

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY • JUNE 2019



Great Cranberry Island Restaurants: Part 1

Great Cranberry Island has been home to many different restaurants over the years. In this edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle* we explore, in chronological order, the first five restaurants that operated on Great Cranberry: Hamor House, Mountain View, Velma Teel, Porthole, and Cranberry Cove restaurants. In the December *Cranberry Chronicle* we'll discuss the more recent eateries.

The Hamor House Restaurant and Hotel

PHIL WHITNEY

The Hamor House was established shortly after 1900 by John & Sadie Hamor. It was a former farm which was made over into a restaurant with overnight accommodations. Several outlying guest cottages were eventually added, along with a boathouse and dock. Its location was the most isolated on Great Cranberry Island, at the end of the town road, and encompassing Dead Man's Point and most of Fish Point. The views from most any direction were among the most beautiful along the Maine coast.

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Springtime and Cranberry House showing their best..... Great Progress!

The Campaign Thermometer

As of April 30, 2019
our gifts & pledges are
\$257,749



Note of Appreciation

Sharon Morrell

For many volunteer hours as editor of the *Cranberry Chronicle* in addition to her help with GCIHS facebook page

Tom Powell

For many volunteer hours providing computer support to and for GCIHS

Transitions

The Tom and Becca Powell family moved to Islesford.

Milestones

Passings

12.8.18 Clara Wedge
2.20.19 Herman Savage
3.10.19 Steve Spurling

Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Publications

The following publications are currently available from Great Cranberry Island Historical Society. The items may be accessed through our website gcihs.org or email to info@gcihs.org.

Artists of the Cranberry Isles (2005)

Baker Island (2012)

Boat-dog Bess (2006)

Bunker Cemetery (1999)

Cabin in the Woods (2011)

Cookbook (2004)

Cranberry Road (2002)

Enterprising Islanders (2008)

An Artist's Sketchbook (2001)

Heroines (2013)

Hitty (2004)

House Histories (2010)

I-95

If It Were Yesterday (2001)

Mountain House (1999)

Preble Cemetery

Quilt Booklet

Quilts (2006)

Ralph Stanley (1999)

Riding with Tud (2001)

Salvaging Cargo from Emily F. Northam

Spurling Cemetery (1999)

Surf, Stone, & Spruce (2003)

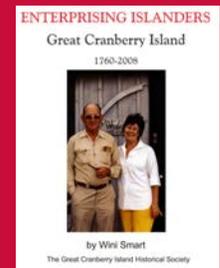
Taste of Cranberry (2002)

The Fairies (1999)

Three Heroines (2013)

Tud Bunker Interview by Patti D'Angelo

Winter, The Other Season (2004)



President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

Mark Your Calendar!

Events planning for the coming season has been well underway with the Events Committee meeting weekly since early February.

The Seaside Playhouse returns with movies for all ages and tastes – vintage classics, newer releases, foreign films, and family & youth-oriented films.

Karaoke with Karin Whitney, Beano with Douglas Cornman, and Yoga with Darlene Sumner will be regularly featured.

There will be poetry readings, play readings, wine tasting events, lectures, and Peter Logue's newest film on the Kellams of Placentia Island, hermits who lived there for thirty years.

July 8

Newman and Oltman, who have performed at Carnegie Hall and are friends of Peter & Elaine Buchsbaum, will present a fundraising concert for GCIHS and CIRT.

July 27

A Wini Smart Memorial and Fundraiser will give folks an opportunity to remember the former artist, friend, GCIHS President & Cranberry House Founder.

August 16

Pixie Lauer's group, Well Seasoned, will present a concert.



We experienced a long, wet, windy winter out here on the island. It was the iciest winter in recent memory, making conditions exceptionally slippery and dangerous at times. Jesse Jameson and crew worked valiantly to complete foundation work and exterior building construction on the new addition, at times working more than three stories high to finish the roof, often in high winds, bitter cold and icy footing. As spring slowly arrives, working conditions are improving, but additional donations for this particular project will be needed to permit completion of all floors. We are over halfway there in funds required, so the hard work must continue to reach our financial goal and see the building finished and open for operations, *(see separate article on page 6)*.

We were exceptionally busy around the property during the winter, including planning ahead for the busy summer season. Ric Gaither and Karin Whitney once again beautifully decorated the buildings and lobster boat with lights, candles, trees and wreathes, lighting up the village center for the Christmas season. Karin and Phil Whitney worked on the Wini Smart buildings, removing her rescued furniture to either the Shaw Cabin for future sale this summer, or to the Parsonage on loan to refurbish that house. The Shaw Cabin has had extensive remodeling with private donations to include enclosing the open porch, installing windows, and installing cedar shingle siding.

The two antique rowboats were moved to the Preble Cove residence garage for the winter. Plans are being made for their restoration this spring thanks to generous donations of time and money from several individuals.

Axiom has completed installation of larger lines, enabling full-capacity separate wi-fi services for the public and for in-house Cranberry House operations. Sharon Morrell has graciously assumed responsibilities for part-time technician work, transcribing audio interviews, learning video editing and selling items on eBay. For the first time ever, the Board of Trustees met monthly through the winter months, to oversee the construction activities and planning for the 2019 season. On the down side, it became necessary to suspend public activities upstairs in the Arts Center from mid-December through April, due to construction requiring removal of the fire escape until a new interior access stairwell could be built.

The spring months are seeing a dramatic increase in activities on the grounds in preparation for the coming season. Heavy winds all winter caused numerous tree blowdowns around the property, including ten blowdowns across the Whistler Cove Trail. General Manager Ben Sumner is taking the lead in clearing everything up. Reggie Sanborn of Whitney's Electric is wiring the Sea Wind 2nd Chance Shop, the Smart Shack and the Whale's Tale Gift Shop, so every building will have electric lights. Larry Hardison is digging a trench across the driveway for the underground electric wires. Extensive renovations are being completed on the Whale's Tale Gift Shop

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The Cranberry Explorer shuttle service, owned and operated by GCIHS, and now a perennial favorite, will operate daily from mid-June, continuing to serve the entire island,

hauling passengers, freight, dogs, goats, surfboards and all manner of other riders and wares.



GCIHS Special Events

August 1 Island Institute's Annual Anchor Visit

Cranberry House and Great Cranberry Island will have the honor of hosting the Island Institute's Annual "Anchor Visit," which permits their prominent donors to tour the island, visit businesses and organizations, learn about progress made in reviving the island as a sustainable year-round community, and give community members an opportunity to explain the various initiatives which are happening on the island.

August 24 Open House at Cranberry House

The GCIHS Fundraising Campaign Committee will host an Open House at Cranberry House to show interested islanders the new building addition (still under construction) and the activities at the former Wini Smart cabins and the Shaw Cabin.

**See all our Events at
www.gcihs.org/events**

by Jesse Jameson, including new flooring, shelving, handicap access ramp, exterior cedar shingling, and construction of a front porch and roof. The large anchor formerly located near Wini Smart's residence at Spurling Cove was rescued and will be displayed in front of the gift shop. Construction of a circular trail extending from Preble Cove through the marsh and woods to Whistler Cove is planned. Paving the middle of the parking lot with a 9' wide asphalt strip to reduce summer dust and improve overall attractiveness of the parking area is also planned.

