

Baker Island Home & Lighthouse Tour

GCIHS's big fundraising event this year will be on July 12: a trip to Cranberry Isles' own "Bali Hai"—beautiful, mysterious, and remote Baker Island.

The event will include a once-in-a-lifetime chance to go inside the Light Tower, the Keeper's House, and the two remaining private houses; one was formerly the school, and has a preserved classroom. Local guides Ralph Stanley, Hugh Dwelley, and Rebecca Cole-Will (of Acadia National Park) will be on hand to answer questions. Ralph is a descendant of the last year-round resident, and Hugh has written several publications about Baker Island.

A bag lunch with drink, chips, and your choice of ham, turkey, or cheese sandwich will be provided. Bring a rucksack, camera, hat and sunscreen, stout walking shoes and jacket, and travel into history!

We've chartered the *Miss Samantha* out of Bar Harbor, with a secure disembarking system and motorized skiff to get ashore. She'll leave Great Cranberry at 8:30 am and return back around 3 pm. Tour-goers will have about 4 hours on Baker–plenty of time to visit the Dancing Rocks and the newly-restored cemetery, or simply relax on the shore, gazing out toward Portugal or back to Mount Desert.

Seating is limited to 64. Visit the museum, or call 244-7800 from 10 am to 4 pm (with credit card ready) to reserve your seat now. GCIHS members pay \$75 and will be seated first. Others pay \$100 and will be seated from a first-come first-serve waiting list after July 6. Rain date is July 15.

About Baker Island

A visit to Baker Island is a memorable treat. It is a likely candidate for the most beautiful spot in Maine, with views of nearby islands, the whole expanse of sparkling sea, and the unique panorama of the mountains of Mount Desert. This is what explorer Samuel Champlain first saw, inspiring him to call MDI "L'île des Monts-Déserts", the Island of Bare Mountains.

William Gilley was Baker Island's first known settler in the early 1800s, though he first lived in a deserted cabin built by unknown fishermen.

The lighthouse was the first in this region, established in 1828 by order of President John Quincy Adams. It was a wooden structure built on the highest point of the island, and lit by whale oil; William Gilley was the first keeper. The tower was rebuilt in brick, and the fuel changed to lard oil in 1855. In 1903 the tower was strengthened by an extra course of bricks. The light was automated in 1966, eliminating the keeper.

The Great Cranberry Island Historical Society has just published a new book, *Baker Island*, written and compiled by Wini Smart. It tells the story of William and Hannah Gilley, who raised a huge family on this remote island. The book has many photos of the island and stages of the lighthouse.

Where and When

The masthead photo shows Baker Island, looking toward Mount Desert Island and Islesford. It was taken July 15, 2001 when Downeast Dance visited, and danced in 1940-era suits and dresses.

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Notes of Appreciation

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

- Fred Quackenbush and Bruce Komusin for shoveling loam around Sammy Sanford's Cabin.
- Janice Smith Murch for loaning and operating her tractor to spread loam around Sammy's Cabin.
- Donna Sonday for raking out the loam.
- Willie Granston, and the Great Harbor Maritime Museum (Northeast Harbor) for loaning us a model of the Baker Island Lighthouse for our latest exhibit.

Milestones

May 29: 85th Birthday of Pauline Bunker.

Membership Benefits

We constantly strive to increase GCIHS membership. The annual dues-\$15 for individuals, \$25 for families-significantly offset our substantial operating costs. But it's equally important to have a large and supportive list of members. Many members volunteer to help us in numerous ways: serving on committees, working on projects, or hosting at the museum.

