lyman, Lincoln & Ruthie
Madara, Edward & Rosalinda
Moss, Janice M.
Oppenheimer, Jennifer

PATRON

College of the Atlantic
Dunn, Eric & Susan
Kane, Charles & Anne Eldridge
Shorey, Joan
Wood, Nancy

BENEFACTOR

Anonymous Donor
Astor Street Foundation
Jackson, O. P.
Johnston, Chris
Macfarlan, Michael
Pierson, Alice & Dick
Schmidt, Kenneth
Singerling, James & Molly
Ward, Rodman & Susan
Whitney, Phil & Karin

*as of 4/25/16

Support Cranberry House

- **Become a Friend of GCIHS:**
Friend: \$25
Family Friend: \$50
Donor: \$100
Supporter: \$250
Patron: \$500
Benefactor: \$1,000+

- **Support Special Projects** through your extra special contributions.

- **Donate in Honor of a Loved One**

- **Fill the Donation Jars** at the museum and on the shuttle, or at movies, lectures, and other events.

Whatever you can afford, we will sincerely appreciate it. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution, contributions are tax deductible.

- **Remember – one forward-thinking person began the process with a single donation. Look what's happened in just ten years!**

Can We Count on your Support?

ELAINE BUCHSBAUM

A new season is upon us at the Historical Society. This summer there are interesting and informative events on the Cranberry House calendar and exciting new displays at the Museum. We are very lucky to have dedicated volunteers who support our efforts and we are always looking for more generous souls to assist us in our work.

We also appreciate any financial support you can offer. Our Friends membership program is up and running so you can show your appreciation for all that the Historical Society and Cranberry House provide. Almost every event we offer is free. Please take a look at the ins and outs of the Friends program and give what you can. We rely on you to support our work.

Here are some of the invisible expenses we incur:

- **Heating the building in winter for community activities such as yoga, movies, guitar lessons, meetings, informational events, and our basement archives.**
- **Cooling the building for summer events. We have been fortunate to have generous neighbors donate air-conditioners for our comfort but the electric bill is on us.**
- **Gas, maintenance, and insurance for the Cranberry Explorer golf cart shuttle service that provides free transportation for visitors and residents all summer.**
- **Salary support for our able archivist who curates Island history remains one of our most important investments.**
- **Internet, telephone, insurance, water tests, cleaning costs, fire inspection, elevator inspections, and archival supplies costs mount up significantly.**

Please keep these behind-the-scenes costs in mind next time you enjoy a lecture, movie, or reception at our beautiful Cranberry House. And remember to thank the volunteers who put in so much time and effort to ensure that the Historical Society keeps Great Cranberry a vital and exciting place to live and visit. And please consider volunteering yourself!

See you at Cranberry House very soon.



Students with Teacher George Hadlock at Longfellow School ca. 1910

PHOTO: COURTESY OF
GEORGEINA WARE
(GCIHS 2003.69.570)

two schools were consolidated into the Longfellow School. My grandmother, Ella Bates Spurling, was the first teacher at Longfellow, having taught previously at the District 1 School. Historically, the Longfellow School served first through ninth grades, but in 1937, the 9th grade was eliminated and a sub-primary grade was instituted.

The school system in the Cranberry Isles fluctuated as populations grew and declined over the years due to the effects of WWI and WWII; deaths of children due to epidemics; and the decline of fishing and agricultural jobs. About 1921, the Baker and Suttons schools closed because of a drop in year-round population. Teachers came and went as well in response to the number of students.

Two trends, one ominous and one positive, developed during the 1940s and '50s. Student enrollment began a long, steady decline at both schools. Gradually, the schools reduced staff to one teacher each in the early 1940s. But there was some good news to offset the bad as there was a steady increase in the number of students going on to high school. By 1960, nineteen Cranberry Isles students were enrolled in mainland high schools. The most popular high schools for island students over the years were Pemetit High School, Ellsworth High School, Lee Academy, Higgins Classical Institute, and Mount Desert Island Regional High School. Many other students took advantage of favorable tuitions and attended private academies farther away, such as Gould Academy in Bethel, ME, Concord Academy in MA, and St. Francis in Biddeford, ME.

Electricity arrived on the Cranberry Isles on Sept. 28, 1928, and electric lights were installed in both schools in 1929. Wood furnaces in the schools were gradually replaced by coal, which were in turn replaced by oil furnaces in the late 1940s – early 1950s. Running water and flush toilets arrived at Longfellow school in 1947, but the Islesford school was delayed until the early 1950s due to difficulties in digging a suitable nearby well.



Ella Bates Spurling, was the first teacher at Longfellow, having taught previously at the District 1 School

I remember when we first went to school (Longfellow 1940) there were two rooms then. I immediately became the teacher's pet. There were two rooms but we didn't have any playgrounds or anything. We climbed trees and things like that. We didn't go and do like they do today. Once we went to the top of Cadillac and it was the greatest thing I had ever done.

Gaile Colby

Besides the fluctuating island population, another challenge facing the earlier school administrations was the constant turnover in teaching personnel. Caused primarily by lower salaries and general state-wide teacher shortages, this problem would last into the latter part of the 20th century as teachers were drawn to higher-paying mainland jobs. Velma Teel was the exception to this trend. When she finally retired (for the second time) in 1955, Teel had served the school for over 30 years. Longfellow School teacher, Lura Bodwell, hired in 1967, had a lengthy tenure as well.

The 1935 Superintendent's Report noted, "Cranberry Isles has the distinction of having a complete force of local teachers, and all are normal school (teacher training school) graduates." The teachers for that year were: GCI – Dorothy Spurling Whitney and Velma Teel; and Islesford – Barbara Rice and Geneva Spurling. Each school had regularly employed two teachers, one for the primary and one for the upper grammar grades. This period was guided by Superintendent Winfred Clark. The 1937 Town Report was dedicated to him when he died suddenly in February of that year. Clark had served the Cranberry Isles from 1918 – 1937, and was very popular for his steadfast support of the island schools.



Longfellow School with bell tower ca. 1940

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DOROTHY TOWNS (GCIHS 2013.234.1316)

We studied all the subjects that they study now except for we did penmanship... Today, I laugh because they don't know what penmanship is. They don't need to write; they do everything on those computers. Years ago people's penmanship was beautiful... just like art.