The Cranberry House property will be buzzing with various activities and operations, more than ever, this summer. Laurie Wadsworth will be opening her new gift shop, *The Whale's Tale*, (see separate article on page 21). The shop will be patterned after Polly Bunker's Whales Rib, a Great Cranberry institution she operated for 40 years, with upscale Maine-oriented gifts and emphasizing an island lifestyle experience. Karin Whitney will be coordinating operations at the newly-revived and reorganized Sea Wind 2nd Chance recyclables shop, (formerly known as the Shaw Cabin), and featuring quality treasures and collectibles, with all proceeds going to support Cranberry House operations. Darlene Sumner will be supervising youth-oriented activities in the Smart Shack Youth Recreational Center, including art classes, exhibits, games and picnic/beach activities at Preble Cove Beach.

Speaking of beaches, Cranberry House is the trail head for both the Whistler Cove and Preble Cove Trails, which lead to totally unspoiled, wild coastlines and beaches. Cezar Ferreira will return to Hitty's Café for his sixth season. Under his management, café business has steadily increased and Hitty's Café is regionally famous as an island destination for fine luncheon cuisine and relaxing Cranberry Island ambience on the deck. Where else can you share luncheon space with the rich & famous of the world, and make friends with the island dogs lazing around the deck? The Preble-Marr Museum, with displays coordinated by Archivist Anne Grulich, and hosted by docents Chris Johnston, Karin Whitney, Nancy Wood and others, will also return with the possible addition of a digital exhibition allowing visitors to explore the Digital Archive and two cemeteries online.

As you can see, I am very excited about everything that is currently happening and being planned in 2019. I hope you will feel the same when you visit this summer, and that you will understand the importance of having a vibrant, year-round community tied together with prosperous small businesses, preserving our historical roots, providing diverse recreational and educational opportunities, and especially seeing many, many volunteers and workers coming together to make these activities all happen. Please come see us, participate in whatever interests you, and support us however you can – with fundraising donations, volunteer time, or promoting our mission to the outside world. Do not forget to check the Day Boards and our website for daily activities at Cranberry House. We all look forward to seeing you this summer.

General Manager's Report

BEN SUMNER

Several new additions will greet visitors at the Cranberry House this year as we open for our 12th season this May. Foremost is the opening of a new gift shop in the largest of the Wini Smart buildings that were moved onto the property last year. Laurie Wadsworth, a lifelong summer resident of Great Cranberry, will own and operate the Whale's Tale Gift Shop in a seasonal lease agreement with GCIHS. In addition to the gift shop, the former art studio will be the summer headquarters for a full schedule of youth-oriented events and activities. *(Please bookmark our calendar at www.gcih.org/events to keep up to date with activities for all ages of kids throughout the summer).*

Laurie Wadsworth, a lifelong summer resident of Great Cranberry, will own and operate the Whale's Tale Gift Shop, adjacent to Cranberry House.

Along with the expansion of the youth programs, Cranberry House will host a variety of new and recurring events this summer. This year the Art of the Cranberry Isles show has been included as one of the destinations in *Down East* magazine's Great Maine Scavenger Hunt. The exhibition is an annual event open to artists with a connection to Great Cranberry Island. This year's show will run August 4th to August 10th. If you have not participated previously but have an interest in being included this year, please contact us for more information.



The Cranberry House building expansion foundation has been completed and the new structure is under roof. Our Campaign Committee is continuing its work to secure staffing for GCIHS into the future and to complete additional phases of the expansion. The third stage of construction will be the completion of the climate-controlled archive space and will be undertaken as funding becomes available. The GCIHS Digital Archive has become a regional standard for the storage and dissemination of our collections. We hope, with your help, to make our physical archive a model for the preservation and protection of the collections so many of you have entrusted to us.

Informal tours of the new space will be available as volunteers or staff are available. Please contact the museum at (207) 244-7800 or email me at manager@gcihs.org if you have any questions or feedback. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you are able to make a visit and see all the new things taking place.

A Capital Campaign to sustain the programs at Cranberry House and protect our museum's archives

JIM SINGERLING



Our three-story addition from this past April.

Our Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Capital Campaign has made significant progress this past autumn and winter season. Our thanks go out to the many of our island friends and neighbors who have helped us surpass the \$250,000 target of our \$450,000 goal for this campaign.

The accompanying photos of the construction progress show the expansion of the rear of the Cranberry House structure with a completely enclosed three-story addition. The funds raised during this first phase of the campaign have facilitated the construction of the exterior enclosure of this addition.

We are committed to only completing the balance of this project as the funds are provided by GCIHS supporters. Finishing of the second-floor expansion of the Preble Marr Historical museum display area and the top floor will proceed as the balance of the campaign goal is committed. The additional room on the main floor will be used to expand exhibit space in the museum. This will enable us to share more of the interesting artifacts that have been donated to GCIHS. This space will allow GCIHS to provide a better educational and cultural experience to island residents as well as day trippers and visitors. The top floor will eventually become a small auditorium with a stage for plays, movies, concerts and presentations. We expect that this will become another important gathering place for the community.

The progress over the past six months has been impressive. As we mentioned in our case statement: “An August 2017 assessment of our archives by the Friends of Island History stressed that our basement archives storage environment is markedly humid, has fluctuating temperatures and mold is a major threat. Additionally, they noted our storage room has sufficient space to store current holdings, but will soon be beyond capacity at current collecting rates.” The GCIHS Board of Trustees accepted this assessment and recognized that as stewards of history, preservation and sharing of the GCIHS collection is paramount. As stated in our campaign case statement, GCIHS has collaborated with professional archivist Ms. Anne Grulich to organize, research, and present our collection since 2013. Anne Grulich plays a key role in cataloguing and curating our archives as well as building connections with regional museum organizations. Anne also attracts and mentors visiting researchers. Ms. Grulich has also managed preservation projects for two island cemeteries.

Our community has been very generous in donating artifacts to our collection and nearly 2,000 items still require the archivist’s attention to determine next steps for storage, preservation, digitization and exhibition. We have a collection of ten mid-19th-century nautical charts, a pair of antique rowing boats and a horse-drawn carriage from the 1890s that are among many interesting donations that need attention and improved storage facilities.

I ask all summer visitors and residents, MDI neighbors, and all who are able to include our capital campaign in your charitable giving in 2019 - 2020.

Jim Singerling, Chair Campaign Committee



Construction on our three-story addition continues this summer.

Activities around Cranberry House will be many in number this year. Darlene Sumner will again be organizing youth activities. However, this year the activities will be housed in the Cranberry House Youth Activity Center, formerly known as the Wini Smart Art Studio. GCIHS was able to provide power and renovations to Wini's relocated, refurbished Studio that allow this space to be available for these youth programs for the summer of 2019.

As we approach another season on our beloved Great Cranberry Island, any suggestions or support that you may feel comfortable offering towards achieving our goal will be gratefully accepted. I look forward to seeing you on the island.

The memorable era of the Hamor House could not last. It had survived WWI and the Great Depression, but WWII was on the horizon which would see many summer homes shuttered,

travel restricted, and the seasonal leisure life curtailed for the war effort.