Beyond the satisfaction of helping, there are several tangible benefits to being a member. The Museum Store offers a 10% discount on all items. Members get priority reservations, and \$25 off the normal price of \$100, on the upcoming Baker Island Home & Lighthouse Tour. Future designated GCIHS excursions will offer similar members discounts. Family Membership entitles you to a free historical photo of your choice from the GCIHS archives. So tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors to join up, and renew your own membership when it expires. You'll provide a valuable community service to help preserve the history of the Cranberry Isles, and enjoy some neat benefits in the process. -Phil Whitney

Current Members

Dues of \$15 (individual) or \$25 (family), or any donation of \$25 or more, starts or extends your GCIHS membership for 365 days. Members get this newsletter, 10% museum store and paid event discount, priority reservations to special events and receptions, and (family membership only) a free historic photo of your choice. Memberships help keep Cranberry House alive. A heartfelt Thanks to the folks below who sent their dues in June 2011 or after:

Ingham, Jim & Cathy

Alson, Dr. Allan & Sue Ann Glaser Avery, Richard & Marianne Beasley, E.B. & Lorrie Bennett, Charles & Nancy Benson, Fred & Anne Bertles, Helen Bileck, Emily Nelligan Bradley, James & Virginia Bradley, Stephen Bradley, Philip & Julie Bradley, Katherine Brady, Jim & Julia Brawner, Jim & Julie Bryan, Ashley Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine Bunker, Pauline Bunker, Wilfred & Louise Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne Bunker, David & Wendy Rackliff Butt, Charles Carter, Alice G. & Katrina Christy, Alexandra Colby, Gaile Cole-Will, Rebecca Comiskey, Elsa R. Cooper, James & Joyce Corley, Karl & Mary

Corson, Neil & Candace Cox. Richard Cranberry Club (Mrs. Lawrie Harris) Johnston, Chris & Vicky Donald, Malcolm Dunbar, Charles & Nelia Dunn, Eric & Susan Dwelley, Hugh & Shirley Encarnation, Dennis & Kathy Graven Fernald, Anna Fitch, Dorothy Peterson Freeman, Ruth F. "Robin Fuerst, Richard G. Jr. & Joanne Gertmenian, Jim & Susan King Glaser, Michael & Kathleen Glidden, Suanne Goldberg, Mark Grandgent, Gail Gray, Ed & Jane Guth, Polly W. Hall, Margaret Harlan, George Jr. & Charlotte Harris, Nancy Hartley, Holly Hartley, Grace Hinnant, Miriam D. Hogg-Chapman, Cheryl Hook, Janet A.

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Spencer, June B. Spurling, Leslie & Norma Stanley, Ralph & Marion Stone, Gregg & Lisa Storey, Joan A. Strandberg, Louise B. Tyrrell, John & Veronica Uihlein, Lynde B. Wadsworth, Laurie Wallace, William & Lena May Ward, Rodman & Susan Watson, Thomas & Leslie Webster, Maynard & Marilyn Wells, Donald Westphal, Ruth Westphal, Gretchen White, Chris & Susan Whitney, Phil & Karin Williamson, Mark & Sarah Wilson, James & Jane Wimer, Rodney Witham Family Ltd Partnership Wood, Cameron & Nancy Wood, Jonathan & Robin Zimmerman, Steven & Sarah Zirnkilton, Jane

Silvers, Damon

President's Message

Spring is perhaps the most exciting but stressful time of year for Cranberry House personnel. Donna Sonday's flowers are blooming, Sampson Gaither's frogs are croaking, Bruce Komusin's computers are humming, and Karin Whitney's café is bustling. Jesse Jameson is busy hammering and sawing at the Sanford and Shaw Cabins, pressed to get the buildings ready for summer activities. John French, Rick Gaither, and Terry Towne battle mosquitoes to blaze new trails and repair old ones. Wini Smart and Fred Quackenbush rush to install museum displays for opening day. Gail Grandgent has taken the plunge, immersing herself in coordinating all the events and programs this season. Toby Whitney has undergone intensive Customer Service Representative training, especially in quietly greeting visiting people and dogs. (Unfortunately, he is still undergoing training.) Phil Whitney supervises all this-generally from a distance-while sipping a cool drink from the café. Well... somebody has to manage things.

