

Cranberry Chronicle

NEWS OF CRANBERRY HOUSE AND GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Cranberry General Store

Keeping Everyone Together and Connected

JESSI DUMA
AND WILLOUGHBY
HASTINGS

On the morning of October 21st, Willoughby Hastings and I ran across a wind-torn stretch of parking lot, up the steps, and into the warmth and light of the Cranberry General Store. It was 6:30 in the morning, but Richard Beal and Tom Powell had already beaten us to the store, and they sipped their morning coffee as we took off our coats and settled in. Willoughby and I had come to the store at this ungodly hour to do some research and hopefully find out more about the General Store's history and operation. Our first research question—is the store really open at 6:30am? And we were happy to find out it was. Early morning coffee is a long-standing tradition on Great Cranberry Island. You never know who is going to show up for coffee, especially in the summer months, and those who sit chatting over a cup of joe include beloved locals like Polly Bunker and Blair Colby and visiting Ivy League professors. Not an early riser myself, I had never been down to the store much before 7:45 a.m. to wait for the first Beal and Bunker boat, but as I drew out my chair and pulled up to a table in the early morning light, I had a sense that I was taking part in an island ritual.

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Notes of Appreciation

We wish to thank the following individuals for their volunteer support of Cranberry House and GCIHS this past summer and fall:

● **Chong and Judy Lim**

For the donation of an over a century-old horse-drawn carriage.

● **Contractor Jesse Jameson**

For constructing a wooden jumble table and a winter storage shed within one week after the kids' jumble table tent blew down and was destroyed, thus ruining their business.

● **The Sheppard Family Trust**

For their \$5,000 donation.

● **Peter Buchsbaum**

For his continuing series of very popular guided nature trail walks.

● **Ric Gaither**

For his landscaping efforts around the ponds and buildings which revealed considerable artistic talent. Additionally, for his continuing series of lobstering talks and demonstrations.

● **Ben Walls**

For his dedicated efforts in completing various carpentry repair projects around the property, and ferrying artifacts to Northeast Harbor on his boat. (*See Archives News, page 18*)



● **Leslie Watson**

For dedicating many hours of time and effort to make Polly Bunker Day a huge success.

● **Kathe Simons**

For her editorial expertise and support in producing this edition of the *Cranberry Chronicle*

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

Milestones

Passings

8.1.16 Patsy Brooks

Marriages

9.3.16 Seth Gray and Amory Davis

PAST PUZZLER

Gaile Colby correctly identified all the horse shoe players: Victor White, Sawtell Teel, Lucille Hardy, Hillard Hardy, Elisha Bunker, Edgar Bunker. Barbara Sanborn Joy came close, but Gaile recognized everybody in the photo.

NEW PUZZLER

The puzzler this time around is an historical photograph Anne Grulich selected. Please identify this event and tell us the story. Send your answers to anne@gcihs.org.



President's Report

PHIL WHITNEY

BLUEBERRY COBBLER

Courtesy of Hitty's Café
Chef César Ferreira

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup white sugar
4 cups fresh picked blueberries
from Cranberry Isle, Maine
1 cup milk

Preparation - 12 minutes

Cook - 1 hour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
(175 degrees C). Place butter in
an 8-inch square baking dish.

Melt butter in the preheating
oven, about 5 minutes.

Remove from oven.

Mix flour, sugar, and milk in
a bowl until combined;
pour batter over melted butter.
Scatter blueberries over batter.

Bake in preheated oven about
1 hour.



With 2016 nearly ended, it is most gratifying to report that our ninth year of operation at Cranberry House was our most successful ever in most respects. Thousands of people visited the property between Memorial Day and Columbus Day when the museum and café were open, and when the majority of programs and events were presented. The exceptionally fine summer weather, combined with a return to normal tourist season ferry operations after the challenges of 2015, contributed significantly to the large volume of customers. The café was inundated with customers on most days, and Chef César reported breaking all records for meals served in his third season of operation. The museum rebounded strongly with approximately 3,500 visitors entering thru its doors, an increase of several hundred over last year. *The Cranberry Explorer* smashed records by hauling nearly 5,300 passengers between June 15 and September 15.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this memorable year was the extraordinary number of volunteers who seemed to materialize out of the woodwork to support the programs and general daily operations. The total numbers of volunteers approached sixty with varying levels of time donated and interests exhibited in the wide variety of activities available at Cranberry House. Especially gratifying was the broad spectrum of people involved, including both seasonal and winter residents, and ranging in age from 8 to



94. The heartwarming enthusiasm and fresh ideas these people injected into the organization were the basic keys to our success. In addition, César employed fourteen mostly young, part-time people at the café, giving a youthful image to the property, and several of the younger island kids managed the *Jumble Table* daily yard sale, earning 50% of the sales, and learning some basic business skills. The culmination of these

efforts was the first annual *Volunteer Appreciation Day* at the Arts Center in late August, a rousing party which included a pot luck dinner, speeches, games and prizes.

The various committees (Operations, Finance, Events, Publications, Archives, Cemetery, and Information Technology) were active throughout the year. The Events Committee was especially notable, meeting weekly from February thru August, coordinating literally hundreds of events, large and small, including 109 in July and 90 in August, and culminating in some memorable affairs, such as Polly Bunker Day. (see *Honoring an Island Celebrity* article, page 4.) The Finance Committee, composed of members with business and management backgrounds, continued to wrestle with the challenges of keeping our growing organization financially stable. The Cemetery Committee tackled the restoration of the long dormant, oldest cemetery on Cranberry Island — the Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Veterans Cemetery; they literally

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uncovered some fascinating history and inadvertently discovered some more mysteries to investigate. (see *Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Cemetery Restoration article, page 19.*)

We brought four new Trustees onboard in August — Darlene Sumner, Ingrid Gaither, Rosalie Kell, and Jim Gertmenian, all of whom will bring added ideas and vitality to keep our organization vibrant and steadily moving forward. Their separate biographies are noted on page 15. We also welcomed our first General Manager on September 15, as former Island Fellow Jessi Duma transitioned smoothly into her new role (much to the relief of your President).

Heading into Fall and Winter, we continue to host a full slate of activities — movies, yoga, music lessons, meetings, etc. We are also turning our attention to prioritizing our major funding needs beyond our routine considerable daily operating costs. These include repairing and insulating the Cranberry House roof, replacing our cursed elevator/lift which breaks down constantly, paying our professional archivist, and upgrading our archival computer equipment and capabilities, among other projects.

As always, we depend on you, the recipients of all our efforts, to continue your generous financial support. By giving generously (or whatever you can manage), you can demonstrate to our many volunteers that you truly appreciate their efforts and desire that they continue their good works to benefit the entire community. We hope to hear from you, and also hope you have a memorable holiday season.

Honoring an Island Celebrity: Polly Bunker Day

Elaine Buchsbaum



Sunday, August 14th marked a major Island-wide event at Cranberry House. On that day, we honored Polly Bunker, a very special lady who means so much to Great Cranberry Island and all its residents and visitors. Spearheaded by Leslie Watson, with able support from the Great Cranberry Island Historical Society and a myriad of Polly fans including Winnie Smart and many others, Polly Bunker Day proved to be the happiest of celebrations for all. So many people who love Polly stepped up to add to the day's festivities.