Hamor Tea House with boat in front, ca. 1920

PHOTO: GIFT OF CATHY INGHAM
(GCIHS 2010.126.1016N)

The operation was necessarily a seasonal one, open generally from late June - September. The Hamor House rapidly became regionally famous. The clientele were wealthier summer residents – a few from the Cranberry Isles, but mostly from Bar Harbor, Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor. There were no ferries to Cranberry Island in the early 20th Century, so visitors usually arrived in their own summer yachts or by chartered launch. Being located adjacent to the Pool, boats could dock at the Boathouse Dock when the tide was higher, or out on Fish Point on the easterly side facing Islesford at lower tides, where the Cranberry Club had a dock. A half mile path led thru beautiful woods to the Hamor House. Eventually a reading room cottage, the “Castaways,” was constructed on the end of Dead Man’s Point, offering magnificent open ocean views and complete solitude. The Green Boathouse building was developed into employee lodging for off island workers.

The Hamor House served all meals – breakfast, lunch, dinner – plus afternoon teas. The teas were apparently very popular, and the business was often referred to as the Hamor “Tea” House. Over the decades many local islanders worked as waitresses, housekeepers and cooks. Others were employed as gardeners and maintenance workers. The late Winston Sheppard fondly remembered Rose Wedge as a cook during the 1930s when his family vacationed there from 1931-1939. My grandmother, Ella Spurling, worked there in the early years. My mother, Dorothy Spurling Whitney, earned money there in the 1920s while a student, and continued in the early 1930s after becoming a teacher. One interesting anecdote which originated at this very romantic place had long-lasting, wide-ranging consequences for the region. My mother began her brief teaching career up in Sherman Station in Aroostook County around 1932, on the encouragement of Vincie Bunker, an aunt of Gaile Colby and cousin of my mother. Vincie was married to Charles Hulbert, Sr., Superintendent of Schools up there. She became friends with a local girl, Gail Patterson, and eventually invited her to spend summers at GCI and work at the Hamor House. Gail subsequently met Raymond Bunker, Vincie’s younger brother, They married and had four children, including Susan. Raymond would eventually, after WWII, partner with Ralph Ellis in Manset to establish the famous Bunker & Ellis boatbuilding company. The boats are now collectors’ items, and often seen in the waters around MDI. The Murch family, that eventually purchased the Hamor House after WWII, have owned the Bunker & Ellis *Hushai II* which was built in 1956. Daughter Susan Bunker married Jarvis Newman, who also became a famous boatbuilder in Southwest Harbor. His sailboats are seen everywhere around MDI.



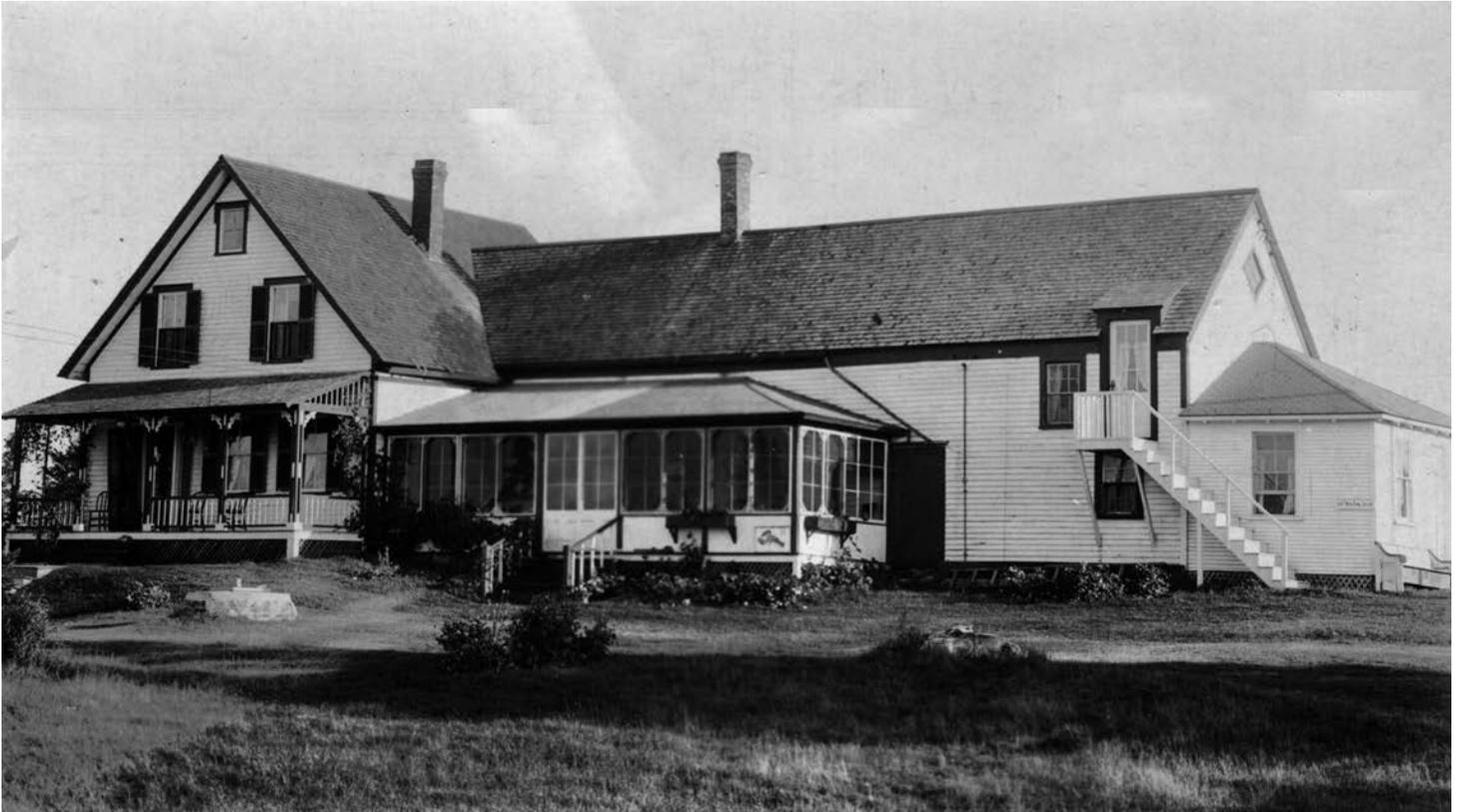
Hamor House menu
GCIHS COLLECTION

The memorable era of the Hamor House could not last. It had survived WWI and the Great Depression, but WWII was on the horizon which would see many summer homes shuttered, travel restricted, and the seasonal leisure life curtailed for the war effort. Ironically, Sadie Hamor would not survive to see these challenges. She passed away in 1942. She had been the primary influence behind the legendary restaurant/hotel success. The Hamor House closed and sat empty during the war. In 1946,

Hamor family portrait, ca. 1930

PHOTO: GIFT OF CATHY INGHAM

(GCIHS 2010.126.1017)



Hamor House, ca. 1920

PHOTO: GIFT OF CATHY INGHAM

(GCIHS 2010.126.10160)

as post-war normalcy and prosperity returned, the property was purchased by Maynard Murch of Cleveland, Ohio. It became a private seasonal residence and remains in the Murch family today, occupied by third-generation Robert Murch. The property looks much the same today as the early years, with the house and boathouse buildings still a familiar presence, and retaining its old charm, although a couple of the guest cottages have been removed. The Hamor House played a huge role in the summer colony history of GCI, but also a huge economic role in the lives of many year-round islanders. The memories linger on through photographs and written memoirs.