There have been many changes around the property, and in personnel working at the museum and café this season. As described in our February Cranberry Chronicle, the Sanford and Shaw Cabins were moved up through the woods from Preble Cove to their present locations on either side of the parking lot. Our Open House Day on Sunday, July 1st will officially open the cabins for public viewing. The Sanford Cabin has been preserved essentially as it appeared when Sammy Sanford lived there. Visitors will have an opportunity to view the inside. The Shaw Cabin will be used as a second classroom, so that activities may be held concurrently in both the Arts Center and the cabin. A new, larger pond was dug in April. Many frogs have already homesteaded there, making a rousing chorus day and night. Landscaping the woods and pond areas around the entire property continues.

The new exhibit at the museum this summer involves the history of Baker Island, including photos, artifacts, and a large scale model of the Baker Island Lighthouse (lights and all). The museum has several new faces assuming duties as Receptionist this season, including Ruth Westphal, Gail Grandgent, and Katherine Whitney. Nancy Wood returns to handle Sundays. The Cranberry House café has Margaret (Peggy) Hall replacing Aaron Buchsbaum as Karin's cashier assistant, and Aislynn (Izzy) McCafferty as waitress and table manager. (See separate article.) Both the café and museum opened on Memorial Day

Weekend, which has become tradition. The season is already off to a fine start, and visitors seem generally pleased with these new developments.

We are always somewhat short-handed this time of year. Cranking up for the busy warmer months involves dozens of diverse taskings, and many of our seasonal volunteers have not yet returned to Cranberry Island for the summer. Buildings must be cleaned, certain items purchased, displays rearranged, events planned, personnel hired or volunteered, and deadlines met. Somehow we manage to accomplish most chores, but not without considerable angst.

Gail Grandgent has been exceptionally busy planning and coordinating the schedule of events for this summer. She has done an outstanding job working with the various individuals and organizations to complete a balanced schedule with a diverse array of educational and entertaining programs. We continue to broaden our field of talent, drawing on program presenters from MDI and the five Cranberry Isles. We anticipate perhaps the most interesting menu of activities at Cranberry House ever offered, in this our 5th season. (See separate article listing the major programs.)

We continue to produce new and interesting historical publications. Wini Smart is completing a history book of Baker Island, containing assorted photos not generally seen before, with accompanying informative captions. We are also compiling a series of historical island postcards for sale. Both items will be available this summer at the Museum Store.

Although we are very tired, and summer has not yet really begun, we still look forward with anticipation and excitement as our activities unfold. It's a great time to renew friendships with returning seasonal cottage owners, and make acquaintances with new visitors to Cranberry Island. There are worse lifestyles than living in our island paradise, helping present quality programs and activities for various tastes, and interacting with hundreds of people having a good time on the island. I hope you will come by Cranberry House this summer, and see what the "good life" is all about.

Phil Whitney - President

The Gardens at Cranberry House

GCIHS members should recognize all the work done by the Operations Committee. They keep things running smoothly: arranging the State inspections each year, maintaining the grounds, gardens, and buildings, and working on the trails. You will often find Phil Whitney out clearing the woods and trails, Bruce Komusin fixing a broken light or computer problem, and Fred Quackenbush installing signs or spreading topsoil. Rick Gaither, Chris Johnston, and John French work hard as well. We even have a junior member, Rick's son, catching frogs for the ponds!

The Shaw cabin now has a new deck and is ready for use. Sammy's cabin still has more work, as you see in the photo. The soil will cover the foundation supports and make space for wild gardens, true to Sammy's environment. These will soon be planted.

The gardens have expanded beautifully, thanks to Donna Sonday, our master gardener. The lawn stays neat thanks to mowing donated by Rodney Weimer.

The Clay Taylor garden explodes in color. Its many shrubs lend a variety of shades; it will be even lovelier with the flowers in full bloom. The Marilyn Fredrickson Memorial birdbath is a nice accent.

Our original raised bed garden, donated by Linda Madara, has filled in considerably, as has the Betty Hartley Memorial Garden. The design of the two gardens ensures flowers all spring and summer, from the early bulbs and iris, to sweet peonies, lilies, and roses. Then the later summer bloomers take over.

Many members donated plants when Cranberry House was first begun: blueberries, roses, beauty bushes, a lilac, and apple trees. Some were incorporated into the other gardens, some are thriving on the lawn or entrance. Everything fared well except the French Lilac that someone dug up and took home; I found a hole where I remember it was!