The celebration began at mid-day in the upstairs Arts Center with a capacity crowd. Many of us could be seen wearing our cheerful Polly Bunker Day baseball caps produced in many colors, which were available for sale at Cranberry House. Gail Cleveland delivered a message on behalf of her mother, Wini Smart, after which many photos of Polly were shown. Stories about Polly and her contributions to the Island were offered by a number of her admirers. Much humor was evident while those stories were recounted. Two highlights of the day were Polly's very unique remarks and a wonderful fashion show of items from Polly's

shop, The Whale's Rib, which were modeled by many Island residents, some of whom had needed some "encouragement" to participate but who later agreed it was perhaps a highlight of the summer season for them.

The love in the room for our wonderful Island friend couldn't have been more evident. All of us have appreciated Polly's cheerful contributions to the Island for many years. In addition, is there anyone on Cranberry Island who does not own a Great Cranberry Island tee shirt with the little fish motif? I doubt it. Thank you to Polly for being everyone's friend. Thank you for your support and all you do for Great Cranberry Island.

We love you!

General Manager's Report

JESSI DUMA

Whether it is through sharing stories and information, artifacts, volunteer hours, or financial support we appreciate your contribution to our stewardship of island history.

Jessi Duma



With the end of my Island Institute Fellowship in August, I was extremely happy to be able to stay on Great Cranberry in the new role as General Manager of GCIHS. Since beginning my position in mid-September I have enjoyed learning about my role and finding out ways I can support volunteers in making this organization run effectively. As GCIHS's first General Manager, my job is mainly to support the day-to-day operations of the historical society and help envision a long-term plan for the organization's sustainability.

Thus far, a large part of my position has been to document and administer our grant funding. GCIHS was extremely fortunate to receive five grants in 2016 to support our ongoing archiving project, purchase new storage infrastructure, implement direly-needed technology upgrades, and fund the new General Manager position. Funding from the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust enabled GCIHS to purchase two new computers to replace our failing, nearly obsolete equipment.

Both of these computers are dedicated for work in the Archives. One is intended primarily for the archivist, and the other for visiting and in-house researchers like GCIHS volunteers and Phil Whitney's photo and documentary research. Both of these laptops will be a big boon in speeding up and facilitating day-to-day archiving processes, exhibit preparation, and enhancing our internet capabilities. A grant from the Hancock County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation has been used to design and fund a custom-made flat-filing system to house our newly conserved nautical chart collection, helping us to preserve these amazing charts into the future. The rest of this grant will be used to purchase new steel archival shelving to replace the overcrowded plastic shelving currently used for artifact and document storage.

An Organizational Development Grant from the Maine Arts Commission will be used to purchase PastPerfect museum software to replace our current Filemaker Pro software that we use for our archive and membership databases. The new web-based PastPerfect software (due out this winter) will be hosted by PastPerfect and supported by their technical team. Among other things, it allows researchers on-line interactive access to our collections. PastPerfect will greatly streamline our operations and integrate the archiving, donor, and membership processes.

A grant from the Margaret Burnham Morrill Charitable Trust provided funding for our archivist position. This is a great boon given the amazing work Anne Grulich has accomplished in that position thus far, and considering the extent of the archiving needs that remain.

The Buchanan Family Foundation funded a two-year grant to support the new General Manager position. Bruce Komusin's passing in 2015 left a gaping hole in the voluntary work force and institutional knowledge that helped to grow the Society from its start.

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As General Manager, I aim to help accomplish some of the duties left in Bruce's passing and create a sustainable strategy for the Society moving forward.

If you have any thoughts or questions about the work of the Historical Society, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at manager@gcihs.org. While my work largely focuses on the day-to-day operations and financial management of the organization, I hope to also serve as another way to connect to GCIHS. One very special aspect of living in a small community like this is the strong ties that almost everyone has to island history, and I firmly believe that our efforts at historical preservation are furthered and strengthened by the more voices and perspectives that we can include. Whether it is through sharing stories and information, artifacts, volunteer hours, or financial support we appreciate your contribution to our stewardship of island history.

Komusin Inheritance Property Report

Phil Whitney

The Historical Society was fortunate to receive two separate gifts of property from the estate of Bruce Komusin. The first includes three buildings at 300 Cranberry Road. The second is the two-acre woodlot located across the parking lot from Cranberry House. In accordance with Bruce's wishes, the Board of Trustees has decided to rent the buildings for the near future to occupants who provide support to the Cranberry House operations.

Cézar Ferreira rented the small cabin this past summer and will continue renting through the winter and next summer. He will be opening Hitty's Café for its 10th season in May.

Joshua and Willoughby Hastings rented the larger cabin this past summer and, having greatly enjoyed their experience on Cranberry Island, have decided to stay this winter and hopefully also through next summer. They provided volunteer support this season to Cranberry House by driving the Cranberry Explorer, working the museum reception desk, assisting at events, and hosting their own art exhibit. This winter they are planning to volunteer with the Operations Committee and Publications Committee.

Jesse Jameson has rented the workshop for his carpenter contracting business and is busy remodeling the woodshed for storage purposes before renovating the main workshop building for winter indoor operations. Jesse and his crew (Ben Walls and Ben Sumner) have continuously helped out at Cranberry House this past year with various carpentry projects.

GCIHS personnel are still evaluating possible uses of the woodlot area, and remain open to considering any ideas the public may have including doing nothing in the near term.

Hastings Home

Willoughby Hastings

Josh and I are thrilled with this opportunity to experience the beauty, challenges, and societal changes of the island in the winter months in Bruce's beautiful cabin. The past six months have proven what a treasure life on Cranberry is. It is an honor to be a part of this community, and we cannot be more grateful for the circumstances which brought us here. We hope that this winter will provide us with time unaffected by daily commitment to uncover future artistic interests, forge long lasting friendships, and develop additional occupational prospects. I am confident that experiencing a winter on Great Cranberry will undoubtedly continue to inspire my artwork as it has for many artists before me.

If you haven't had the chance to visit Bruce Komusin's well-designed cabin let me start by saying what a privilege it is to call 300 Cranberry Road our home. Bruce made living here this winter possible in more ways than one. His attention to detail and study of design makes a small home feel spacious, assures the winter chill will not sneak in and ensures electrical/water conservation. Bruce created a comfortable space in his remodel of the properties' two modest cabins. The walls are lined from top to bottom in wood paneling, built-ins also add to the aesthetic of the cabin while providing additional storage in unlikely places (including the kitchen table.) Finally, the cabin is equipped with a wood burning stove along with other forms of electrical heat and an EcoSmart water heater. If you would like to see the cabin's beauty for yourself, please do not hesitate to drop by. It would be our pleasure to host anyone in Bruce's cabin.

Treasurer's Report - 2016 Year to Date

JIM BRADLEY

As we near the end of the 2016 calendar year the treasurer is pleased to report that the Friends Program memberships contributions for 2016, which had been dramatically lagging earlier this year, have significantly improved in the past six months. Hopefully when the year-end numbers are tallied, they will exceed the 2015 totals...but only if the positive responses to the reminder letters sent in September continue.

I urge you if you have not yet made your membership contribution for 2016 please do so prior to December 31, 2016.

The balance sheet for the historical society is stronger in 2016 because it now shows the inheritance from Bruce Komusin of the two cabins and work-shed at 300 Cranberry Road and the two-acre parcel of land facing the main road adjacent to Cranberry House. In that regard, it also reflects improvements made and underway to those properties and a loan from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in the amount of \$25,000 to finance those improvements.

Several grants were received this year, including an annual grant of \$3,000 from the Town of Cranberry Isles and most notably a two-year commitment from the Buchanan Family Foundation in the amount of \$40,000 to fund a part time General Manager position. The first increment of \$20,000 has been received and as you are seeing elsewhere in this newsletter our new General Manager, Jessi Duma, is already onboard and making a difference.