Mountain View Inn

PHIL WHITNEY

When the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society first saw the Mountain View Inn building it was full of fishing and miscellaneous gear, piled high everywhere. The building had once been an eatery for the summer Rusticators who visited in the 1920s. The kitchen was on the first floor, and the meals went up to the diners by means of a dumbwaiter. It truly had a broad mountain vista with few trees to block the view. The Spurlings and their help stayed on the first floor when their house was rented out for

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the summer. Later, Wesley Bracy, Sr. used it for his workshop and lobster gear storage. His family added their belongings as well. Realizing it had potential, the Historical Society began to raise funds to buy the old building and move it to their property next to the parsonage.

It took four years to raise enough money to complete this project: to move and renovate the building. There was much to do, first a new foundation and the difficult job of moving the large

building. All the windows were replaced, and new siding, a large deck and a sheltering porch were added. Current accessibility and fire codes required a new stairwell, wider doors, a large bathroom, a handicap lift, a fire escape, and a sprinkler system. With much help from the membership, grants from several corporations and gifts from other generous friends, the project was accomplished and Cranberry House opened in June of 2008. Another grant helped build and equip the Café. Members bought plants and trees. A donor began a beautiful garden. With the help of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and permission from neighboring land owners, a trail was constructed to Whistlers Cove, along the shore of the Western Way. In its historic building, Cranberry House, with its Museum and Arts Center, has become a wonderful facility for the enrichment and cultural vitality of Cranberry Island.



Velma Teel, early 1900s
(GCIHS 2011.145.1101B)

Teel's Restaurant and Boarding House

PHIL WHITNEY

Velma Teel, wife of Sawtelle Teel, and a long-time schoolteacher on Cranberry Island, operated a low-key restaurant and boarding house during the summer months. The Teels lived in the current David Bunker house. I believe the business operated from the 1920s into the 1940s. Their front porch faced onto the Pool, and guests would often sit there in rocking chairs, reading and enjoying the unobstructed view out across the Pool. In those days, the pool was not obstructed by alder growth. Sawtelle had a small dock in the Pool which, at higher tide levels, could accommodate visitors coming for lunch or dinner. Most visitors, however, probably arrived via the Cranberry Road.

The Port Hole Restaurant (a.k.a. Beal & Bunker Dock Restaurant) was owned and operated by Beal & Bunker from about 1955-1965.

Leona McAllister worked at the Port Hole before moving over to the Cranberry Cove Restaurant. The Port Hole's presence on the dock was big stuff 60 years ago.



Port Hole Restaurant with Leona McAllister and customers 1960

PHOTO: GIFT OF ANNIE ALLEY
(GCIHS 2012.204.1687)

The Port Hole Restaurant

PHIL WHITNEY

The Port Hole Restaurant operated from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s on the Beal & Bunker Dock. It was owned by Beal & Bunker, and joined several other services offered by the company on the dock – ferry boat service, charter boat service, lobster dealership, gasoline sales, marine supplies sales – a very busy dock. There were several tables in the restaurant, along with a lunch counter with stools for seating. Outside, a sign “Port Hole” was painted on the roof facing Southwest Harbor and Northeast Harbor to attract the boating trade to the restaurant. Among employees who worked there were Leona McAllister (Lorraine Bracy’s mother) and Donna Beal (Clarence Beal’s daughter).

Cranberry Cove Restaurant

EILEEN COLBY RICHARDS

It started as a whisper. You know those island rumors that circle like gulls in an updraft. Leona McAllister and her sister, Ada Rice, were going to build a restaurant! This of course would be with the help of their husbands Eugene “Red” and Charles. I remember Larry Allen telling me and quickly dismissing the rumor. I was 13 and thought this was a silly idea. I had heard folks saying, “Who is going to come to Cranberry to eat when there are plenty of places on the mainland?”

It did not take long for all of us to realize the rumor was true as construction began on the building in 1967. A close eye was kept on the daily progress and, as the summer of 1968 arrived, the doors opened to the Cranberry Cove Restaurant.

I was 14 that year and hoped this would be an opportunity for employment and, after talking to Leona and Aunt Ada and gathering all the necessary paperwork, I was hired as a dishwasher. My memories of that first summer are of long hours, a very small kitchen, lots of very hot water, deep low sinks, way too many dirty dishes and lots of people. It is like that movie with the baseball diamond, “Build it and they will come.” And come they did: locals, summer families, Beal & Bunker’s ferries filled with day-trippers and folks with a variety of privately owned water craft quickly found this jewel off the Maine coast.

My second year at the Cranberry Cove was as a waitress. Morning shift began at 7:00 but the doors had already been opened by Uncle Charles for the coffee crew. Men would be lined up at the counter with their coffee. Victor “Bea” White would be pouring his coffee in his saucer to cool it off before drinking the steaming brew; this was a common practice for many older folks. My grandfather Tud Bunker and my father Tinker Colby

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Together Leona and Aunt Ada argued their way through some delicious food. These women were sisters remember and both had no problem letting you know how they felt.



*Cranberry Cove Restaurant,
left to right: Leona McAllister,
Debbie Alley, Ada Rice, Blanche
Atkinson, and Rhonda Colby.*
GCIHS COLLECTION

might be there swapping tales along with many more. There was a reason folks were there early...it was to get one of the homemade donuts which were always in limited supply. Leona did not believe in making too many because, "No one wants to eat an old donut." Fried a few at a time in a deep cast iron fry pan (in a larger kitchen) by either Leona or Blanche Atkinson, the fresh donuts would be gone in no time with someone always disappointed when arriving late to the feast.

Leona was the line cook. Her area of the kitchen took care of the steaks, burgers, sandwiches, fries, scallops, clams, hot dogs, etc. I have to stop and tell you about one of the burgers...the Island Burger Deluxe! How many remember this amazing creation? It was a burger done to perfection with cheese, sautéed green peppers and onions, bacon, mayonnaise, lettuce and tomato...need I say more. Leona was a perfectionist about her food and how her plates looked when taken to the customer.

I can see her now wiping the edges of the plate and arranging the food just so before allowing me out of the kitchen.

Aunt Ada was the queen of pies, popovers, biscuits, lobster stew and more. Her pies are still talked about and used as a comparison to judge other pie attempts. I remember how she would fuss when she was making popovers, always sure they would not rise to golden deliciousness. In my years at the Cranberry Cove, I never saw a bad batch. Together Leona and Aunt Ada argued their way through some delicious food. These women were sisters remember and both had no problem letting you know how they felt. There could be some animated discussions but we were all family and got the job done. Blanche was also an amazing cook and would assist wherever she was needed.

There were two things that were never well-loved by any of us waitresses. The first was the juice glasses. A dinner was served with juice, salad, biscuits, your choice of potato and the main item whether steak or seafood. The glasses that we served the juice in were smaller at the bottom than at the top...very tippy. An example: I was the waitress for the rehearsal dinner to celebrate the wedding of Danny and Kate Fernald. It was a large party and all were having dinners. As I made my way around the table, I leaned in to serve the before-dinner beverage to Anna Fernald, mother of the groom, and in doing so spilled juice all over her lovely outfit. I could have crawled in a hole but Anna, being the gracious person she is, came to the kitchen and was quickly attended to by everyone on duty that day. I still feel awful when I think of it.