We could use more volunteers to help with the multitude of tasks about Cranberry House. Any help would be very welcome. Many thanks for those who do so much.

-Wini Smart Quackenbush (photos & story)



Clay Taylor Garden

The long and narrow bed affords close views of a wide variety of plants



Linda Madara Garden

Purple iris make a showing in the raised garden



Betty Hartley Memorial Garden

Early shrubs flower brightly, before the roses make their appearance.



Shaw Cabin

The new deck makes it much more useful and attractive.



Sammy's Cabin

With help from
Janice and her
tractor, that loam pile
was spread around
the cabin, but there
is still more
landscaping to do.



Outhouse

The cabins came complete with an old fashioned outhouse. Not for use, please!

New Café Crew

Karin has two new assistants this season: Peg Hall and Aislynn MacCafferty.



Aislynn lives in Orland and is a fifteen-year-old upcoming sophomore at Bucksport High School. She is the daughter of Heather Varnum and the great grand-daughter of Gaile Colby. She's a budding world traveler, having visited Italy last . February, and planning to soon go to Sweden.

Margaret "Peg" Hall is staying in a small cabin on GCI while trying to sell her house in Holden. She is a great dog lover and has two dogs with her, Ruby and Moose. Of the island, Peg says, "Everyone is welcoming. and very friendly." Peg's



sister Mary Beth will visit her and teach yoga at the Cranberry House this summer. -Ingrid Gaither

Islanders' Choice Movie Series

This season we're continuing a program that proved popular with island movie buffs in previous years. You get to select a favorite film and, assuming we can. locate it, we'll screen it at the "Seaside Playhouse" at a special Sunday evening showing. You get to invite your friends, share your enjoyment, and, if you wish,

speak about why you chose your particular movie, and what it's all about. Contact the Museum Receptionist (244-7800) or the "Movie Master," Phil Whitney, (244-5933), and we'll make every effort to get your request on the schedule. As always, donations at movie showings are greatly appreciated.

Photos from the Archives



Ruth Westphal at her Fourth of July Lawn Party in 2000.



All of Ruth Westphal's guests gather to wave to David Stainton and Malcolm Donald, both hospitalized at the time of Ruth's Fourth of July Lawn Party in 2006.

A Reverie

That I knew in days "Lang Syne," Roaming in the fields and meadows In the pleasant summer time!

And in winter's merry evenings When we met to play and sing Altogether, never thinking What the future time would bring.

Some have gone to other cities, In the west have made their home Some are sailing on the ocean, Some in foreign lands doth roam.

Where are all my dear old schoolmates Some have left our homes forever, Could with us no more abide. They have gained a fairer mansion Over on the other side.

> Very few of us remaining To remind one of the past; We have changed like others change We are waiting for the greeting Nothing here can always last.

Months and years roll on forever, Like the ocean in its play, With its restless waves and waters Rolling on from day to day.

We have mingled all together In the joyous days of yore, We have met and we have parted, On this fair, New England shore.

Soon will come another meeting When we meet to part no more; With the loved ones gone before.

Mrs. Elmenia T. Preble Cranberry Isles, June, 1903

A 4th of July Tradition, From Minnesota to Maine

By Ruth Westphal

Back in the 1930s, when many American farms didn't have television, refrigerators, or even electricity, the 4th of July was a quiet day of observance on our rural mid-western farm. My father took the day off, except to feed and tend to our livestock and chickens. We had few luxuries, but my brother, Wayne was always able to buy a dime's worth of firecrackers. He would be up setting them off at daybreak and I would be awakened by the sound of them going off. Then, as darkness came on in the evening, the family gathered on our porch to watch the fireworks put on by our town. We had a clear view across the fields as our farm was only three miles north of town—sort of like watching Mr. Stewart's fireworks up Somes Sound from the Cranberry Town Dock.