In closing, it has been a good year and again I remind you that if you have not already made a membership contribution for 2016, it is not too late to do so. If you have, it is not too late to make an end of year additional contribution to Cranberry House.

All gifts are tax deductible and sincerely appreciated.

Photo: Rosalie Kell



L to R: Winslow Bunker,
Philmore Peterson, Wesley Bracy,
Sr., at Beal & Bunker Dock,
ca. late 1970s

**That was a wonderful
store—it had everything.**

Gaile Colby



Elisha Bunker outside his store
on Dog Point Road

Anyone who has ever set foot on the shores of Great Cranberry Island would be hard pressed to not make at least one trip to the Cranberry General Store, and once you cross that threshold it is unlikely that you will soon forget the experience. During the course of the morning, topics of conversation included American history, Barbary pirates, green crabs, audible.com, dyslexia, woodpeckers, striped fish, and peacocks to name a few. I heard a fair share of old island stories, few of which can be shared in published form, but all of which offered a good dose of island history. People bustled in and out, grabbing coffee and often stopping to chat for a minute or 30. As people joked, chatted, and exchanged news, it was easy to see that this small store perched on the edge of an island, on the edge of a continent, was so much more than just a place to shop—it was a place to connect. As somebody put it that morning, “We’re lucky to have it. It’s a little community hub.” Over the years, the General Store has changed its management and façade, but the vital role it plays in the community remains consistent.

Stores have been a part of island life since the Cranberry Isles first became a town. According to the 1836 estate records made upon his death, Benjamin Spurling, one of Great Cranberry Island’s first settlers, owned a store during his lifetime as did his son Samuel Spurling (GCIHS 2014.296.2049). We do not know the role that these stores played in the community, but their presence indicates the need for a place to purchase goods on-island even in the beginning of the town’s history.

By the mid-19th century, island stores had come to serve as economic hubs of commercial island exchange. William P. Preble, a prosperous merchant and previous owner of Mickey Macfarlan’s house, used his store to secure labor for his fishing and coasting vessels. Preble’s store ledgers show that Preble stocked items like nails and sugar that locals would find difficult to produce on-island. Islanders often paid their bills through a combination of cash, bartered goods, and labor on Preble’s farms or ships (GCIHS 2003.71.619). Preble would ship the fish caught by Cranberry Isles fishermen to ports like Portland and Boston, where the fish would be sold and goods for the store purchased. In this way, island stores served as a link between the average Cranberry Islander and distant ports around the world.

Well into the 20th century, people could purchase much of what they needed at island stores. Gaile Colby has fond childhood memories from the ’30s and ’40s of the store run by Elisha Bunker on Dog Point Road. Elisha Bunker, or Uncle Lisha as Gaile calls him, stocked his store with supplies from produce to meat—even dip ice cream and candy could be found. As Gaile puts it, “That was a wonderful store—it had everything.” Elisha’s store closed shortly after his death in 1952. During the same era, Sadie Bulger ran a small store on the Main Road in front of the house currently owned by the Daltons. Sadie sold crackers and cookies—mostly non-perishable items—and her store was a hotspot for the school kids on a quest for penny candy. After Elisha’s and Sadie’s stores closed, Great Cranberry Island was without a general store for many years. People shopped in mainland stores from the comfort of their own house by submitting grocery orders to stores in Southwest Harbor. The food would then be shipped over on the mailboat, where enterprising islanders would deliver the groceries right to your home. And if you didn’t happen to be home when the delivery person came by? “They would put it in your refrigerator for you and leave you the bill,” Gaile told us.

The island continued this way without a general store for many years until the mid-1970s when the Stanley brothers from Islesford opened a store in what had been the Doctor Diesel’s mechanic shop owned by Rick Ramsdell. The building in which

the Stanley brothers opened their store, originally sat on the end of what was then the Beal and Bunker dock, where it had served for a time as the Porthole Restaurant. The building had been cut in two and moved off the dock by the late Norman Sanborn in 1973 to roughly where the Beal and Bunker office is now. Mark Alley remembers when the Stanley brothers first opened their store in his teenage years, recalling how cool he thought it was that he could walk down the road and buy a candy bar and a soda on the island.

Others must have shared Mark's opinion of the Stanley store, for when the Stanley brothers decided to close their doors around 1980, many members of the town came together and decided that the island needed a store and they needed to make it happen. In this spirit, people from across the island came together to form a cooperative called the Spurling Cove Corporation. The Stanley brothers' store building was moved once again — this time onto land owned by the Town of Cranberry Isles — and to this day this little store makes up the cornerstone of what is now the Cranberry General Store. Ruth Westphal remembers the community spirit of the cooperative, saying that everyone tried to contribute. Hans Noether would bring specialty items like fine cheeses from New York City, and people like Carl Strandberg would contribute produce from his famous garden. Ruth also remembers bringing down the extra swiss chard from her summer garden.

The Spurling Cove Corporation ran for several years, but eventually the store and building were sold in the fall of 1984. Over the next 30 years, the store would be owned and operated by a variety of individuals, many of whom had similar motives to the co-op for operating the store: the island benefitted from the presence of a general store, not just for the convenience of shopping on-island but also for the community aspect. After the Spurling Cove Corporation closed, the store was run for a short time by Rick

and Ellen Moryc. When Rick and Ellen decided to move on after about a year of operation, Lydia Lyman from Northeast Harbor bought the store. Noting the importance of stores in small communities, Lydia also owned the general store on Islesford and a liquor store in Northeast Harbor. Russell and Maude Wedge and Rene Colby served as her on island staff.

Mark Alley also worked in the store under the management of all three owners. He said the vibe of the store then was similar to what it is today, regulars would come down for coffee in the morning to share news, watch the storms come in, and naturally some good natured ribbing took place. For example, knowing Harold Wedge's proclivity for picking up loose change, a few tricksters superglued a quarter to the floor of the store. Harold, unperturbed when he couldn't pick the coin up, simply took out his jack-knife and pried the quarter off the floor, taking a decent sized chunk of the floor with it in the process.

Lydia Lyman owned the store into the mid-1990s when it was purchased by Sonja Colby and her daughter, Tanya Sanborn. Under Sonja and Tanya's direction, the store continued to play an important role in the community. Photographs taken on opening day show a large group of community members coming together to celebrate the grand opening. Cold sandwiches were made and served for lunch. On the first day of school,



Tanya Sanborn, c. 2001



You can get a pound of butter and everything else you need to know.

Charlene Allen

the store even offered free coffee to island moms and free lunch to the school kids! One of the mutually-agreed-upon challenges of running a store on an island is the difficulty of getting the goods across the water. In those days, Terry Johnson made the process simple: he would meet the Associated Grocers' delivery truck early in the morning in Northeast Harbor, load the supplies onto his trailer, barge his trailer over the island, and drive right up to the store entrance. Jane Gray remembers Terry sipping his coffee while unloading the trailer.

After several years of operation, the store was sold again, this time to Barbara Stainton. In an article written for her alma mater, Bryn Mawr, Barbara remembered winters on the island without a general store as "absolutely awful," in large part because ferry passengers had nowhere to wait for the boat. When she ran the store, her philosophy was that "People don't have to buy anything, but they're welcome to stand and wait in the store, where it's warm. Or they can sit down and look out the window to see the boat coming. If they want lunch or a cup of coffee, that's available, too. But it's not mandatory." When I spoke with Barbara recently she re-emphasized her belief that having a general store is "absolutely critical to the health and welfare of the island" and that having the store is a "huge convenience," particularly for older folks as it eliminates the need to lug supplies from off-island. Barbara remembered running the general store as an adventure, but one worth the effort because it "keeps everyone together and connected" on the island.