The second thing that drove us all crazy was cleaning the 45 panes of glass in the large front windows; no they did not have removable grids. I remember hoping that the next

shift would be assigned the chore. Once a week the view to the harbor would be brightened as those windows were spit and polished...as we quietly questioned Red's choice of windows. Lorraine tells me that when her father "Red" built her home, he wanted to install these same windows. As you can guess, it was a resounding NO from her.

We did not have many activities taking place at night in the '60s -'70s. We had the movie boat to Southwest Harbor and an occasional potluck supper to benefit the Fire Club or the Ladies Aid or a card party for a hand of whist but nothing like it is now with on-island movies and evening activities. The restaurant was a welcome evening destination for island residents. Many enjoyed an evening walk after dinner for pie (if there was any left!) and coffee, an ice cream sundae or just a chance to sit and visit with your neighbors who had come to the restaurant as well.

The evening shift was from 3:00 to 11:00. The parties coming to the restaurant at night were in less of a hurry to leave as they were either on-island diners or had their own boats. Slow nights would find us all with cleaning lists and very busy nights would find us at the restaurant well past 11:00. After closing, I would walk or ride my bike home and relax with Johnny Carson before going to bed. This was my favorite time of day as the house was quiet and I had an hour all to myself. I worked with some great people at the restaurant and I treasure every memory.

I attended high school at Lee Academy and for four years my summer job was at the Cranberry Cove Restaurant. Not only did the job give me an opportunity to earn enough money to purchase clothing and needed items for high school, it taught me about taking pride in a job well done, customer service, keeping your work place clean and organized and how to work well with others. These lessons have served me well throughout my life. And to think it all started with a rumor 51 years ago.

The Cranberry Cove Restaurant (a.k.a. Ada's Restaurant) was built in 1965. Ada and Lorraine McAllister and their husbands, Charlie Rice and Red McAllister, were partners.

GCIHS COLLECTION



While Jesse Jameson's crew dug ditches, poured concrete, and put up walls for the new Archives space in the snow and ice, I tended to the minutiae of digital cataloguing in the comfort of home.

Thanks to the loan of a scanner and improvements made to the Digital Archive and our NAS server as well as the installation of GCI's new high-speed internet and the help of George Soules, I uploaded information for over 400 'backlog' items to the Digital Archive. (Backlog items won't be visible to the public until they've been scanned and researched, but they are now catalogued in the Digital Archive and won't be overlooked.) I also completed scanning, cataloguing, transcribing, and uploading one backlog box of Louise Marr donations that had been approved for accession way back in 2013, and a box of 34 recent Macfarlan Family Trust artifacts. As always on GCI, there is a web of connections between these two accessions. The items came from two separate donors but originated from the same historic Preble house over a century ago.

Below are highlights from a collection of 19th-century Preble family letters from the recently catalogued Marr and Macfarlan gifts. (Explore them further in the Digital Archive <https://gcihs.org/digitalarchive/about>.)

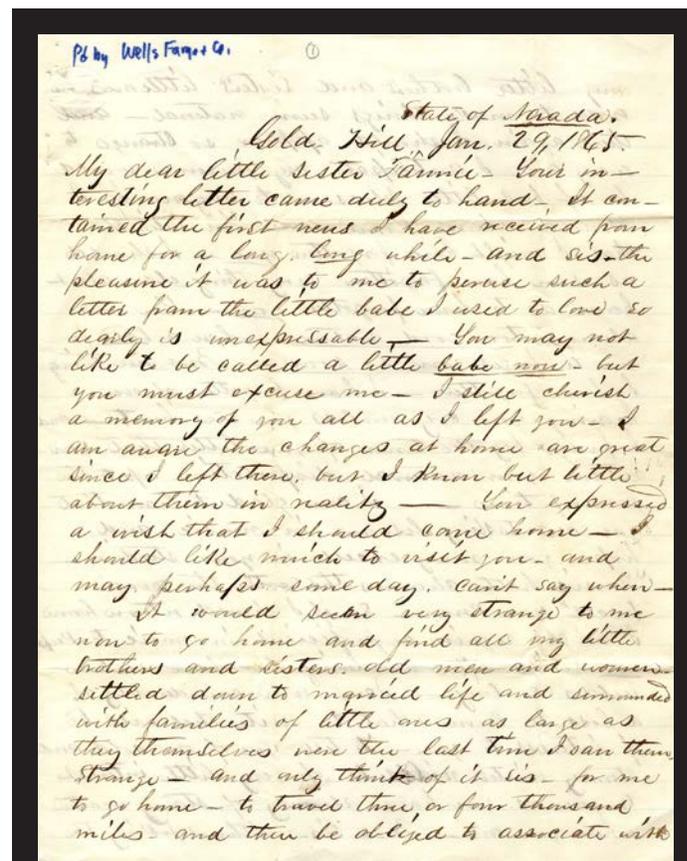
Seven Letters to Fannie Preble (1865-1874) (Louise Marr Donation)

The discovery of seven letters from Samuel E. and Andrew B. Spurling to their much-younger, half-sister, Frances (Fannie) Almira Preble was particularly poignant. Fannie was sixteen living at home in the Preble House when the letters started. She hadn't seen her brother Samuel since she was a baby. (Decades later, Fannie had a granddaughter, Louise Marr, who sold the Preble House to the Macfarlans after World War II. You may recall that Marr's donation of \$100,000 in 2003 made the present GCIHS Preble-Marr Museum possible.)

Samuel E. Spurling (1827-1895) moved west from Great Cranberry at age 23. He wrote letters to Fannie from California and Nevada while working in gold mines. His

brother, Andrew Barclay Spurling (Civil War General, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor), sends one letter to Fannie from New York. These seven letters shed light on life out west and the hardship distance imposed on families; they culminate with the death of their mother, Abigail Cobb Hadlock Spurling Preble on January 17, 1874.

The first letter from Samuel to his "Dear Little Sister Fannie" from Gold Hill, Nevada, Jan 29 1865, mentions he's an old bachelor who has been away since his sister was a baby; his desire to go home; snowshoeing in the California mountains; and a story, perhaps in fun, about Fannie and sister Sarah performing with the Paiute Indians. (GCIHS 2013.246.2743)



Letter 1, page 1 (GCIHS 2013.246.2743)

You may probably wish to know how people travel around when the snow is so deep so I will tell you. They travel on snow shoes from 4 to 5 inches wide

and from 8 to 12 feet long. The toe of the shoe turns up from one to two feet according to the fancy of the shoemaker.

The transcription of letter 1 to Fannie A. Preble from her older brother, Samuel E. Spurling
(GCIHS 2013.246.2743)

Transcription of Letter 1 of a collection of 7 letters

(GCIHS 2013.246.2743)

State of Nevada, Gold Hill, Jan 29 1865

My dear little sister Fannie,

Your interesting letter came duly to hand. It contained the first news I have received from home for a long, long while – and sis the pleasure it was to me to peruse such a letter from the little babe I used to love so dearly is inexpressible. You may not like to be called a little babe now, but you must excuse me. I still cherish a memory of you all as I left you. I am aware the changes at home are great since I left there but I know but little about them in reality. You expressed a wish that I should come home. I should like much to visit you and may perhaps some day. Can't say when.