Gaile Colby

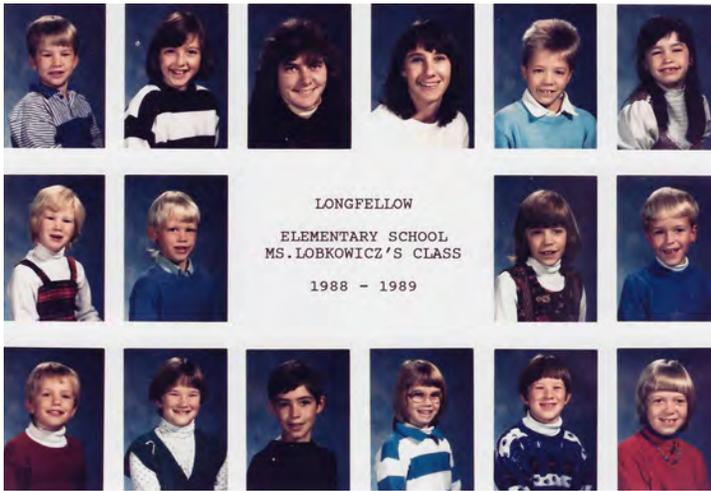
During the 1930s and 1940s island teachers came and went. An interesting anecdote involved Lawrence Standish, a young fellow who taught the upper grades at Longfellow School just prior to WWII, and who boarded with my grandparents, Elwood and Ella Spurling. He was well liked by the community, and especially by my grand folks. Standish, who entered the service during WWII, was not heard from again. The Spurlings assumed he died during the war. Then one summer evening in the 1990s, fifty years after he disappeared, Standish suddenly showed up unannounced at my parents' back door in Southwest Harbor. It was quite a shock – and quite a reunion!

The teacher who replaced Standish, Margaret Mulrone from Millinocket, also stayed with the Spurlings. She was a first cousin to future 1980s Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulrone. Margaret eventually married and lived in Bass Harbor for many years.

The 1970s saw student enrollment continue to decline. However, during this period, part-time teachers were added for the new Art and Music programs, and with the addition of a Guidance Counselor and Teacher Aide, the island school curriculum became comparable to mainland schools.

In 1982, enrollment dropped precipitously. GCI went from 11 to 6 students, and Islesford shrank from 12 to 5 students. Maine law mandates that voters at Town Meeting vote annually to keep their schools open (which they always did) when enrollments drop below ten students. Surveys were taken, the results of which confirmed most citizens wanted to keep both schools officially open in order to encourage young families to move onto the islands.

Continuing the up and down roller coaster enrollment ride of the past 60 years, GCI's numbers shot up in the late 1980s, with 16 students on board by 1989. Suddenly, a



*Longfellow School,
Ms. Lobkowitz's Class
1988-1989.*

*Top row, l to r: Josh Gray,
Elysia Sparacio, Ellen Savage,
Jill Lobkowitz, Scott Bracy,
Audra Wellman*

*Middle row, l to r: Mandy Bracy,
James Bunker, Christina Bracy,
Kenneth Whitney*

*Bottom row, l to r: Gabriel
Westphal, Hannah Gray,
Chris Sparacio, Megan Liebow,
Molly Gray, Ellen Whitney*

PHOTO: COURTESY JUD REED
(GCIHS 2012.210.1759)



*Students from Islesford and
Great Cranberry Island walking
with their teachers from the
boat to the school.*

second teacher was needed at Longfellow. The Islesford school population also made a sizeable comeback. In 1991, anticipating the need for a second teacher on Islesford by 1993, voters authorized construction of an apartment over the Islesford School. Total enrollment at the two learning institutions peaked in 1993 at 31 students, but then began a steady (and in the case of GCI precipitous) decline, due to circumstances within the GCI community. By 1996, Islesford had 19 students, including three from GCI, and Longfellow had just two.

On this historical foundation, the events of the 21st century of the Cranberry Isles school system are built. In 1999, the worst case scenario played out, as Longfellow School saw its last students graduate, and no children were waiting in line the following year to attend school. The school shut down – but not officially.

In the early 2000s, there were no school-aged children on Cranberry Island. The school building was gradually rented out to various organizations – library expansion, second floor gymnasium, town office space, artist studios, and the GCIHS museum. Only minor maintenance was performed on the building. The library, connected to the school building by a short hallway, had been built in the 1980s, and remained active during the school dormancy. The playground that volunteers constructed in 1985 on the Longfellow School grounds in a show of hopeful support stood silently waiting.

As the decade progressed, several children were born to island families and, as they reached school age, they began travelling over to Islesford to attend school. Islesford had managed to maintain a fairly stable school population, and continued employing two teachers. Slowly, GCI began to increase its school-age residents. People began talking about the remote possibility that perhaps Longfellow School might be able to reopen again someday. However, concerns were expressed on both islands about the expense of, once again, operating two schools, and also splitting the children apart since they had become accustomed to being together.

Beginning in 2012, a population surge began when several families with school-age children moved into CIRT Affordable Houses on GCI. The discussions surrounding reopening Longfellow increased in intensity. However, a major setback occurred when it was determined that costly renovations to the building were required to bring it up to new fire safety and handicap access code standards. Estimated costs were \$460,000 for Longfellow School, and \$100,000 for the newly renamed Ashley Bryan School on Islesford. There were many meetings and informal discussions at gathering places and on the roads and wharves of the two communities. A large amount of angst and sentimentality were reflected in concerns about spending such large amounts of money, keeping Great Cranberry Island viable as a demographically balanced year-round community, and keeping the Ashley Bryan School a viable entity with fewer students.

On Town Meeting Day in March 2014, almost every year-round resident of Great Cranberry Island walked down to the Town Dock forming a long line stretching the entire length of the wharf, and traveled over to Islesford to vote for spending the money necessary to renovate both the Longfellow and Bryan schools. There was healthy

Sheldon Goldthwait, his brother, John, and the rest of his family summered in the house that is now known as the Rome house. Sheldon recalls his experience as a young boy in the aftermath of the great fire on MDI when his family took refuge on Great Cranberry.

In October 1947 when the Evacuation whistle blew here in Bar Harbor, we packed up a few belongings and drove through the very heavy haze to Seal Harbor where we were picked up by Elmer Spurling.

My mother loved GCI except for the fact that all of our "long lost relatives" showed up in the summer. She enjoyed the Fall out there so much that we stayed really late in 1948 and I again attended school, probably longer than the previous year."

Sheldon Goldthwait

We don't know how lucky we have it! I'd rather see our children going to school on a boat with people that know and care about them then having to take a long bus ride to school like the kids in Aurora, Maine for instance. We are so fortunate to have two beautiful schools to choose from!