In 1946 my family settled on July 4th as the perfect day of the year for all of my family, many of whom were now married and had children of their own, to hold the first Fostervold Family Reunion. By "all of my family" I am referring to my parents, and my ten siblings and me—I'm the youngest of seven girls and four boys. With an ever-growing family, getting all of us together at one time was special. It was summertime and July 4th was a national holiday—a day of observance and a day to enjoy.

So, from that year on, my siblings took turns hosting "The 4th" on their farms. Boards on sawhorses donned table cloths, then held numerous hotdishes and an assortment of salads, including the increasingly popular Jell-O salads. There was always a huge variety of homemade breads, cakes, cookies, and pies, including my summer favorite—rhubarb pie.

During the afternoon the men tossed horse shoes, or sat around and talked, while the children explored barns, sheds, and shanties, seeking out what farm animals each aunt and uncle had. It was common to see a herd of cows in a pasture, and a flock of sheep in another. At some farms the chickens were confined, and at others they ran free. We'd sometimes see a HUGE sow with 10 piglets vying for milk. It was a real treat to see horses, some of them very tall, with shiny coats. Sometimes an uncle or older cousin would bring out a pony or a calm horse for the little cousins to ride.

Besides badminton and volleyball, there was always a pickup softball game which included even the smaller children—allowed to bat until they hit the ball.

My brother, James, who passed away in 2009, loved a party and always provided a cow-watering tank filled with ice and pop. The grandchildren were allowed to have as many bottles of pop as they wanted. (They were actually glass bottles in those days.) My older children remember drinking between eight to ten bottles, and, as far as I know, no one became sick. Our refrigerator was never stocked with soda pop in the 1950s and 60s so this was a real special treat for them.

Our children were deprived of this Celebratory Day when we moved east. When we settled on Cranberry, we tried to make it up to them by inviting their, and our, close friends and neighbors to picnic in our yard.

Our 4th of Julys went on like this until 1990, when Joan Shorey stopped by and asked if they could be included at our picnic. This was a great idea, so a sign went up at the Post Office inviting "one and all" to join us. We obtained permission from the Fire Club to borrow tables and chairs to accommodate our guests. I provided lemonade and coffee, and grills for cooking hamburgers and hotdogs. The rest was potluck, with guests bringing casseroles, salads, and desserts; 110 people came that first year.

To acknowledge the meaning of the holiday, and to add to the occasion, Sam King suggested that parts of *The Constitution of the United States of America* be read. Her husband, Jim Gertmenian, was the first of many readers through the years. Richard Cox brought his trumpet and accompanied us as we sang *America the Beautiful*. One of the last years that Bill Goldberg was with us, he gave a piano accompaniment to Richard Cox and Brendon Westphal's trumpet rendition of *America*. For the past few years Geoff Wadsworth has accompanied us on his saxophone. I've felt that the readings and the singing have been a very moving part of each celebration since then.

The tradition of hanging the parachute was started in 1982, when rain threatened to spoil my eldest daughter, Sarah's wedding reception. There was a little sprinkle of rain but then it turned warm and sunny. But we noticed that the colorful parachute, gently wafting in the breeze, added to the pageantry of the day, so this began our tradition for hanging it for all special occasions.

Continued on next page

This July 4th I will be back in Minnesota, visiting relatives and attending the 66th Fostervold Family Reunion. It's my hope that one or more individuals on the Island comes forward to continue the annual tradition of getting together on the 4th of July. It's a fun way to meet and greet your neighbors, be they winter, summer, or somewhere in between.

Before I close, I want to thank all who have helped over the years with setup and cleanup—your efforts made our 4th of July picnics possible.

Cranberry House Events

This season will feature a variety of fun-filled and educational events and activities at Cranberry House. There will be movies, talks, classes, special events, concerts, poetry readings, and art exhibits. Gail Grandgent, Events Committee Chairman, will coordinate most of the programs presented. She will be supported by Cranberry House volunteers and personnel from other organizations hosting certain events.

Movies at the "Seaside Playhouse" will be regularly shown on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. The popular "Islander's Choice" movie series, hosted by individual islanders who have chosen their favorite movies to show and share with their friends, will be presented throughout the Summer. Saturday afternoon movie matinees at 2 pm in July and August will provide family shows for all ages.