It would seem very strange to me now to go home and find all my little brothers and sisters old men and women settled down to married life and surrounded with families of little ones as large as they themselves were the last time I saw them. Strange, and only think of it sis, for me to go home, to travel three or four thousand miles, and then be obliged to associate with my little brothers and sisters little ones in order to make things seem natural and then again I should appear so strange to every one. I anticipate my presence would be of but little pleasure to anyone if I should return home. You intimate that I might have forgotten you. I should as soon have forgotten every thing else about home as to have forgotten you. You was always too good natured when a babe for me to forget you so soon. But one thing I have forgotten. I have forgotten of ever hearing you cry unless you was hurt and I judge by the tenor of your letter that you retain your natural disposition up to the present time. I am glad to learn that you are taking lessons in music and hope you may excel in your studies. "Music hath charms that soothe the savage's breast" you know. So if I should return home I might require a proficient in music to keep me docile after wandering over these western wilds so long. I am now considerably at a loss to know what to write that will be of interest to you. To tell you of our cold and stormy winter would be of very little interest to you as you have plenty of storms and weather where you are. But sis, without faking the present winter has been the most severe thus far of any winter of my experience since I left home. We haven't had so much snow as in California when I wintered the most of the time but the weather has been much colder. It wasn't unusual to have snow from 6 to 12 feet deep in Siena(?) Co. Cal. on a level and deep enough when it drifted to cover up large houses. You may probably wish to know how people travel around when the snow is so deep so I will tell you. They travel on snow shoes from 4 to 5 inches wide and from 8 to 12 feet long. The toe of the shoe turns up from one to two feet according to the fancy of the shoemaker. The shoes are made usually of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch lumber, worked off thin say $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from near the middle of the shoe to the heel and toe. The rider when running on his shoes always carries a pole about 8 feet long to steady and guide himself with. Now then for their speed, don't be alarmed! It's a fact!! Good racers have made over a mile in a minute. At present I will say nothing more about snow shoe riding for you probably think I have said enough. Now a word about Nevada and I will close. I came to this territory two years ago last fall (have been engaged principally in mining and carpenter work.

This territory the most that I have seen is rough and barren and in this sect - Gold Hill and Virginia City - there isn't a tree to be seen. The town of Gold Hill is situated in a ravine between Virginia City and Silver City, joining both places. Virginia C. on the North at the head of the ravine, on the east side of a large hill called Mt. Davidson. Silver City is situated in the ravine below and South of Gold Hill. There are some very rich silver mines in this section of the county, but how long they will remain so is more than one can tell. Everything here is very uncertain. There is nothing settled here as at home. Every body and every thing appear wild (but the Indians!) The Indians around in this section of the county are called the Piutes. Old Minnamerca(?) is there Chief. Last fall Minnemerca with a little band of his braves, accompanied by his two daughters, Sarah and Fannie I believe gave theatrical performances at Virginia City. They succeeded so well at Virginia City they concluded they would try their luck in San Francisco, but there they got "played out" going "broke" and had to make their way home as best they could. I haven't time to say more about the Indians.

Now Fannie as I have filled up one sheet of paper and haven't written you anything of interest I felt it quite necessary that I should make you an apology. But as reflection I concluded you could make all due allowances yourself knowing as you do that this communication is from an old Bachelor Bro. and knowing too that old bachelors are the least interesting of anything in the world themselves. As I never had the good fortune to please any young lady in my life it would be but presumption to suppose that I can interest you. So I will close by wishing you health and all the happiness that one in this world is capable of enjoying. You will please remember my respects to Father, Mother, Bros and Sisters and all friends who may inquire after – Your Affectionate Bro, S.E. Spurling

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

In letter four, April 26, 1868, Samuel says that Mother looks like Grandmother Hadlock in the picture Fannie sent; he has not seen Mother in 19 years and hopes to visit home when the Pacific Railroad is finished. (GCIHS 2013.246.2746)

In letter five, February 6, 1867, Samuel relates that smallpox is raging but his health is good; this winter isn't as severe as the last two; business is dull; and he worries that he's somehow caused offense to his brother Andrew and wife. (GCIHS 2013.246.2747)

In letter six, Jan 11th 1874, Samuel learns that Mother is ill. He's having a brutal winter and was ill in Nevada; he's working at Crown Point Mine again, and can't come home. (GCIHS 2013.246.2748)

Letter seven is from Fannie's half-brother Andrew, written on Department of the Interior Pension Office stationery from New York City on January 21, 1874 (four days after their Mother's death). Andrew learned of Mother's illness from Fannie's letter of the 16th and of her death on January 17 in a letter from their brother William written the 19th, both of which he received on January 21, when it was too late to go home. Andrew reminisces fondly about Mother and offers to have Father Preble live with him now. (GCIHS 2013.246.2749)

1874-1890s Letters to Father Preble from Macfarlan Donation

Two letters from the recent Macfarlan donation provide further insight into the Preble family's activities. These two letters build on a series of a dozen letters that have been catalogued over the years from another of Fannie's brothers, William H. Preble, to their Father William P. Preble. In this group of letters, William learns of Mother's illness while living in Portland and he later advises Father on GCI Church matters, politics, family issues, and the family's Chicago Rawhide Mfg. Co. business.

The January 18, 1874, letter from William to Father Preble was written in Portland after he received his father's telegram about his mother's failing health. William states he can't come home; discusses herring and the possible reassignment of brother Andrew to Boston. (GCIHS 2018.416.2767)

The March 12, 1891, letter from William was sent from Chicago, written on the family's Chicago Rawhide Co. stationery. Notice he's the Secretary and Andrew is the President. William explains there have been many fatal cases of the grippe (flu); makes suggestions for how to handle the repairs and sale of the GCI Meeting House; and mentions Andrew is disposing of his interests in the Chicago Rawhide Mfg. Company. (GCIHS 2018.416.2769)



You can view the many scans and transcriptions of each of the 34 recent Macfarlan family artifacts at this link.

Each of these catalogue entries has multiple scans, so click around and explore each one.

**Go to
gcihs.org/digitalarchive/browse
and click on
"Macfarlan Family Foundation Gifts"**

OFFICE OF
THE CHICAGO RAWHIDE M'F'G CO.,
 MANUFACTURERS OF
RAWHIDE BELTING, LACE LEATHER AND ROPE,
 LARIATS AND OTHER RAWHIDE GOODS OF ALL KINDS,
 BY KRUEGER'S PATENT.
 75 AND 77 EAST OHIO STREET.

Cable Address, "RAWHIDE, CHICAGO."

Chicago, Mich. 12/91

My dear Father,

Your is rec'd and noted, and I was pleased to hear from you, all and that all were so well or usual. We are all well at present. The knife is again on the warpath with many fatal cases recently, I had quite severe indigestion this morning but I worked it out with two doses of Aconite, so am all right - I expected to hear that you were again at the head of affairs. This is certainly a great honor for a man of your years. And I am glad that the people show their appreciation of your services in this manner. As to the Meeting house, will say that I would not make any further concession. Did you intend, that I should understand, that the \$400. should cover the lot, in the proposition you made there,

Andrew has disposed of most of his interest in the Company and has some scheme in relation to the meeting house. He has handed him your letter yesterday, and he made some talk about it, and said he would see me again about it.