Eileen Richards

discussion on the floor of Town Meeting and, in the end, most Islesford voters sided with GCI voters in support of the warrant article favoring the expenditures. It then remained the job of the three-person School Board to implement the renovation upgrades and determine whether Longfellow school should reopen and, if so, under what conditions. The Board eventually voted unanimously to reopen the Longfellow School in September 2016 with students from both islands continuing their studies together. They will alternate every two years between attending the Ashley Bryan School on Islesford with the Longfellow School on GCI.

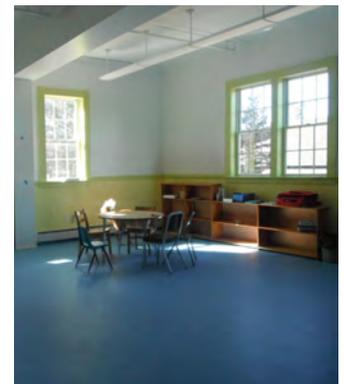
Renovations to both schools began in 2015. Only minor work at Longfellow School remains. The School Board intends to maintain both buildings in top condition in the future, and balance the needs of the two communities as fairly as possible during the coming years. These are exciting and challenging times for the preservation and well-being of our island communities. Reviving an island schools bucks the trend as other Maine islands and rural mainland communities are losing their populations and subsequently their institutions. The Town of Cranberry Isles is fighting back and preserving their heritage and way of life.



Above: Great Cranberry Island students arriving at Islesford.

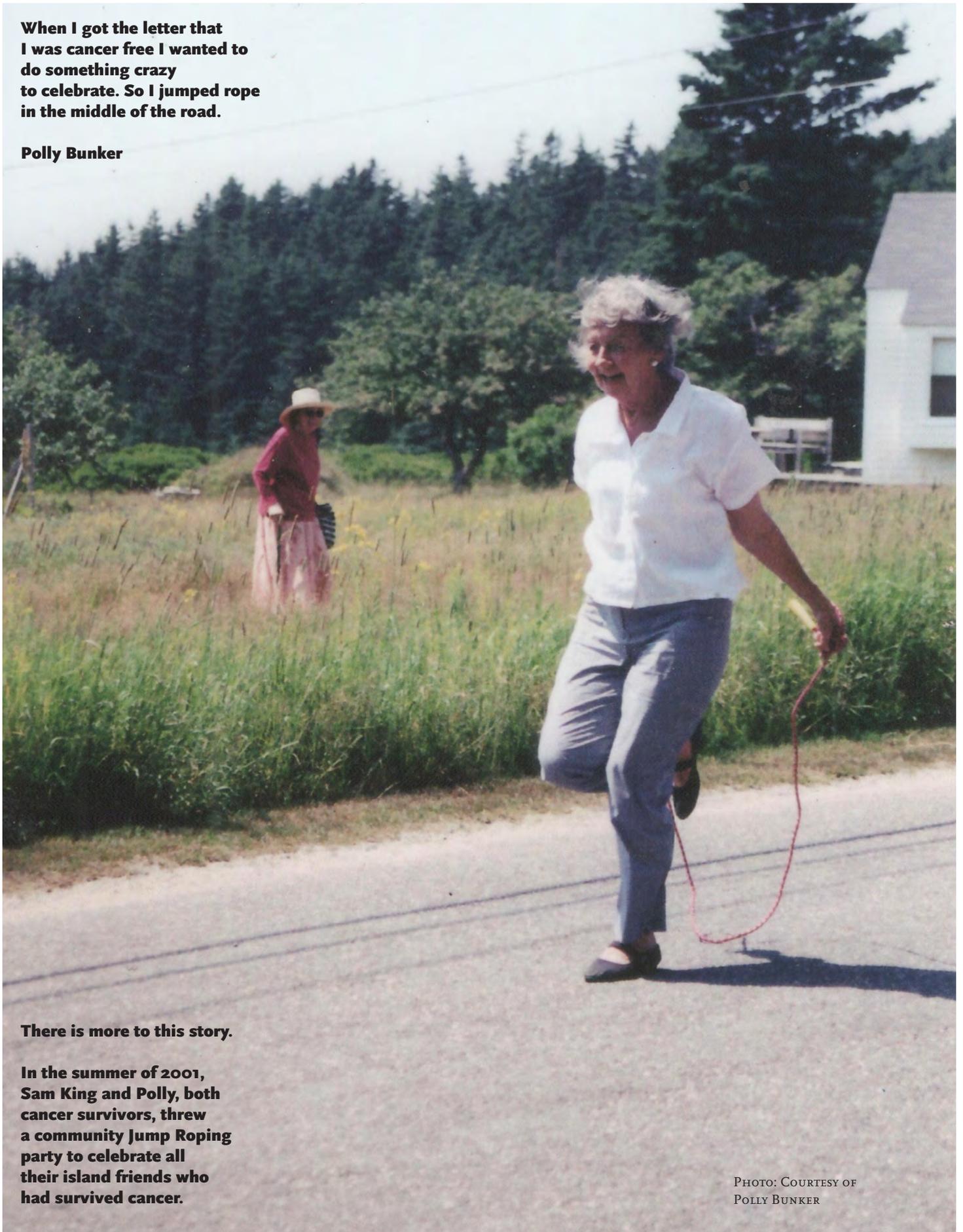
Right: New exterior front steps and an accessible ramp are part of the Longfellow School renovation. In addition, interior spaces were refinished and brought up to code with new fire safety standards.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SARAH CORSON, KARIN WHITNEY, ROSALIE KELL



When I got the letter that I was cancer free I wanted to do something crazy to celebrate. So I jumped rope in the middle of the road.

Polly Bunker



There is more to this story.

In the summer of 2001, Sam King and Polly, both cancer survivors, threw a community Jump Roping party to celebrate all their island friends who had survived cancer.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF
POLLY BUNKER

Polly Bunker a Brief History

WINI SMART

In late spring, we summer folks begin to arrive on Great Cranberry Island. Our first stop is to see how our cottage survived the winter. Our second stop is to visit the *Whale's Rib* and see Polly who always greets us with great joy and enthusiasm. Polly is full of news of island happenings and invariably asks about our doings. It is always fun to visit Polly and we inevitably leave with a purchase or two.