After Barbara owned the store for about five years she sold it to Clay Taylor, who owned it with the management of Renee Colby. Eileen Colby remembers how Clay and Renee would gussy the place up for the holidays saying, "They would decorate that place to within an inch of its life." Along with the holidays, Clay and Renee raucously celebrated individuals in the community with a singing birthday hat that played "Happy Birthday" at the press of a button.



It's about being there for the community, not the profit margins.

Holly Stanley

Around 2009, the store was sold to Janice Smith-Murch, who still runs the store today. Janice and store manager Holly Stanley both highlight the primacy of the store as a service to the community rather than an all-out money-making venture. As Holly puts it, "It's necessary for the island community to have a place that they can go to and socialize," and the store serves that function. According to Holly, Janice and her family "see the importance of the store to the community and they support the store so it can stay a part of it. You can see that intention in all of Janice's other ventures. It is important to her to keep young people around, keep them employed, and keep them happy. You take this [store] out of the community and the dynamics would completely change." In this spirit, Janice makes sure to point out, "If people want something they should let us know because we are here for the community." Holly emphasized that the store is "there to help if someone requests a certain type of chips, shampoo, soup" and she will do her best to supply that item if possible and at a reasonable price, too. Holly's philosophy goes, "It's about being there for the community, not the profit margins."

Under Janice and Holly's direction, the store continues to serve as the island information center true to Charlene Allen's famous quote, "You can get a pound of butter and everything else you need to know." Holly remembers once even receiving a call from the Coast Guard "to see if I would go out to the dock to check the water for a boat in distress"! She went on to say, "I went out there and couldn't see anything so I called them back to tell them so."

General Store “regulars,”
Blair Colby and Polly Bunker,
Fall 2016

People don’t have to buy anything, but they’re welcome to stand and wait in the store, where it’s warm. Or they can sit down and look out the window to see the boat coming. If they want lunch or a cup of coffee, that’s available, too. But it’s not mandatory.

Barbara Stainton



Working at a store on an island certainly presents its challenges, but those who work at the Cranberry General Store appreciate the unique environment and opportunities the store brings. When Holly first started at the store she was totally new to the business. “In 2009, Janice took over and I started working here the same day. I had never even worked in a store — it’s all self-taught and what I have accomplished this far is by trial and error.” She learned many of the tricks of the trade by calling around to local mom ’n pop stores and asking them which distributors they use. Unlike in mainland stores, employees of the Cranberry General do not have the benefit of distributors delivering right to their doors and disposing of expired product. Ingrid Gaither has worked at the general store ever since she first came to the island, and she says that disposing of the expired milk products has been a less-than-favorite part of her routine for many years. Despite these small inconveniences, Ingrid is very grateful that Janice Murch keeps the store open and offers the opportunity for year-round work on the island.



It’s more rewarding working here because people here know me.

Melissa McCormick

Melissa McCormick has worked in the Seawich Café since 2013, making the trip over from Islesford on the *Blue General* each morning. While the commute can be cold and windy in the winter, Melissa values the relationships she has formed and the community feeling of working in the store. “Polly will bring me birthday presents every single year. She gave me a gift the first year I was working here and I think she only knew me a week,” Melissa says. “It’s more rewarding working here because people here know me.” Melissa pointed out how when a health issue arose in her family people would come up to the window and inquire about how things were going. “I wouldn’t have gotten that at a job off-island.”

To both employees and customers, the Cranberry General Store is so much more than just a business. It is a place to connect or share news—it is a place to rely on in the dead of winter. From its beginnings as a cooperative to its management today, the general store continues to be a place supported and valued by members of the community, with many people stepping up to make it work. The island tradition of helping one another lives on in the legacy of the Cranberry General Store.

The Events Committee Report

JESSI DUMA

The 2016 events at Cranberry House were a profound success. As Chairwoman of the Events Committee, I was lucky to work with an extremely talented and energetic group of people who organized many wonderful events this summer. People from across our island community and beyond came forward to share their time, talents, and interests with the community.

As a Historical Society, we seek to host events that highlight the island's history and educate people about the history of this area. To this end, this summer we hosted lecturers from off-island about topics such as boat builders of Mount Desert Island and hooked rugs in the region. **Junior Bracy** returned for another stunning run through of his underwater slide collection. **Mike Westphal** gave a presentation on the illustrious running history of Great Cranberry Island and his own inspirational running story. **Robin Clifford Wood** from Sutton Island gave a fascinating presentation on author Rachel Field, artist Hortense Flexner, and her own work. **Ric Gaither** hosted weekly Boat Demonstrations to introduce visitors to the workings of lobster boats. **Phil Whitney** shared photographs from our archival collection in his historical slideshow series.

GCIHS hosted a variety of cultural events about topics of interest to the community. The **Heliker-LaHotan Foundation** continued to use the Arts Center for "Meet the Artists" events. **Peter Buchsbaum** continued his popular trail walks, and representatives from the **Maine Coast Heritage Trust** came out to share information about their conservation efforts on our island. **Jack Miller** visited from Islesford to tell us about his work with Disaster Response teams. During a week-long exhibition, **Armen Marsoobian** gave a captivating lecture and shared moving photographs taken by his family during the Armenian Genocide that began 101 years ago. A crew from the Island Institute came out for a screening of their film series *Climate of Change*, which explores the effects of warming water temperatures and increasing ocean acidification on different fisheries, including the lobster fishery. Bear Island's **Charles Dunbar** returned once again to share his knowledge and expertise about issues in the Middle East.

For those looking to expand their own artistic horizons, **Sam King** hosted two poetry workshops, and **Helen Bertles** held weekly open studio time for kids of all ages. Many island artists made use of our exhibit space in the Arts Center to share their talents with the community. **Becca Powell** kicked off the summer with her exhibition "The Cranberry Isles: 100 Views in Paper." **Bill Patterson** wowed us with his photography in his "Water, Rock, and Ice" exhibition. **Sharon Whitham** displayed her work in printmaking with her "Tao of Rocks and Feathers" exhibition. The annual "Art of the Cranberry Isles" exhibition, directed by **Karin Whitney** and showcasing work from many different island artists, was another big success. GCIHS was proud to host the world premiere of an independent art film starring our own **Peter Eldredge** called *The Green Trunk*. The film was produced and directed by a group of Peter's close friends, and the night was a lovely testament to their friendship and a very special person. Ending the season's artistic events, **Willoughby Lucas Hastings** exhibited work inspired by her first summer on the island. Willoughby promoted the show with a feature in the *MDIslander* and held a reception for her show entitled "Not Just a Rock."

Along with the host of informative, cultural, and artistic events, Cranberry House continued to hold weekly activities to keep the summer fun and active such as movies, yoga, bingo, and even karaoke! Let me tell you – it's a special Monday night when you have **Kariah** and **Hallie Sumner** belting Meghan Trainor's "No" and Phil crooning an Elvis Presley tune in the span of two songs!

Darlene Sumner and I hosted morning yoga sessions four times a week. Darlene Sumner organized a Pre-School and Under Play Group and an Adventure Club for Kids. **Jane E. McInnis** rounded out the season with a few Tai Chi classes in the fall.