Talks/Presentations: Former Ambassador Charles Dunbar on Middle East political issues, Michael Cesere on Revolutionary War local history, Ashley Bryan presenting a fun-filled afternoon show, Acadia National Park Cultural Resources Director Rebecca Cole-Will on Cranberry Island Indians, and Phil Whitney hosting several presentations of historical slides and videos of the Cranberry Isles. Other lecture programs are still being planned.

Classes: Sam King (poetry), Christy Benson (basket weaving and rug hooking), Wini Smart (watercolor art), Charlotte Harlan (kids crafts), Dick Atlee (sailor's rope work), Gail Grandgent (tile art and spinning), Rebecca Guyver (mailart), Bell Choir workshop, and Mary Beth Jeffries (morning Yoga throughout the summer, on demand.)

Special Events: Cranberry House Open House, Pirate show and concert, Hawaiian Hula dance show, fund raising Baker Island Home & Lighthouse Tour, two

Cranberry Isles Realty Trust (CIRT) programs, and a Day honoring former GCI resident and boat builder Steve Spurling.

Musical Events: Bell Choir concert, Barbershop Quartet (at the Open House), Heliker-LaHotan "El Camino Real" concert; monthly musical Open Mic talent show nights, and a classical music concert. Plus visiting Heliker-LaHotan artist Charlie Jones and friends will provide occasional lunchtime music on the Deck at the Cranberry House café.

Popular Poetry Readings: our own Sam King, Ann Filemyr (Heliker-LaHotan guest and Santa Fe Poet Laureate), and Rachel Field poetry readings by Joy Sprague.

Art Exhibits: Group exhibit "Art of the Cranberry Isles" (August 2 through 8) with reception the evening of August 1, plus week-long individual artist exhibits. There are still some weeks available. Interested artists should contact Gail Grandgent at the Museum Receptionist Desk (244-7800.)

Heliker-LaHotan Foundation has an extraordinary variety of visiting talents this summer: not only artists, but musicians, poets, and film makers, too. There will be three Cranberry House "Meet the Artists" presentations, and three "Open Houses" at the Foundation, for the artists to show their works. In addition, there will be an exciting assortment of individual presentations involving poetry readings, art films, lectures, and impromptu concerts on the Cranberry House property.

We always say "There is Something for Everyone at Cranberry House." Well, now you have the proof!

-Phil Whitney

Share your talent and knowledge!

Artists, photographers, writers, musicians, poets, and craftsman are invited to lecture, hang an individual exhibit, or teach a class this summer at the Arts Center. Contact Events Chairman Gail Grandgent at (207) 288-9021 or ggrandgent@gmail.com for more info.

From the Archives (Item #943)

Copy of a letter, probably transcribed and published by the Islesford Historical Society. The letter is from Sara Mayo, a newly-minted schoolteacher, to Catherine Pye Mayo Chapman, her mother.

Baker Island March 29, 1914

Dear Mother,

I am safe at Baker Island now but have had an adventuresome journey. I will try to begin at the first and tell you about it as it comes.

Uncle Charlie saw me to the train and I arrived at Mount Desert Ferry with no particular adventure. Not a bit sick. The boat was right there and I followed the rest into the salon (whatever it is) and sat down. As I had only checked my trunk to Bar Harbor I thought I would ask the man in the office where I would get my trunk checked to go round the hills, to Seal Harbor you know, and he said there was no boat around there, only Mondays and Thursdays, that I would have to go to Seal Harbor by stage.

I went and sat down again and heard a party of people opposite me speak of going to Islesford so I decided to follow them when we reached land.