The daughter of Elisha and Annie Bunker, Pauline (Polly) was born at home in 1927 in the family house on Dog Point Lane with Rose Wedge as the attending midwife. Polly's family included three sisters, Ada, Leona, and Charlene, and one brother, Edgar. Polly attended school on Great Cranberry. At 16 years old, Polly began working at the Asticou Inn on Mount Desert. A good employee, she was soon placed in charge of the larger bustling dining room. Polly stayed at the Asticou for 25 years and traveled to Florida during some winters, working at a resort in Pompano Beach.

Polly married Tud Bunker in 1952, the same year she lost her father and her brother Edgar who was killed in the Korean War. Her mother had died earlier in 1943.

Tud worked as boat captain during the summer, and the couple went to Florida for many winters where he had a good job at Rodi Chris Craft in Fort Lauderdale and Polly worked at a high-end dress shop. After they were married, Tud moved Sadie Bulger's store on log rollers about a mile down the road to property they had inherited. This would eventually become the living room as Tud added to their home over the years.

In early 1970, Ada and Leona joined forces to open a restaurant on the cove, and Polly discussed the idea of opening a shop near it. Her sisters both agreed. It was a rush that spring for Tud and Red to build her shop and for her to visit the Boston Gift Show to order gifts for her shop. Polly called all her friends who could supply art, crafts or clothing, to send her an order. Tud was able to buy windows in Bar Harbor that had been salvaged from the big fire of 1947. Never one to

waste anything, Tud pulled up a floating raft which made a perfect front deck. One day while walking on the beach, Tud found a large whale's rib and so they nailed it up and named the shop the *Whale's Rib*.

Polly still had her shop there for several years after the restaurant closed. When Tud became ill, she felt she should be near him so she arranged a house mover to transport her building down next to their home. Polly has often been the caregiver – first for Tud, then for Ada and Charlene. Presently, her older sister Leona is living with her.

The *Whale's Rib* has been open for 46 years. Polly continues to find interesting items for her shop. She features homemade products from Maine artisans and has an attractive art display. You will still get a warm reception when you visit. Polly's shop has become a "must visit" destination and adds a lot to the island. Many thanks, Polly, for the spirit you add to our island.



Polly and Tud

One in a Million

ANNE WATSON

Lita Pauline Bunker is one in a million. She has forever been a main staple on Cranberry Island. Islanders, whether seasonal or year-round residents, stop at her shop specifically to visit her as much as to browse. Everyone loves Polly, or “Pop,” as her family calls her.

When we think of Polly, we think of her love of plants – the abundant petunias and bright pink geraniums that grace her window boxes, as well as her sister Ada’s favorite begonias in the planters adorning the yard. Polly has an eye for beauty and can create it “just like that.” The same goes for her snazzy outfits; Polly can “look like a million” in minutes without much effort. She pairs just the right colors with her accessories to give herself the perfect elegantly casual look. She does this for her customers as well, she has each customer in mind as she does the buying for her shop. Polly has always taken the time to know her customers and considers them friends.

Ever the socialite, Pop’s personality lights up the room. “It’s 5:00 somewhere – time for a cocktail!” is always her way to end the day with friends. And she shares colorful stories about her life with Tud, whom she adored. We’ve all heard the adventures of Polly and Tud: the tub at the tollbooth, where the *Whale’s Rib* was found, the exploding crescent rolls, the melted ovens, her brother Edgar, Tud and the submarine... Though Tud’s stories were hilarious, Polly has carried on their tradition of always being the storyteller at a party. Her childhood tales bring on belly laughs!

Polly and Tud were quite the adventurers, and they were both class acts. Polly will tell you that she gleaned a bit of that class by working as head hostess at the Asticou for years. She adopted their taste for simple, elegant white china and knows how to dress a table. Such class has been part of Pop’s character all along. Polly has always been a “woman of her word” – she is trustworthy. If she says she’ll do something, she does it. We’ve witnessed her compassion and sense of responsibility with her family – her love has been



Left to right: John Delaney, friend of Charlene, Tud and Polly Bunker, Charlene Allen, Charles and Ada Rice, and Dr. Fredrickson and Marilyn Fredrickson, going to wedding, ca. late 1990’s

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANNE WATSON

exemplified as she cared for and laughed with Tud, Charlene, Ada, Leona, McKayla, Patsy, and Baby Cat (never mind the birds and deer). Pop also has great love for Scott, Christina, Mandy and Patrick; it gives her great pleasure to be involved in their lives. She is a family rock, and a classy lady.

To many of us, Polly is the rock of this island. She’s always there when you need her, and she’s always good company. Her smile is contagious and her eyes twinkle. Pauline Bunker is the epitome of a good friend, aunt, sister, and “adopted” grandmother. We are all lucky to know her and to learn from her.

I worked with the Asticou. Standing in the dining room one day, looking over here (Cranberry Island), I said to myself, “It’s about time I get out of here and go over there.”

I had an idea to open a gift shop.

Polly Bunker

Limited edition Polly Bunker Day caps for sale!



Order NOW to secure your special hat for the big day. All proceeds will help fund the event. Caps are \$20 each and come in a variety of sizes for both adults and children. Hats will be available for pick up at the Cranberry House after June 24th.

Please indicate the number of caps of each color you would like on the lines below, and send this order form and your check to:

Leslie Watson
33 Golf Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109
or
P.O. Box 5, Cranberry Isles, ME 04625
after June 20th

And don't forget to wear your Polly Bunker Day hat to the big event to be entered in the special drawing!

Adults: ■ Pink ■ Aqua ■ Lime ■ Yellow ■ Khaki
 ■ Navy ■ Hunter Green
Kids: ■ Orange ■ Lime

Total Number of Caps x \$20 = \$

Mark your Calendars! Polly Bunker Day Sunday, August 14

We wish to honor residents who have been important to Great Cranberry Island.

Come on out and celebrate with us. There will be lunch, a short program with a fashion show (à la *Whale's Rib*), a poetry reading and more.

To help celebrate this special day, we are soliciting photographs of Polly. We want to display images of Polly with her many friends and relatives.



Polly (far right) and sisters in boat with Leslie Watson (in foreground), photo by Wini Smart

If you have a photograph of Polly you would like to share, please scan it and send your digital files to:

Jessi Duma at jessiduma@gmail.com,
and we'll put it in our slideshow.

We would also love to display printed photos, so please print your special photos to an 8"x10" size and mail them to:

Jessi Duma
P.O. Box 31, Cranberry Isles, ME 04625

Thanks, and come celebrate Polly Bunker with us at the Cranberry House on August 14!