Throughout the summer we continued to serve as a meeting space for a variety of organizations, including municipal committees. We are proud to be able to provide a year-round meeting space equipped with WiFi and a projector.

L to R, top to bottom:
Kariya Sumner at “Meet the Artists” lecture, Heliker-Lahotan September Artist in Residence Joseph Norman critiquing Willoughby Lucas Hastings’s artwork at her show “Not Just a Rock,” César Ferrera and

Jane McInnis at “Meet the Artists,” runners crossing the midpoint of the Great Cranberry Island Marathon, and William Price at his open studio showing his work to islander students and teacher, Audrey Noether.



I want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful core of volunteers who gave their time to make this a great summer at Cranberry House. From our dedicated shuttle driving and receptionist team, to the board, to the committees who keep the place running, and to the talented individuals who keep the grounds beautifully groomed and facilities operable – we could not have done it without each and every one of you! Whether one contributes a few hours a summer or a few hours every day, each contribution makes a huge difference, and we could not be more appreciative of your effort.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS SUMMER!

Margo Bancroft	Ted Madara
Helen Bertles	Susan Michalski
Jim Bradley	Louise Millar
Elaine Buchsbaum	Cheryl Moore
Peter Buchsbaum	Walter Moore
Pauline Bunker	Alice Murphy
Blair Colby	Emily Newell
Gaile Colby	Johnna Newell
Mary Corley	Morrie Newell
Neal Corson	Audrey Noether
Alan Cowles	Kitty Pierson
Tim Dalton	Richard Pierson
Ingrid Gaither	Patty Pinkham
Richard Gaither	Becca Powell
Kayla Gagnon	Tom Powell
Jim Gertmenian	Fred Quackenbush
Charlotte Harlan	Beverly Sanborn
Joshua Hastings	Jim Singerling
Willoughby Hastings	Molly Newell Singerling
Page Hill	Wini Smart
Miriam Hinnant	Ralph Stanley
Chris Johnston	Branden Stubbs
Annie Eldredge Kane	Meghan Stubbs
Cap Kane	Ben Sumner
Rosalie Kell	Darlene Sumner
Linc Lyman	Hallie Sumner
Mickey MacFarlan	Ben Walls

Jennifer Walls
Leslie Watson
Tom Watson
Gretchen Westphal
Ruth Westphal
Karin Whitney
Phil Whitney
Nancy Wood
Brad Woodworth
Lib Woodworth

We sincerely appreciate all our volunteers.

If your name does not appear on this list, please let us know so we can properly thank you.



Support Cranberry House

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can We Count on Your Support?

ELAINE BUCHSBAUM

Another wonderful summer season has passed at Cranberry House. I hope that you were able to attend at least a few of the presentations and events held this past summer season. We attempt to offer a variety of programs of interest to as many Island residents and visitors as possible. Just think of a few of the events and offerings that were available this summer.

Cranberry House is centered around our wonderful museum which had new and interesting exhibits this season, created by our able archivist, Anne Grulich. Hitty's Café proved to be even more popular than in the past, thanks to C  zar Ferreira. The Arts Center housed a number of wonderful events keeping us active and busy every day of the summer season (*See Events Report, page 12*). I know visitors and Islanders alike arrived at Cranberry House and at other locations on the Island, because they caught a ride on the *Cranberry Explorer* golf cart which offered transportation on a no-charge basis.



It is our honor and pleasure to present our offerings to the Great Cranberry Island community. All of our activities are free of charge. Although grants have enabled us to now hire two part-time employees, we are able to offer all our programs and events because we have a core of hard-working volunteers who take on a major portion of the work at the GCIHS.

We ask you to consider three things. The first is to become a Friend of GCIHS at any giving level. Even the

minimum \$25 membership helps us in our endeavors. The second way you can help us is to keep us in mind at this time of year-end giving. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. And finally, "many hands make light work." By volunteering at Cranberry House you enable us to continue doing all that we do. Maybe next summer you will want to volunteer to help with an event.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and continued good health in the New Year.

New Trustees

Ingrid Gaither

Before moving to Great Cranberry over six years ago with her husband, Ric, and young son, Sampson, Ingrid lived in North Carolina. She considers herself fortunate to have lived on Great Cranberry earlier in



her life when the Historical Society operated a small museum in the Longfellow School building with the lovely Charlene Allen at the welcome desk. Even then Ingrid knew Cranberry was a special place and felt an unexplainable connection to the island and a surprising interest in its history.

Ingrid reflects on her island connection, “I was born in and have generational ties to Mt. Airy, NC, better known as Andy Griffith’s Mayberry,

which is a beautiful town with a rich history, yet I’ve never felt for it the intense desire to discover its past the way I have for my island home, even though I’ve only spent a fraction of my life here and have no roots here. I have walked many of the graveyards, heard the histories of the old houses, read the documents preserved in the museum, and appreciate the people who made history here and the people working to preserve it today. I can’t explain it but I feel a connection to this island that is usually reserved for those with strong family ties who can find their family name in a local cemetery. I’m so grateful to live here and to also be a part of the Historical Society’s efforts to capture the ‘greatness’ that is Great Cranberry.”

Jim Gertmenian

Jim first came to Great Cranberry in 1970 when he visited his cousin, Gina Murray. Jim and his wife, Sam King, have spent summers on the island since the early 1980s and bought their house (formerly owned



by Esther Spurling and Kate Bunker) in 1988. Jim was raised in Southern California; subsequently he received degrees from Oberlin College and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He went on to serve as pastor of churches in New York, Connecticut, and Minnesota. He was Senior Minister

of Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Minneapolis from 1996 until 2015, and during that time he was involved in efforts to end homelessness and to gain marriage equality for the LGBT community. He is also a hymn writer whose work appears in various denominational hymnals. After his retirement, Jim and Sam moved to Cumberland Foreside, ME. They have twin daughters: Enid, who is a psychotherapist in New York City, and Emily, who is a teacher in Marin County, CA. Emily and her husband Brendan have two children, Liam and Camille who both love the island.

Rosalie Kell

Rosalie moved to GCI in the spring of 2014 with her son Will. Growing up in Beaufort, NC, in a house built in the 1700s, she was immersed in the colonial history of this seaport town. Her parents were historians, collectors of antiques and instrumental in the founding of the Beaufort Historical Society. Her appreciation for the value of documenting and understanding the



past and how it informs the present was ingrained from those early experiences. Becoming involved with the GCIHS was a natural progression of interest, based on her academic work in Environmental Anthropology. Rosalie brings her nonprofit management experience, her appreciation for history and the rich stories that frame our island lives to GCIHS as a board member and editor of the *Cranberry Chronicle*.

Darlene Sumner

Darlene graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. degree in psychology and a minor in religion from Emory and Henry College in Virginia. She worked for Mount Rogers Community Services Board from 1997



to 2015 in the youth department as a mental health intensive care coordinator, intensive in-home counselor/parent educator, quality assurance coordinator, prevention specialist, camp coordinator, mentor supervisor, and mental health case manager. In addition to her work with the community services

board, Darlene and her family provided years of foster care services – primarily to mentally handicapped youth.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010 and undergoing an extensive battery of surgeries and treatments, Darlene was given a 30% chance of reaching the five-year survival mark and a 0% chance of having any more children. She gave birth to a daughter on June 22, 2015 and celebrated her 5 years cancer free on July 22, 2016.

Darlene has lived on Great Cranberry since May 2015 and explains that living here allows her and her family the opportunity to slow down and experience the many gifts often ignored during this life and to teach her children the value of community.