We arrived at Bar Harbor and we found that the stage was only a one seated team and there were nine of us right there to go. So the man went and got two horses and a three seated buckboard and eight of us crowded into two back seats and two in the front seat for a nine mile ride. The traveling was pretty bad most of the way but it was a beautiful drive. I should think it would be great in the summer. We went through the Gap as they say. It was right at the foot of Green Mountain. I tell you it was a sight. It was almost straight up from the road. By the way, had to leave my trunk in Bar Harbor as there was no room on the stage' for it. They will bring it Monday to Seal Harbor, then it will come over on the mail boat to Islesford and Mr. Stanley (where I am boarding) said he would get it from there for me. But I am ahead of my story. I was at Seal Harbor, wasn't I? Well. From there we took the Mail Boat (Mr. Teel's boat) to come across to Islesford. There were fourteen of us, seven suit cases, a trunk [ink spot] (that ink is no good) and a barrel of flour. Quite a load for a Naptha launch wasn't it? But it was quite a big one. It was pretty rough though, choppy you know, we would go way down and then way up and the spray flew and the wind blew but we

liked it, it was just great. But Mrs. Spurling was sick. She was one of the party I came with on the stage. She found out who I was and where I was going. The engineer knew also. I guess Mrs. Stanley had told him to be on the lookout for me. And he said that if I did not have my certificate I would have to go on Big Cranberry and if I had it I could go to Islesford. So I told him I expected it by mail so I went right to Islesford where the others were going. (I would have had to go about twice as far to Big Cranberry.) Mrs. Spurling asked me up to dinner with her and I was glad to go, not because I was hungry because I did eat a bit of dinner but because I shouldn't have known what else to do. A little after dinner time Mrs. Stanley, my Superintendent came in. (She had come over from Big Cranberry) and I had just got my certificate when she came. She said that was alright. Wasn't I glad I had that certificate. That saved me from an examination on top of all the rest. She was awfully pleasant. She looked quite young, and mamma, she looked an awful lot like Aunt Lizzie only a little taller. She wanted me to go with her to find Earle Stanley to take me to Baker's but we met him just as we went out the door. He said it was too rough to go either way (there are two ways to go by boat.) But he would come after me later and about six o'clock he thought we could walk across the bar to Baker's. (There is a bar between Islesford and Baker's which is usually bare at low tide.)

So he came after me and we started but met some people who wanted to be taken to Seal Harbor so he said he would see me as far as the Station and someone there would go across the bar with me. (There is a Life Saving Station right on the point of Islesford right by the bar.) So we came to the station that was about 1-1/2 mi, and 1 mi across the bar (excuse figures.) We got there and the captain of the Station, Captain Stanley, said he would go with me but we would have to wait about an hour for the tide to get a little lower. So while we were waiting he showed me through the Station. It was fine, all hard wood floors and everything else accordingly. He showed me all the apparatus, boats and everything and just what they had to do in a wreck. It was very interesting and mother, he was the best of all. If he wasn't married and was a little younger I should have fallen in love with him. No! But I tell you he was fine, just gentlemanly and nice all through.

Well, the reason we had to wait was because there is one low place in the bar where the water goes through continued on next page

until it is quite low tide so when he thought it would be alright we started. This place was almost across and when we got there after traveling over rocks and ledges we found waves rolling over there, you see the wind was blowing hard in from sea and he said it would not be any lower at all. He could wade across with his high boots but I couldn't get across. So I said I could go back to Mrs. Spurling's but he said there was no need of walking that mile and a half and I could stay at the Station and I would be just as safe as I would be at home. As it was getting dark and I was somewhat tired I was glad to accept his kindness. So I stayed in a Life Saving Station last night. Not hardly what I expected when I started from home was it?

Captain Stanley's room and office are all in one now and he gave it up to me so in the evening while he was at his desk making out his reports I was right there curled up in a big soft leather chair with a box of chocolates at my disposal. Wasn't that solid comfort? I tell you I was fortunate, why one couldn't be homesick there, well I just can't tell how he tried to make me feel at home. I know all about a life saving station now.

Well this morning I got up and we all had breakfast at six thirty. There are eight men there I believe and they were every one as nice as could be.

After breakfast I helped Mr. Stanley (the one at whose house I am boarding, he is supplying a vacancy there for a short time.) Washing dishes, went out in the work shop where they make boats, then up in the watch tower and helped a fellow (married, ha'ah') watch. He had some field glasses and one could see a long ways. Then three of them rowed me over to Baker's in a dory.