TECH TALK

We are enjoying the benefits and security of Tom Powell's improvements to our IT hardware, especially the installation of the Network Attached Storage device (NAS) with redundant drives. We're now able to access most files from this secure central server remotely and on site. As an added safeguard, the NAS was backed up to the Cloud in April. With over 1.3 terabytes of data, the fastest place to accomplish the task was via the high-speed internet at the GCI library – and even that took nearly a week. Fortunately, we were able to work remotely on most projects during that time.

Next, we'll replace outdated and obsolete software so we can replace the present dying desk top computer with a new laptop that can handle a wide range of tasks including higher-end technical projects like video editing. You may recall that the old oral history video recordings we sent to be digitized at Northeast Historic Films are due back soon. With modern software on a modern laptop, we'll be able to edit and design video productions that can be shared with the public.

We await the results of a summer 2016 grant proposal to replace the archivist's aging laptop and to transfer the archives homegrown FileMakerPro catalogue to the web-based PastPerfect museum catalogue system that will make our collections fully available online.

Alan Cowles has uploaded the current limited version of our catalogue Finding Aid and he continues to work on mapping and reorganizing the website.

Archives News

ANNE GRULICH



Detail of 1871 Chart of North Atlantic Ocean plotting 1878 journey through the Strait of Gibraltar (GCIHS 2014.315.2076A)

Photo: A. Grulich

Nautical Charts Conservation Update

"32 days out from Cadiz for Gloucester – Nov 3d, 1878" ~

Thus wrote the navigator on the largest of the nautical charts of Great Cranberry Islander Meltiah J. Richardson as the three-masted schooner *Carrie M. Richardson* headed west across the Atlantic Ocean in the autumn of 1878. There are a dozen other legible annotations and calculations plotting the Richardson's progress before the pencil markings fade away near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. This chart desperately needs conserving and digitizing before it deteriorates any further.

As you may recall, last summer Jeannie Schmidt and Kathe McDonald donated a set of ten 1855-1877 nautical charts they'd inherited through the Carrie Stanley/Meltiah Richardson family. After having been rolled together and stored in boat houses and family homes for over a century, the set is quite fragile. Last winter, I cautiously spread them out and documented and photographed each one. In April, I drove them down to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA, (www.nedcc.org), where Senior Conservator Suzanne Martin Gramly and staff will prepare a conservation treatment plan for Chart 1 (the largest, most intriguing of the charts), and scanning/printing estimates

for all of them. Prior to seeing the maps in person, NEDCC had estimated that to conserve, scan, and print just Chart 1 would cost \$3,700.

The seafaring history of the Stanley/Richardson family is remarkable and heart wrenching – full of the adventure, determination, and tragedy that make Maine's 19th-century island life so compelling. Once conserved and scanned, these charts would become the framework for a one-of-a-kind maritime exhibition room in the GCIHS museum. The stories they tell are significant not only to the history of Maine, but to the Nation. Please help us preserve and display these charts before they fade away, taking their stories with them. There are many faint annotations on several charts that we cannot discern until the charts are scanned. The GCIHS Board of Trustees enthusiastically approved this project at their April meeting and contributed \$500 to kick-start the campaign.



Mary Catherine "Carrie" (Stanley) Richardson, celestial navigator and spouse of Capt. Meltiah J. Richardson.

Courtesy Hazel Stanley Peterson



Gen. Andrew Barclay Spurling - Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient grew up on GCI (GCIHS 1000.0.1066G)

Three Community Collaborations

SPURLING MEDAL OF HONOR PROJECT

In December 2015, Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap invited GCIHS to participate in a statewide initiative to commemorate Maine's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. As you may know, Great Cranberry Islander Lieutenant Colonel Andrew B. Spurling, 2D Maine Calvary, Union Army received the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" at Evergreen, Alabama, 23 March 1865. Spurling was born in 1833 to Samuel and Abigail Hadlock Spurling in what is now Robin Freeman's house. He grew up in what is now Mickey Macfarlan's house when his widowed mother married William Preble. Spurling left the island for the Ellsworth area as a teenager and by 1852 lived in California. When he returned to Maine, he married twice and served as Hancock County Sheriff. Spurling performed heroically throughout the Civil War. In later life he lived in Chicago where he made his fortune and then lost it in a major recession. In 1896 Spurling died, apparently alone and broke. He is buried in Chicago. Secretary Dunlap's inquiry has renewed our interest in our hometown hero. The Longfellow School students might take up the project to memorialize him on GCI this fall when they study the Civil War.

Coincidentally, while researching Spurling's military career, the military record for a Samuel B. F. Johnson, identified as 'Negro born in the Town of Cranberry Isles ca. 1839,' surfaced. In 1863, Johnson enlisted in the Navy in New York, and a year later in Boston. At the time of enlistment, Johnson was classified as Negro with black eyes and his initials tattooed on his arm. That's all that's known so far. The rest of his story remains to be discovered. The story of this black child born on Cranberry Island where Spurling was growing up could provide an intriguing contrast to Spurling's life for students studying the Civil War.

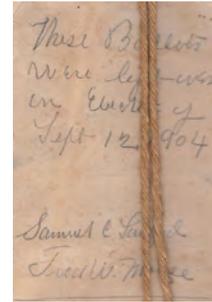
FRIENDS OF ISLESFORD HISTORICAL MUSEUM COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITS

This year and next GCIHS is working on collaborative exhibits with Rosamond Rea and Betts Swanton of the Friends of Islesford Museum group to celebrate Acadia's centennial and the Cranberry Isles in general. Several concepts have been proposed including fire and rescue services on the islands for which GCIHS could contribute some especially interesting artifacts. Brad Woodworth designed the GCIHS half of our joint promotional rack

card announcing "two great exhibits, two great museums" to be distributed this summer.

TOWN OF CRANBERRY ISLES SCANS PROJECT

This winter, after six months of work, GCIHS provided the Town of Cranberry Isles and the Maine State Archives with a set of 500 digital scans of selected 1831-1950s Town documents derived from boxes of folders rescued from the old Longfellow School a decade ago (where the Town offices were once located). Eventually, we'll be able to share these scans on the GCIHS website, but for now they are available for perusal at GCIHS on DVD. There are records from the mundane to the marvelous like Town Meeting warrants, weir requests, militia records, marriage certificates, and dog licenses.