How many gallons of paint do you estimate it would require, to paint it - 2 coats, outside,

**William explains there
have been many fatal cases
of the grippe (flu); makes
suggestions for how to
handle the repairs and sale
of the GCI Meeting House;
and mentions Andrew**

**is disposing of his interests
in the Chicago Rawhide
Mfg. Company.**

*The transcription of letter from
William H. Preble to his father
William P. Preble.*

(GCIHS 2018.416.2769)

Transcription: Letter from William H. Preble to father William P. Preble 1891

(GCIHS 2018.416.2769)

Chicago Rawhide Mfg letterhead
A. B. SPURLING, PRES'T., W. H. PREBLE, SECRETARY., W.H. EMERY, VICE PRES'T.
OFFICE OF
THE CHICAGO RAWHIDE M'F'G CO.,
RAWHIDE BELTING, LACE LEATHER AND ROPE,
LARIATS AND OTHER RAWHIDE GOODS OF ALL KINDS,
BY KRUEGER'S PATNT.
75 and 77 East Ohio Street
CABLE ADDRESS, "RAWHIDE, CHICAGO."
Chicago

March[?] 12/91

My dear Father,

Yours is rec'd and noted, and I was pleased to hear from you all that all were as well as usual. We are all well at present. The Grippe is again on the warpath with many fatal cases recently. I had quite severe indications this morning but knocked it out with two doses of Aconite* so am all right. I expected to hear that you were again at the head of affairs. This is certainly a great honor for a man of your years and I am glad that the people show their appreciation of your services in this manner. As to the meeting house, will say that I would not make any further concession. Did you intend that I should understand that the \$450 would cover the lot in the proposition you made them.

Andrew has disposed of most of his interest in the company and has some scheme in relation to the meeting house. I handed him our letter yesterday and he made some talk about it, and said he would see me again about it. How many gallons of paint do you estimate it would require to paint it – 2 coats outside also insides, what do you estimate would be the cost of putting a belfry on it and how much the [sill?] you speak of. Also cost of plastering & calcinine[?] Could men be had to paint it for \$2.00 per day. If they do not come to some terms and if sold at auction I presume those who have paid for their pews would receive a proportional part of the unit of sale, and if sold perhaps it would be well for us to buy it in, if it comes to that. I will write you again soon, if I get anything definite from Andrew. Please remember me to all, with kind regards.

Your aff son, W. H. Preble

[*Aconite is a homeopathic remedy for influenza and colds among other things.]

**The History Trust collaborative
has been doing the hard work
of creating an organization that
can save the region's archives**

**History Trust (HT)
Update**

History Trust members met twice this winter as the Governing Council and Mount Desert Historical Society (MDIHS) continued to work on various tasks. At the March 27, 2019 meeting, two additional committees were charged with new tasks. The Tech/Access committee will identify the highest priorities for the HT, including a scope-of-work and cost estimate for developing a public digital face for the HT. The Collections Management Committee will be advising on best practices for HT collections. Both committees will report their progress at the April 22 meeting.

At the request of HT members, MDIHS is preparing a proposal to serve as HT's Fiscal Agent while HT's application for 501(c) (3) tax-exemption is pursued. MDIHS provided a financial and fund-raising update for HT as well. Members have been asked to define what 'skin in the game' means to their organization, from sharing Board member expertise to staff time to membership fees.

As Bill Horner's insightful March 14, 2019, *Mount Desert Islander* "Viewpoint" article about the History Trust explains, "Our stories fit together... We are stewards, not owners. In effect we are Trustees, just as the founders of Acadia National Park called themselves The Trustees of Public Reservations... The History Trust collaborative has been doing the hard work of creating an organization that can save the region's archives, develop a common catalog so that anyone can see what is in them, engage young people and preserve and appreciate the rich histories that define this place we all call home." (www.mdislander.com/opinions/viewpoint-our-stories-fit-together)

**Digital Archive
Update**

The Digital Archive (GCIHS' online catalogue) now has seven users (GCIHS, Southwest Harbor Public Library (SWHPL), Northeast Harbor Library, Southwest Harbor Historical Society, Wendell Gilley Museum, College of the Atlantic, and the Harbor Club in Seal Harbor). Designer and developer George Soules is presently working on a new version of the SWHPL Digital Archive that uses a cloud server to store and retrieve search data. This would allow a person using any of the Digital Archive websites to search a single site or search multiple sites. There'd be no need for a separate shared site or 'content aggregator' site. I'm proud to say that GCIHS data is one of two sites included in the development and demo phase. This is a complex, technical, work-in-progress that could prove very beneficial to the History Trust.

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as of April 30, 2019

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Support Cranberry House

Become a Friend of Great Cranberry Island Historical Society

Friends: \$25
Family Friends: \$50
Donors: \$100
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- 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!

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October 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

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The Whale's Tale Shop Opens

The new Whale's Tale is located adjacent to Cranberry House right by Hitty's Café and the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Museum.



The new Whale's Tale under construction, May 2019

Last summer, The Sea Moss Gift Shop of Great Cranberry Island was created. It is near the docks, nestled in the tall grass, across from the post office. Many islanders and day-trippers stopped by and enjoyed the merchandise and good conversation. An island poet, Susan (Sam) King, even wrote a poem about it:

**“Baubles, Bangles, Beads
Images, Rummages, Duds
Crafts, Glass, Bibelots
Toys, Usefuls, Escape Excuse – Fun!”**

Because of its success, another gift shop is set to open this summer. The Whale's Tale (Sea Treasures and more) will be run under the discerning eye of Laurie Wadsworth, a life-long Cranberry Isles seasonal resident. In the 1940s, when Laurie's parents first came to Cranberry, they hand built their island home from local stone and lumber. Laurie's years of arts and crafts follow the tradition of her artist parents. Laurie sees her new shop as a continuation of Polly Bunker's recently closed store The Whale's Rib, for years, a not-to-be missed spot for everyone. The new Whale's Tale is located adjacent to Cranberry House right by the Café and the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society Museum.

Laurie learned to make sea glass art under the tutelage of Ashley Bryan of Islesford. Her work and that of many local artists and craftspeople will be available in the new shop as well as museum pamphlets and information. Shoppers will find sea glass jewelry, Christmas ornaments and sun catchers transformed from sea gems found on Cranberry beaches. Colorful, useful pot holders and Maine balsam sachets can spice up your home. Original paintings and photographs line the walls. Antique vases, scrimshaw knives and trinkets, mingle with silk purses with or without dried sand dollars inside. Children will find stuffed animals and other playthings. There are fanciful clothes and, to keep you safe from the sun, Cranberry Island caps and hats abound. Be sure to look for the newly designed splashing whale's tail T-shirt.

To reach the fun new Whale's Tale shop, take the shuttle from the main dock or walk, enjoying the sea views and distinctive houses of Cranberry Island. At the shop filled with unique, handcrafted merchandise, Laurie will welcome you in. Introduce yourself. Laurie can't wait to meet you.