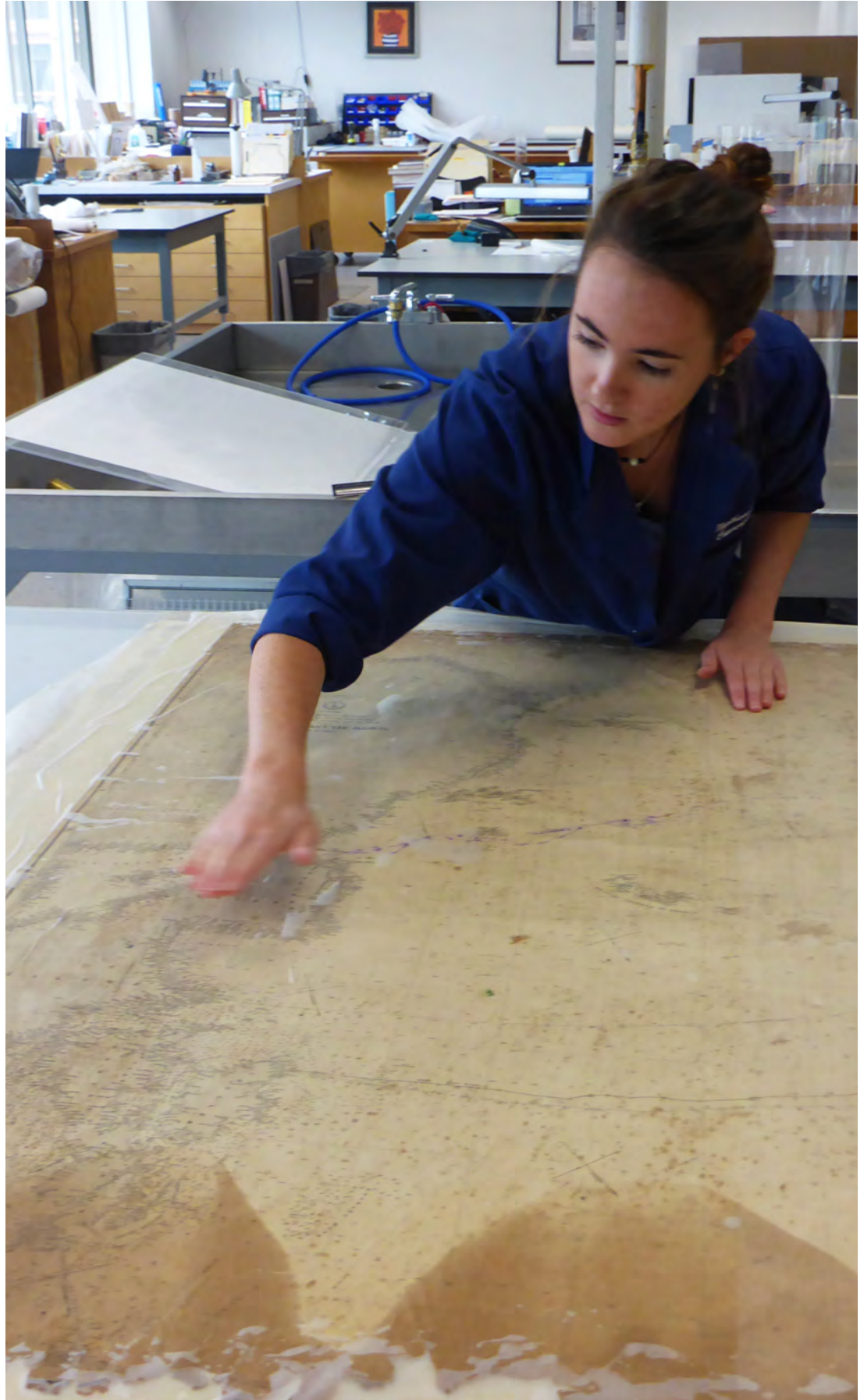
Meltiah Richardson Nautical Chart - Update

Conservator Monique Fischer smooths the Meltiah Richardson nautical chart at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA, in August.

Photo: NEDCC

After the conservation process was complete, the chart was four inches wider than when we brought it in (46" x 60"). The original chart was encapsulated in a Melinex polyester film; a digitized copy was printed full-size and mounted for eventual exhibit. Boxed for transport, the charts were so large only Jim Bradley's Chevy Suburban could transport them back from Andover on September 6. Jesse Jameson is fabricating a gliding, powder-coated, metal drawer large enough to hold this chart and the other nine that make up our 1855-1877 collection of charts. (GCIHS 2015.315.2076)

As you may recall from the June 2016 *Cranberry Chronicle*, this chart clearly plots two transatlantic crossings in 1878 and 1879 aboard the schooner *Carrie M. Richardson*, and has cryptic ciphers and annotations for several other voyages. In October 2016, Captains Ralph Stanley and Skip Fraley visited GCIHS to examine the conserved chart with Mickey Macfarlan and me. Their observations and suggestions were enlightening to say the least. Skip has connected with researchers at two maritime museums who are sifting through customs records and other sources to find out who was aboard and what the cargo would have been during the voyages.



Old Wallet Journal (GCIHS 2016.375.2138)

In July, Ken Schmidt let us scan a marvelous old wallet journal from his family collection. A visiting volunteer has begun transcribing the 50 scans, but the scans have already shed light on the Richardson's 1878, 1879, and 1881 crossings. Unfortunately, the journal pages are not always chronological and are often re-used, but there are several entries that clearly indicate who came on board and who was paid at various times. For example, "Mr. Rumill shipped on board Schr C. M. Richardson Apr 10th 79 at 35 \$ per month." Ralph Stanley related that there were five Rumill ship captains from West Tremont, and says Edwin Rumill was killed by his crew in a mutiny. Rumill descendants still live in Tremont today. If you've got some maritime expertise and would like to help interpret this chart or transcribe the journal, please contact me (anne@gcihs.org). It's worthy of a Ph.D. thesis!

CASH ACCOUNT. JANUARY.			CASH ACCOUNT. JANUARY.		
Date	Received	Paid	Date	Received	Paid
Mr. Rumill shipped on board Schr C. M. Richardson Apr 10 th 79 at 35 \$ per month			10. Hoch Block		
Boston Cash	81.50		Offy. Fare Sheet		
Philadelphia Cash	30.00		Blair. Mr. Smith		
Baltimore Cash	21.00		Shirley Smith		
Postage	1.20				
Hospitality	61.60				
Travels Ant 15	62.36				
Boston Cash	66.60				
Sell'd up to	41.14				
June 6 th 79					
Ed. Rumill					
	120.50				

Early 20th Century Buckboard (GCIHS 2016.376.2139)

Judi and Chong Lim donated this beautiful turn-of-the-20th century buckboard they'd sheltered in their barn for many years. It's in need of a little TLC, but the wooden whip holder, red detailing, and iron clad wood wheels are in good shape. A small brass plaque on a seat back reads: "Davis B.H.B.Co. Bar Harbor, Me" According to an 1889 newspaper, The Davis Bar Harbor Buck Board Company was listed as the first manufacturing concern in Bar Harbor. Luckily, contractor Jesse Jameson had just completed the big lean-to shed behind Archives so the buckboard and two historic skiffs will be protected this winter.



Summer was time for curating and cataloguing some marvelous old acquisitions.