A bundle of 1904 Ballots (GCIHS 2016.334.2100)

Exhibits – What to Look for When You Visit this Summer

- An exhibit on the history of the Cranberry Isles schools will complement Phil Whitney's new book.
- A new book case full of 61 recently-catalogued Rachel Field novels for you to browse through. Bruce Komusin collected a total of 152 Field books over the decades, often with several copies of the same title. These duplicate copies of Field's books will be for sale at the museum store; some are first editions, signed by the author.
- A video of present-day gardening and composting filmed by Jessi Duma will enhance her already inspirational agricultural heritage exhibit.
- More robust artifact interpretations and additional historical photographs.
- Heritage plantings. Donna Sunday has begun soaking rhubarb, sugar maple, white spruce, white pine, blue flag iris, and blueberry seeds from Polly Storey's old Wild Island Farm seed collection (GCIHS 2015.319.2080) to see if they are viable. These are seeds Polly collected locally and from afar from 1972-1992. Polly sold them regionally in seed packets. With any luck, we'll see some results by mid-summer.

Cranberry House Museum
GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND, MAINE

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF ISLAND LIFE

Left to right: Captain Charles "Pink" Stanley showing birds to his knots to Larry Williams, Tommy Williams and Jimmy Williams, August 1958

The Museum is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
June 1 - October 15

Free admission to the Museum

- Visit the GCI Historical Society and Arts Center
- Enjoy lunch at Hitty's Cafe

www.gcihs.org 207.244.7800

GCIHS-Friends of Islesford Museum collaboration ad

Publications for Sale in Museum Store

CRANBERRY ISLES AGRICULTURAL PAST

Island Institute Fellow Jessi Duma's book on the agricultural heritage of the Cranberry Isles explores the islands' agricultural past. Duma's descriptions illuminate the daily activities of early islanders and highlight the intertwined systems of farming and fishing on the Cranberry Isles in the 18th and 19th centuries. Photographs, census data, letters, ledgers, and island artifacts tell the story of the industrious women and men who farmed these islands and called them home.



A HISTORY OF CRANBERRY ISLES SCHOOLS FROM 1912 TO 2016

GCIHS President Phil Whitney's book chronicles the history of the islands' schools through information derived from Town Reports, newspaper clippings, photographs, and reminiscences of former students. It also traces the gradual reduction in the number of island schools as island populations declined. The booklet contains many photos, excerpts of Superintendents' annual school reports, and highlights of significant changes and upgrades to the schools over the years.

Students with Teacher Ms. Rich of "Rocky Hill School" on Schoolhouse Hill ca. 1890. (GIHS 1000.0.1495)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ACADIA

In celebration of the 2016 Centennial of Acadia National Park Cranberry Island's own, Wini Smart has published *Acadia and Me*. Wini, a respected watercolorist, is a longtime summer resident and co-founder of the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society. Her book commemorates Acadia National Park's history with prose, her memories of relationships with well-known artists, and her watercolor paintings. You can find a copy at our gift shop in the Cranberry House.

STANLEY CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROJECT

GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND ANNE GRULICH

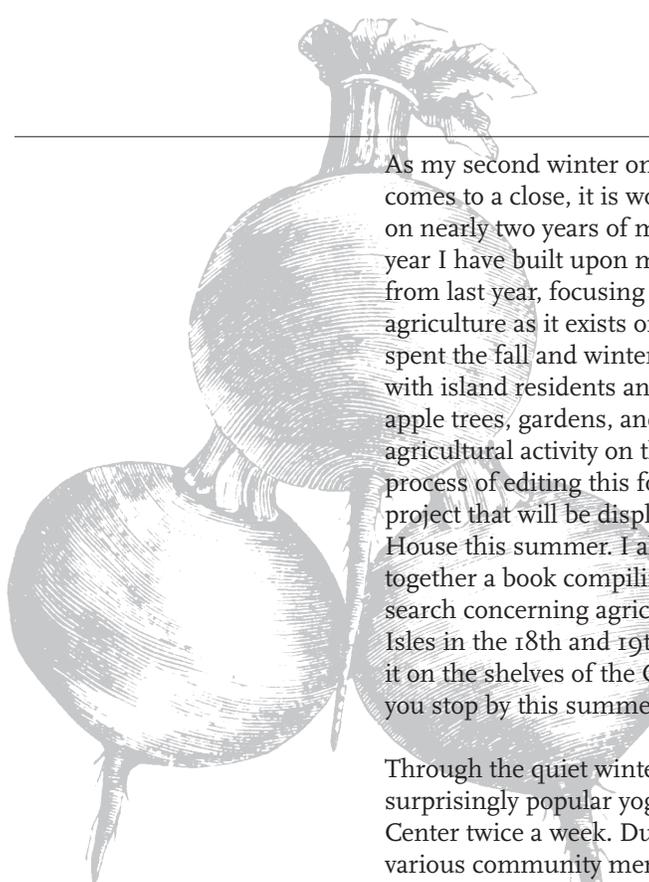


STANLEY CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROJECT

GCIHS Archivist Anne Grulich's booklet conveys highlights of the year-long 2014 preservation project undertaken by a GCIHS committee to conserve the 100 graves in the Stanley Cemetery on Bulger Hill, Great Cranberry Island. It's intended as a memorial book for those with ancestors interred on this hillside and as an aid to others undertaking similar projects.

Island Institute Fellowship & Garden Project Update

JESSICA DUMA, ISLAND INSTITUTE FELLOW



As my second winter on Great Cranberry comes to a close, it is wonderful to reflect back on nearly two years of my Fellowship. This year I have built upon my research and projects from last year, focusing more and more on agriculture as it exists on the islands today. I spent the fall and winter filming interviews with island residents and capturing images of apple trees, gardens, and people engaged in agricultural activity on the island. I am in the process of editing this footage to create a video project that will be displayed at the Cranberry House this summer. I also have been putting together a book compiling my first year of research concerning agriculture on the Cranberry Isles in the 18th and 19th centuries. Look for it on the shelves of the Cranberry House when you stop by this summer.

Through the quiet winter months, I hosted surprisingly popular yoga sessions in the Arts Center twice a week. Due to interest from various community members, this exercise program was gradually expanded to include aerobics sessions twice a week. Karin Whitney enthusiastically sought out a variety of exercise tapes, including everything from Pilates to *Jane Fonda's Original Workout*. My personal favorite was *Richard Simmons' Sweatin' to the Oldies* – nothing like twisting to *Great Balls of Fire* to heat up a winter night! I was honored this spring to be selected as co-chair of the Events Committee. We have an enthusiastic committee with lots of energy and ideas... I cannot wait to share what we've been working on with you this summer.