Cranberry Connections & Impressions

Small World

BARBARA MEYERS

This Small Word article is a little different from the typical installment. I had the unusual experience of running into Cranberry Islanders – not in another place, but in another time. I recently worked on packing up the archives for The Maine Seacoast Mission. They have sold their beautiful La Rochelle building in Bar Harbor to the Bar Harbor Historical Society and have vacated all but the second floor, which will temporarily continue to serve as their home office. Many of the objects they hold have been cataloged, but all needed to be re-housed with archival packaging for safe moving and storage. In a box of relics from the chapel at Mason's Bay, which burned in 1968, there was a flat 14" cross of brass, encrusted with melted glass. The label had the following description:

"This cross is from the altar of the beloved chapel at Mason's Bay. It was given to the chapel by Edith Drury. It formerly was part of the horse-drawn hearse on Cranberry Island."

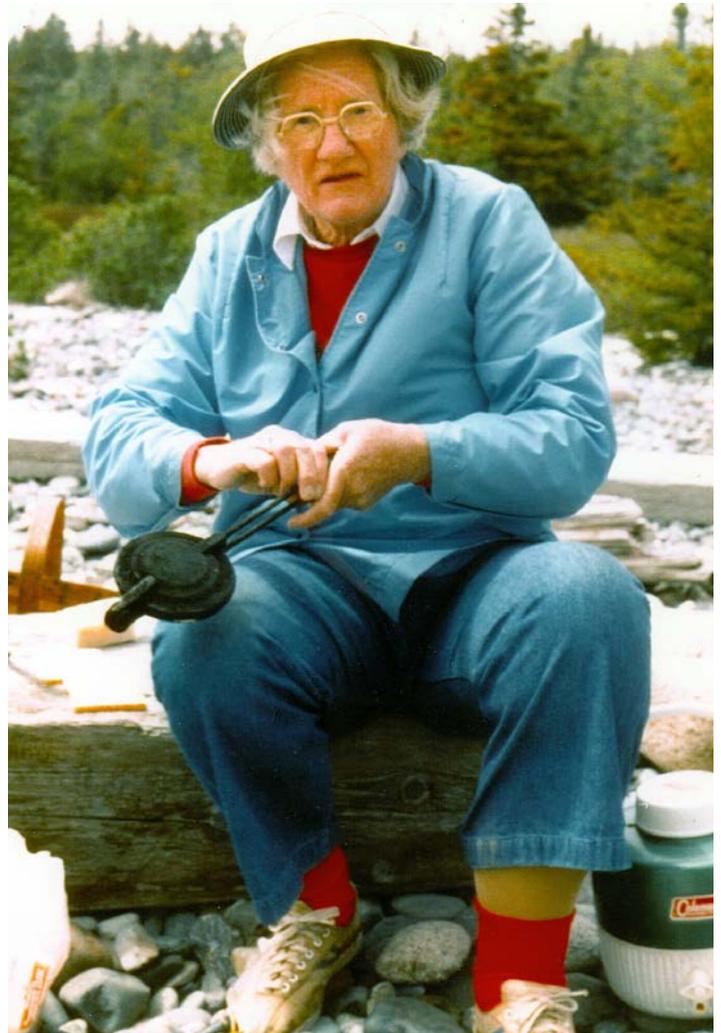
By golly! The other metal parts from the hearse are still in my garage, undoubtedly put there by Miss Drury (former owner of our house, the Dowling/Meyer house on Cranberry Road) when the hearse was decommissioned.

The Mission used to maintain a large house on Ledgelawn Avenue which was used as a safe place for island girls to board in order to get a high school education. I just happened to open a report that listed Annie Rice as one of the girls starting high school in the fall. Another report mentioned the Native

American heritage of one of Edith Drury's neighbors. Then, well into the packing project, a treasure was discovered: sixteen cartons of letters and weekly reports from Mission workers dating back to the 1920s, all alphabetized by author. Sadly, with the transfer of the property looming, there was little time for browsing. But I marked the box with the Drury correspondence, and look forward to the day when this whole time capsule of coastal history can be transcribed and digitized.



Annie Rice Alley
GCIHS Collection



Edith Drury picnicking on her rocks.

PHOTO: GIFT OF MARTHA AND ORTON P. JACKSON
(GCIHS 2011.161.1386)



Remains of the GCI hearse in Ken Schmidt's back yard, gift of Ken Schmidt and Sue Hallett

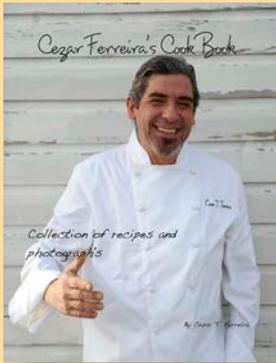
(GCIHS 2017.388.2163C)

Gravlax

COURTESY OF HITTY'S CAFÉ
CHEF CÉZAR FERREIRA

Good news!

Chef Cezar's new book is being published and will be for sale in July 2019! Get your copy at the café or online (gcihs.org).



Ingredients

- 1 **tblsp.** White peppercorns (whole)
- 1 **cup** Fresh dill, roughly chopped (1 big bunch)
- 8 **oz.** Rock salt
- 8 **oz.** White sugar
- 2 **lb.** Salmon, sashimi-grade, bones removed and skin on

Mustard Cream Sauce

- 1/2 **cup** Heavy /thickened cream
- 1/3 **cup** Dijon Mustard (or hot mustard if you want a kick)
- 2 **tsp.** Mustard Powder
- Salt and pepper

Directions

1. Crush peppercorns with the side of a knife (or roughly grind using mortar and pestle).
2. Combine peppercorns with salt, sugar and dill.
3. Place 2 large pieces of cling wrap on a work surface, slightly overlapping. Spread half the salt mixture in the shape of the salmon.
4. Place salmon on salt, skin side down. Top with remaining salt mixture.
5. Wrap with cling wrap. Place in a large dish. Top with something flat (like small cutting board) then 3 x 400g/ 14 oz cans ("Weights").
6. Refrigerate for 12 hours. There will be liquid in the dish. Turn salmon over (will be gloopy/wet)), then replace Weights and return to fridge. After another 12 hours, turn salmon over again, replace Weights. After another 12 hours, remove salmon from fridge. 36 hours total for Medium Cure - Perfect Gravlax to my taste
7. Unwrap salmon, scrape off salt then rinse. Pat dry. If time permits, return to the fridge for 3 - 12 hours uncovered (dries surface better, lets salt "settle" and permeate through flesh more evenly).
8. Sprinkle over the 1/4 cup extra dill - for garnish and flavor.
9. Slice thinly on an angle, do not cut through skin (i.e. don't eat skin). Serve with toasted bread, Mustard Sauce, extra dill and lemon wedges.

Mustard Cream Sauce

Mix ingredients, making sure to season with salt and pepper. It should taste like a creamy mustard - a touch of tartness, but mostly to add moisture to the dish. You can add lemon juice and/or zest if you wish - I like to serve with wedges so people can adjust to their taste.



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



Great Cranberry Island

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1. Copy this page, including your address mailing label, right.
2. Add the desired giving level of your Friends Membership.
3. Indicate Newsletters by Email if you prefer a digital copy.
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5. Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

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

Go to gcihs.org/support/ and click on "Donate" to contribute through PayPal.



Cranberry Island Boatyard

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