Wasn't that quite an eventful journey?

Oh! Say, the view of hills. Mount Desert Hills you know is simply grand, Honest, I never saw anything like it. It's certainly a sightly place here in any direction but the hills are wonderful. The water is lovely too. Up in the tower today looking down on the water, one could see so many colors. I didn't know the water did show so many colors.

Now for Baker's. I think there are five families in all here, all close together. I only have three scholars and the cutest little school house. I am sure I am going to like here, still I have a feeling that I would be glad to

go home when the term is over. I am not homesick though and I am not going to be. It would do me no good nor anyone else.

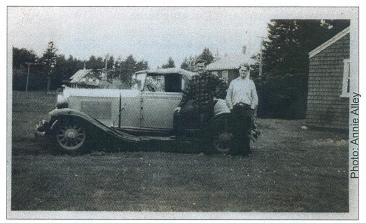
Well I will use Mrs. Stanley's paper all up if I don't stop pretty soon. Mine is in Bar Harbor you know. I am anxious to hear how Walter is. You see we don't get our mail very often here nor can we send it very often. We have to depend on some body's going to Islesford. I suppose every body's the same as when I left. It seems quite a while ago though and give my love to all and yours.

Your little daughter Sadie. You can let grammie read this My address: Islesford, Me % Mr. William Stanley.

More Photos from the Archives



Bert Stanley (the last year-round resident of Baker Island) at Spurling Cove, after he moved to GCI around 1930, where he lived across from Mickey Macfarlan.



Harold Alley (left) and Morris Alley on Cranberry Road near The Lane.

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

Order & Membership Form

Instructions:

Copy this full page, including your address mailing label, right. Fill in the quantity & subtotal of the item(s) you want.

Add a desired level of membership renewal.

Add donation(s) to any Cranberry House Sustaining Fund(s).

Make out check for grand total, payable to GCIHS.

Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Item	Price Q'ty S.To	t
Balsam Pillows, 6-in. wide	\$10 ea., 3 for \$25	
VIDEOS (DVDs in USA format)		
Interview & Fishing with Wesley	Bracy, Jr \$14	
Interview of Robert Cumming	\$14	
Interview of Marjorie Phippen	. \$14	
Interview of Ada Rice	\$14	
Interview of Charles Wadsworth	\$14	
Moving Cranberry House, Nov. 1	6, 2004 \$14	
Great Cranberry Island: Hitty's H		
Rachel Field Recites: Fantasy by		
Once Upon an Island, D. Jackson		
Spinning Sheep Tales with Gail C		
Manset Ribbon-Cutting, May 15,	and the second s	

Membership renev (fill in one)	val for 365 days	Individual (Family (\$2.	
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Night of Poetry and Music 2002	\$14
Night of Poetry and Music 2004	\$14
Ralph Stanley and Friends, music	\$14
Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry play	\$14
PUBLICATIONS	
A Cabin in the Woods	\$24
House Histories of Great Cranberry Island	\$32
Cranberry Road	\$22
Winter: The Other Season	\$22
Artists of the Cranberry Isles	\$27
Enterprising Islanders	\$22
If It Were Yesterday GCI Coloring Book	\$17
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God's Pocket by Rachel Field, hardcover	\$28
Hitty Preble booklet & flat wooden doll	\$25
The Construction of Road "I-95"	\$ 8
Salvaging Cargo from the Emily F. Northam	\$ 8
The Asa D. Stanley House, ca. 1857-1863)	\$ 8 \$ 3
The Heraldry of GCI: lobstermen's colors	\$ 3
The Fairies, a poem suitable for framing	\$ 3
Contibutions For Cranberry House 2004-2008	\$ 7
Riding with Tud, interview Mar. 18, 1993	\$12
An Interview with Tud Bunker, Oct. 1992	\$ 8
Interview with Ralph Stanley	\$ 8
GCI Maine Artist Sketchbook by S. Michalski	\$20
A Taste of Cranberry art of Susan Michalski	\$12
Surf, Stone, & Spruce by Ted Harlan	\$12

TOTAL FOR ITEMS