In dire need of space in the archives, we returned some very large (and very heavy) ice harvesting equipment that had been on loan from the Great Harbor Maritime Museum (GHMM) since 2004. Ben and Jen Walls did the heavy lifting as we successfully transported the artifacts from GCIHS to Northeast Harbor in their boat and then up the hill to the museum in their pickup truck, much to the relief of GHMM Curator Willie Granston and me.



Two ca. 1890s Skiffs (GCIHS 2016.366.2129)

Willie Granston also provided information on two ca. 1890s skiffs donated to GCIHS some years ago. One, *Cat's Miow*, is a Chummy Spurling skiff given by the Brezeinski family after being exhibited at GHMM in 2010. The other is a gift of Rodney Wimer and was made by Doug Bracy (Junior Bracy's grandfather).



Wini Smart Painting (GCIHS 2016.364.2127)

This 8' high by x 4' wide shoreline scene by founding member and local artist, Wini Smart, entitled, *Wildlife on Great Cranberry Island*, has been displayed at the top of the stairs for years without being properly catalogued. Originally part of a GCIHS children's exhibit at Longfellow School, it has a charming booklet – *Can You Find These Animals?* – that identifies the animals seen in the painting and on GCI.



Swordfish Bill Sword (GCIHS 2016.343.2109)

In 2000, Polly Bunker gave GCIHS this fantastic artifact made from a swordfish bill. It's 42" long x 4" wide and has remains of gilt on its cord handle. Along the blade are miniature paintings of a lighthouse, schooner, swordfish, seagull, flower, and a scroll with "Rena A. Percy," and the date "July 19, 1908" towards the tip. Chuck Liebow's research tells us that the Rena A. Percy

was a schooner under Master Willis G. Bunker (1855-1915), built in 1904 in East Boothbay. Named after Willis' wife Rena and son Percy, it was used for dory trawling around Jonesport and elsewhere. Willis Bunker was a relative of Polly's husband, Linden "Tud" Bunker. This sword memorializes some specific event yet to be determined.

Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Cemetery Preservation

ANNE GRULICH

On July 27, 2016, Fred Wieninger and his nephew, Benjamin, barged their truck and equipment out to GCI to raise, level, and wash the 11 extant headstones and 4 footstones in the Spurling Revolutionary War Cemetery near the town dock on Spurling Cove. Only 11 headstones for the 25 known burials remain. This much-anticipated day dawned hot, windless, and buggy. How hot was it? So hot the polyester resin used to mend the headstones set in record time! So hot we ended our day at Hitty's Café with root beer floats.



Fred Wieninger preparing resin.

A lot went on before Wieninger's work began. Bob DeForrest and Doug McMullin of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust visited the cemetery and explained the conservation easement and public access path. Blair Colby disc-mowed a pathway through the field and around the cemetery for Wieninger's truck. Ben Sumner weed-whacked the cemetery twice. Northeast Geophysical Services' ground penetrating radar (GPR) team

(Mike Scully and Mike McCormick) surveyed the cemetery on June 15 in an effort to locate buried gravestones. They mapped stones visible on the surface and anomalies one, three, and four feet beneath the soil, placing red flags at promising spots. I did some shallow probing both before and after the GPR



Wieninger's truck at the Spurling Cove Cemetery.



Above and right: Mike Scully and Mike McCormick from Northeast Geophysical Services (Bangor) survey the Spurling Cove Cemetery with ground penetrating radar. Photos: A. Grulich

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Below: Two fragile, red slate headstones for Frances “Fanny” Spurling (1760-1824) and her son Benjamin (1787-1804).



Above: Jessi Duma reveals the headstone for Robert Spurling, Sr.

Right: The inscription carved for Robert Spurling, Sr.

Photos: A. Grulich



survey. Lo and behold, on July 13, with the help of the GPR report, my probing, and Jessi Duma's brute strength, we uncovered a large, fractured, white marble headstone lying face up 8" below ground. As Jessi's expression shows, the thrill was palpable (see photo above). Using our precious water bottle, we held our breath as we rinsed decades of mud off the stone revealing the inscription carved for Robert Spurling, Sr. in 1844.

Another poignant moment occurred as Fred Wieninger raised two fragile, red slate headstones (shown at right) that lay partially buried, face down, side by side. Frances “Fanny” Spurling (1760-1824) was buried next to her 17-year old son, Benjamin (1787-1804*). Both stones are badly delaminated. Fanny's inscription is no longer visible, and Benjamin's is half peeled away. His stone may not survive another winter. It was visitor Martha Rose who deciphered the footstone initials (F.S. and B.S.) in the raking morning sunlight before the headstones were raised, and later transcribed the remains of young Benjamin's tender inscription. (*Prior research says death date was 1809)



Research - Spurling Cove Revolutionary War Cemetery

ANNE GRULICH

Of course, it's not all fun in the field. There's some fun in the Archives, too. A pile of earlier research on the Spurling Cemetery by Leslie Victor Stanley (LVS) in 1973, copious notes from Ralph Stanley's genealogical research, conversations with islanders, and letters from two concerned descendants formed the basis of investigations and raised several questions.

Where is the cedar cross marker for the Loyalist interred between a Son of the American Revolution and his wife?

Andrew Herrick was buried in 1812 before Benjamin Spurling, Sr. (1836) and his wife Fanny (1824). Herrick's grave apparently had no marker until about 1955 when his namesake placed a cedar cross on his burial site. (LVS doesn't mention Herrick in his records.) The marker was last seen in 2000 when another of Maine's cemetery historians, Tom Vining, documented the cemetery. Does the brick feature discovered during our July probing mark Fanny Spurling's burial or Andrew Herrick's? It's the only such feature discovered so far.



Andrew Herrick's marker.

Photo: Tom Vining



Why are Joseph and Sarah L'Grow (Legrow) buried here?

LVS and a Legrow descendant, Cynthia Brown Robertson, tell us that in their later years, the Legrows were part of either Thomas Manchester's or Benjamin Spurling's household, and contributed Joseph's \$39- a-year Revolutionary War pension to the household. Joseph Legrow's will mentions his cousin, Thomas Stanley, and friend, Thomas Manchester. These families came up together from Marblehead, MA, to settle on Mount Desert Island. In 2003, Cindy Robertson cleaned and righted several stones, including the Legrows, and contacted GCIHS about the importance of the cemetery.



Joseph Legrow's headstone

Photos: Cynthia Robertson 2003

Photo at left: Findagrave.com



Sarah Legrow's headstone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

LESLIE VICTOR STANLEY'S INTERPRETATION OF HOW THE SPURLING CEMETERY #1 WAS LAID OUT –

Two Rods Square on the high land, north of the landing Beach and about four rods inland from the shoreline, by Benjamin and Fanny (Guptill) Spurling, Sr. in 1875 when their infant daughter, Easter died.

Lot #1 Mr. Joseph Le Grow 1833	Lot #2	Lot #3 Easter 1785	Lot #4 Ben, Jr. 1809	Lot #5 Fanny 1824	Lot #6 Ben, Sr. 1836	Lot #7 Samuel 1837	Lot #8
Lot #9 John S. 1829	Lot #10 Enoch 1811	Lot #11 Thomas 1811	Lot #12 Ben 1811	Lot #13 Mary 1841	Lot #14 Robert, Sr. 1844	Lot #15 Caroline G. 1847	Lot #16
Lot #17	Lot #18 dau d. 1830-40	Lot #19 Tom, Jr. 1835	Lot #20 Hannah 1810	Lot #21 Mary 1841	Lot #22 Tom, Sr. 1831	Lot #23 William 1839	Lot #24 Henry 1840
Lot #25 Stillman, Jr. 1843	Lot #26 Stillman, Sr. 1843	Lot #27	Lot #28	Lot #29 Caroline 1825	Lot #30 William 1832-33	Lot #31 Edward H. 1847-48	Lot #32

When Enoch, Sr. died on Oct. 26, 1838 they started a new Cemetery inland, to the west about 60 rods from the first Cemetery.