Now that spring is really here (enough of the snowstorms already, okay, Maine?), the Island Ecology Project team is starting to plant the gardens. This year we are expanding from three to four gardens and have erected our own greenhouse. We are also installing drip irrigation systems in several of them. You can expect the weekly farm stand to be open every Saturday starting in late June – brimming with fresh island vegetables. Our island-wide composting project continues this year with receptacles at the General Store and Hitty's Café.

This spring I started an after-school garden club program at the Ashley Bryan School. So far we have started seedlings, created our own compost in a container, and transplanted our pea plants into pots. While we do not have a fixed garden location, I hope that taking part in some basic gardening activities will help the students connect to their environment and get them thinking about where their food comes from. It is wonderful to see the next generation of islanders continue along in the farming footsteps of their predecessors and, as always, I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this process.



In preparation for spring planting, The Island Ecology Project crew, with Blair Colby's assistance, moved their greenhouse to a new site.

Bruce's Legacy

WINI SMART

We are grateful for all the time and energy Bruce Komusin spent acquiring, renovating, and maintaining the Cranberry House. His presence was a gift in itself. We are also thankful for the many other gifts he left the Historical Society and CIRT.

You may not be aware of Bruce's hundreds of photos of daily life on Cranberry: special events, church fairs, sheep shearing, children's activities, repairs and additions to the Ladies Aid, moving and restoring Cranberry House, and activities of the mail boat and barge. Bruce always carried the latest mini-digital camera in his waistband pouch so he could capture whatever interesting event happened during his daily walks. Many photos were to document history in the making, while others just caught his fancy. He seldom shared his photos or even mentioned them, but he carefully filed them by year on his computer.

GCIHS needs your help in cataloguing Bruce's marvelous digital imagery collection. While year-round islanders take this all for granted, summer residents see island life much different from city life. To them it can be like time travel into their grandparents' past.

Bruce took artistic photos of nature, storms, weather, close ups of rocks, moss, plants, and flowers. One of his special pleasures was capturing the lilacs blooming in front of Mickey Macfarlan's home.



Each spring Bruce took daily shots of the same blooms to watch their progression from tight buds to open fragrant flowers, visually documenting how long it took. These lilac photos were taken by Bruce from May 27 - June 9, 2000.



Bruce Komusin Inheritance Report

PHIL WHITNEY

Both Great Cranberry Island Historical Society (GCIHS) and Cranberry Isles Realty Trust (CIRT) affordable housing are now officially in receipt of the deeds transferring ownership of Bruce Komusin's properties on GCI.

- **GCIHS received Bruce's two houses and his workshop located on property at 300 Cranberry Road. GCIHS also received approximately two acres of woodlands located across the parking lot from Cranberry House and encompassing the Preble Cemetery.**
- **CIRT received Bruce's residence located above Preble Cove and 14 acres of woodlands surrounding it, including much of the so-called Topless Beach at Preble Cove.**
- **GCIHS has a reserved easement across the CIRT land to access and utilize the Preble Cove beach.**

GCIHS has determined for the near future to rent the two cabins and workshop. Jesse Jameson will occupy the workshop for his contracting business this year. The cabins will be rented year round to qualified tenants. Upgrades are planned for the workshop exterior and interior, enhancing the appearance of the main cabin, and separating the utilities. Ideas for the remaining two-acre woodlot are being evaluated. CIRT plans to work with Genesis Foundation to carefully research viable options for long-term decisions concerning their property. In the short-term, CIRT plans to rent the Preble Cove house on a weekly basis this summer.

The good works and legacy of Bruce Komusin continue.

The buildings at 300 Great Cranberry Road



The Colors of Spring on Cranberry Island

GRETCHEN AND RUTH WESTPHAL



It's the end of April and the drab colors of winter (the tans, browns, and grays) are being overtaken once again with various shades of green, yellows and more. The lawns are greening up, complete with a fresh crop of cheery yellow dandelions! Make wine out of dandelions or should we just cook the heck out of them and drizzle with vinegar? "Just mow 'em down!" others say.



Year-round islanders who are still in hibernation will be shocked back to life by the bright yellow forsythia bushes that bloom in May. Check out the Brooks' and Rome's next time you go down to get the mail and Louise Millar's forsythia as you go to the library. And don't just drive down to Murch's and back – go down the side roads and check out a number of homes with blooming forsythia.

And who doesn't love to see the lupine coming back and dominating our attention every time we go by a field full of this gorgeous, showy stalk-blossom? We mostly have the purpley-blue ones, but you'll see the rosy/pink and creamy white ones mixed in with the blue. Have you ever heard the story about my sister Sarah, who on her wedding day carried a lovely bouquet of island wildflowers, including spikes of lupine, down the aisle? She looked really nice and was very happy walking down the aisle on Dad's arm. (Yes, at our cute, little church.) During the ceremony Sarah noticed that her forearms were itchy. The itch turned into a rash and more itching, which led to scarring. If you look real close you can still see the scars today. So, if you're prone to allergic reactions, stay away from lupine.

For Polly Bunker, one of the first signs of spring is seeing blue violets growing out of some lawns. The delicate bluet flowers do this, too. Harold and Ethel Wedge's yard usually is blanketed with bluets. From a distance they appear white. But upon closer examination, their petals are pale blue with a little dab of white and yellow in the center of each blossom. Sometimes folks who cut lawns will avoid mowing down these cute, little wildflowers, thus leaving "islands" or "pools" of bluets

to admire. And yes, they'll eventually get mowed down after they've gone by. But don't let them know that!

Polly also loves the seeing blue irises (also known as blue flag) and lupine. During the summer months she enjoys the yellow buttercups that grow behind her house.

One-time schoolteacher, Miss Bodwell, had yearly Spring Wildflower Contests. The student who brought in the most 'first' blossoms (one per wildflower) won. Joan Westphal remembers that Kevin Wedge often won. (Belated congrats, Kevin!) One year Joan won and was given a large hardcover wildflower book, which she still treasures.

Next stop, our little Post Office, where we meet our Postmaster extraordinaire Eileen Richards who says she always liked seeing lady slippers, then fireweed later in the summer. Fireweed blossoms in the fields where the firemen used to burn in the spring. Oh, here comes Eva Galyean with her two dogs, Max and Solomon. Eva remembers that as a child, she loved trying to find lady slippers and trillium, the latter of which she hasn't seen since she was a kid of age 12 or so.

Speaking of lady slippers, for a number of years now Jennifer Westphal has been protecting single plants and small groups of them near where she and Mike live. She puts fences around them to keep the deer out. This approach works most of the time, but then there are those odd years when voles dig their way in. You know that nature is going to win in the end, don't you?

Oops, I'm out of time and haven't even spoken about the first house on Cranberry Road yet – Jan Moss's with her incomparable gardens. Well, when you get to the island, relax... You're home! When you get time, check out what's changed about Cranberry — what's new, and what's stayed the same. By the time many of you get here, myself included (Memorial Day Weekend), there'll be some color to feast your eyes on. Enjoy.

Summer Events at the Cranberry House

THE EMERALD QUEEN SHUTTLE

The Emerald Queen, our Cranberry Explorer shuttle, will return for another season of transporting tourists, residents, dogs, baggage, bikes, and surf boards around Great Cranberry. We anticipate the service will operate daily, 10-4, from June 15 through Sept. 15. However, the schedule is subject to change depending on driver availability. Qualified drivers who wish to volunteer are encouraged to contact Phil Whitney at 244-5933 or 244-7800.

Shuttle rides are free, but donations are greatly appreciated. All proceeds go to support Cranberry House operations. The shuttle departs the Town Dock every half hour, follows the Cranberry Road to the end of the island, turns around and departs every quarter hour, returning to the Town Dock. Stops are made along the way, especially at Cranberry House and Hitty's Cafe. Special on-call drop-offs and pick-ups are made along any Town side roads.

ATTENTION ARTISTS

Our 2016 Art of the Cranberry Isles show will have a theme of paintings of Acadia National Park to join in celebrating their centennial. Other subjects are welcome, too. Receiving dates are Friday, July 29, to noon Saturday, July 30. The reception will be Sunday, July 31. The Exhibit runs through Fair Day and closes Saturday August 6.

This is shaping up to be an exciting summer for the Cranberry House. We are ramping up our Summer events calendar and have a lot in store. All events are free and staffed by volunteers. The complete calendar can be viewed at gcihs.org, on our Facebook page, and in hard copy at the Cranberry House.

Open House - July 3

One of our first big events is the July 3rd Open House. Stop by for refreshments and enjoy the opportunity to get the inside scoop from the folks who designed the exhibits, learn about our conservation efforts, and don't miss a special display of artifacts from deep in our collection that will be brought out for this day only!

Farming Day - July 14

On July 14th our first ever Farming Day will celebrate the agriculture and agricultural heritage of the Cranberry Isles.

101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide - July 18-22

The week of July 18, on the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Professor Armen Marsoobian will present an exhibition and lecture highlighting his family's history during that time period.

Art of the Cranberry Isles - August 1-6

From August 1-6, the annual Art of the Cranberry Isles exhibition features the work of local artists.

Mike Westphal: The Boston Marathon - August 3

On Fair Day, Wednesday August 3rd, Mike will give a presentation in the tent at the Ladies Aid after the Fair. The public will be invited to the Cranberry House for showings of two films made about Mike's Boston Marathon experience.

Polly Bunker Day - August 14

On August 14, as the summer winds down, we will celebrate an island icon by hosting a special Polly Bunker Day. Attendees can expect food, fun, and perhaps even a fashion show. Come celebrate Polly, an integral part of our island community. All Polly fans sporting Polly hats will be entered in a special drawing.

All summer, we will continue our lecture series featuring local and visiting speakers on everything from boat building on Mount Desert Island to the work of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Ever-popular events like Bonnie Alpert's Play Reading, Peter Buchsbaum's trail walks, and Sam King's poetry workshops will make renewed appearances. In addition to these special events, we will host weekly yoga sessions, kids' art and adventure clubs, bingo nights, and movies. Check out our full Events Calendar by visiting gcihs.org and clicking on the Events tab. We can't wait to see you this summer!

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Cranberry Isles, Maine 04625

Order & Membership Form Instructions:

1. Copy this page, including your address mailing label, right.
2. Fill in the quantity & subtotal of the item(s) you want.
3. Add the desired giving level of your Friends Membership.
4. Indicate Newsletters by Email if you prefer a digital copy.
5. Make check payable to GCIHS for grand total.
6. Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Website: gcihs.org Email: info@gcihs.org

Item	Price	Qty.	Sub Total
Balsam Pillows , 6-in. wide	\$10 ea., 3 for \$25	___	_____
GCIHS Hats	\$18	___	_____
Videos (DVDs in USA format)			
Interview & Fishing with Wesley Bracy, Jr	\$16	___	_____
Interview of Ada Rice	\$16	___	_____
Interview of Charles Wadsworth	\$16	___	_____
Moving Cranberry House, Nov. 16, 2004	\$16	___	_____
Great Cranberry Island: Hitty's Home	\$16	___	_____
Manset Ribbon-Cutting, May 15, 2003	\$16	___	_____
Ralph Stanley and Friends, music	\$16	___	_____
Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry play	\$16	___	_____
Ralph Stanley, An Eye for Wood	\$16	___	_____

Publications

Bruce: His Life on Big Cranberry	\$25	___	_____
Sam King Poetry	\$22	___	_____
A Cabin in the Woods	\$24	___	_____
House Histories of Great Cranberry Island	\$32	___	_____
Cranberry Road	\$22	___	_____
Winter: The Other Season	\$22	___	_____
If It Were Yesterday... GCI Coloring Book	\$17	___	_____
Boatdog Bess	\$22	___	_____
Hitty Preble booklet & flat wooden doll	\$25	___	_____
The Construction of Road "I-95"	\$10	___	_____
Contributions For Cranberry House 2004-2008	\$ 8	___	_____
Riding with Tud, Interview Mar. 18, 1993	\$12	___	_____
An Interview with Tud Bunker, Oct. 1992	\$10	___	_____
Interview with Ralph Stanley	\$10	___	_____
GCI Maine Artist Sketchbook by Susan Michalski	\$20	___	_____
A Taste of Cranberry Art of Susan Michalski	\$12	___	_____

Total for All Order Form Items \$ _____

You can also order
online from the
GCIHS website:

<http://www.gcihs.org/1/gcihs/store.html>

Genny Mathews
PHOTO:
SARAH McCracken



Friends of Cranberry House Membership *Renewal for 1 year*

Indicate amount corresponding to the various giving levels.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend (\$25 to \$49) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$250 to \$499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friend (\$50 to \$99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$500 to \$999) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor (\$100 to \$249) | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000+) |

2015 Membership Year, if not already paid: \$ _____

2016 Membership Year: \$ _____

Total of All Order Form Items \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Please Send Future Newsletters as:

- E-mail only. Email: _____
- Printed copy _____

Change of Address

Please complete if your name or address has changed from your printed label:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Other notes: _____