How can we honor these 25 forebears whose names and stories we know but whose tombstones have disappeared?

Rumors of vandalism in the 1950s and '60s by a person now deceased haunt this project. In 1971, LVS noted that only Joseph Legrow's headstone was standing, and none of the stones visible today correspond with the diagram of the cemetery LVS drew for the 25 burials in 32 plots in 1973.

Were some headstones removed from the site or did they sink and our probing missed them?

Or perhaps, the LVS map was hypothetical; but LVS' diagram was nearly perfect for the 101 graves in the Stanley Cemetery restoration project two years ago.

Did the cemetery extend further east and some burials erode out of the cliff?

Was someone farming the land and moved the stones aside to simplify plowing?

If the stones were moved outside the expected cemetery bounds, they could lie buried among the brambles on the hillside. Time will tell.

We're grateful to many folks, especially the Great Cranberry Congregational Church and the citizens of Cranberry Isles who funded the project. We thank Steven Herrick and his Uncle Andrew for their extensive genealogical research, and Cynthia Brown Robertson for preserving several stones at the cemetery, sharing her family's genealogy, and urging us take action. We thank Ralph Stanley for donating his Uncle Les' research papers and the late great Bruce Komusin for putting it online at gcihs.org. Thanks to Maine Coast Heritage Trust for being so supportive of our efforts, and to the Weibel family who own the property and visited the cemetery one gorgeous summer morning. Watch for pictures and blogs in the coming weeks as we post the Spurling Cemetery information on the GCIHS Cemetery Preservation Committee's website (Stanleycemetery.com).



Benjamin Spurling, Sr. Headstone

Inscription:

SACRED
to the Memory of
BENJAMIN SPURLING.
who died
Dec. 30, 1836:
aged 84 yrs.

He is a Son of the American Revolution (SAR) who served in Castine area from July 28, 1779 to Sept. 28, 1779. Father of 11 children, he lived in what is now known as the Rome house on GCI.

Mar 10 [1942]

The ladies Aid met with 5 members. The meeting was opened by Rose; a very pleasant afternoon was spent arranging the food sale Mar 17 for the Red Cross drive hope we will get a lot of money – was sent our tea day but one of the members brought gingerbread. It was so tough one of the members had to take a sharp knife & hammer but it was good with hot tea and it all disappeared. She took an order for more for the food sale!

Sept 15

The Ladies Aid was invited to meet at the home of Mr. Bacon for an all-day session to a lovely chicken dinner was served to 11 members by Hilda & Marjorie. Although it was a dark and stormy day outside, it was certainly bright & cheerful inside with plenty of bright flowers and 11 bright smiling faces working with all their might for the Ladies Aid when a long distance telegram came wishing the aid a happy and prosperous year. We was all sorry that Ida & Gertie couldn't be with us.

Sept 29, 1943

Rose Wedge –Sec, Hilda Spurling Assis Sec. Pres. Lena Stanley. assis pres. Hazel Hardy, Tres – Alice Stanley, Assis Treas. Mabel Stanley. Committees: Aprons, Fancy work, Quilts, bags, Knitting, Flowers, Looking after the sick

Nov 10

The Ladies Aid met with 10 members The meeting was opened by Emma everyone was very busy as it was decided to have a supper Nov 17 to see how much we could get towards helping to pay for a new stove which we have to have if we can only get a good night.

April 19

The Aid met with 9 members. The meeting was opened by Lena. Tacked our quilts, decided to have the children next Wednesday, the dinner was all planned, then a dainty tea was served which was very nice only some found fault with Mabels cookies on what was in them. If this Old War keeps on they will be very lucky to get cookies with mice droppings in them!

Dec 5

The Aid met with 9 members. The meeting was opened by Hilda nothing special happened, the Long Ledgers brought and served a lovely lunch. A good thing we are not going to have many more of them feeds or everyone would be so fat we would have to reduce.

The Ladies Aid met Jan 1 [1944] with 10 members.

This was New Years day, we had our Christmas tree, what a lovely time we had opening our presents. A dainty tea was served by Lena, which was given by our good friend, sandwiches, cake and ice cream. The meeting was opened at the table by the Chaplin which was both beautiful and appropriate here hoping that we will have a most prosperous and happy new year together and let us all ask God to be with us in our good works.

Love for Work is Love for Vacation: Agricultural Updates from GCI

KAYLA GAGNON

Maine is known as Vacationland, and indeed it is. People from all across the globe come to see and experience the beauty and richness Maine has to offer, passing their time climbing mountains, kayaking in rivers, and sailing the Atlantic. Folks



© Crockett's Victory Garden

also come to see something else spectacular Maine offers: a unique economy with a strong local movement. Whether it's cheese, honey, hats, mittens, pottery, eggs, fish, lobster, clams, wool, garlic, kale, corn, apples, or pumpkins, Maine is rich with local offerings.

Great Cranberry Island is a microcosm, one piece of the global puzzle. As tiny as we are we are nothing less than significant. When people pass through this small bit of vacationland, they may overlook one of the richest parts of the island, of our state: the agriculture. Farming has a deep and strong history in the state of Maine, one that still thrives and grows stronger each day. For those who live year round here, vacationland is not always a vacation. Vacationland is a place of work, with hours upon hours of dedication to it. A work that is beautiful, enriching, and enhancing the quality of our lives, but work nonetheless. The greatest blessing of agricultural work is that we coexist with it; there is no separation between life and work, they are what we do. To grow food, care for livestock, tend to gardens, and feed the birds and the bees are no more work than it is to do our part in tending to the world we live in. We live our work to improve our lives and the lives of others, creating and caring for the essence of life itself. It's not only about chasing the dollars; it's about fulfillment, sustainability, and most importantly, love. Local agriculture brings large yields, not usually in the financial department, but with the highest quality of food, goods to sustain oneself in the healthiest and most sustainable way possible. Dirt under fingernails and stinky compost are some of the finest things in life for a farmer.

This past season of spring and summer on the island you could find immeasurable amounts of beautiful things coming to life. New seeds being planted and new roots digging into the ground, and some old roots digging in deeper, finding more nutrients to grow bigger than before. Some new roots that have taken to the ground and grown tall and strong are community members such as **Rosalie Kell**. She moved into one of the CIRT houses over a year ago and immediately transformed it into something radiant. Summertime residents instantly noted her wild and radiant garden in front of her home, utilizing every bit of lawn to grow food and flowers that stretch towards the sky. She uses not

only buckets of love but also buckets of seaweed from the shore and her incredibly rich compost from worms and rabbit droppings.

One of the main farming highlights on the island is the farm of **Wendy Rackliff**. She has been farming on the island for many, many years and her knowledge is more than impressive. Her production is something that inspires new farmers on the island, using common sense and creativity to keep her birds happy and healthy, as well as grow some of the most beautiful produce on the island. Colorful chard that is a foot tall, I kid you not! She understands the importance of symbiotic relationships and the need to utilize various resources to obtain great results. One example is her birds that she lets happily roam around her property. Her Muscovy ducks eat up the mosquitos, and her guinea hens eat up all the ticks, not only making the birds full and happy but also keeping community members safe from disease-infested bugs.

Then there is the **Sumner family**, one amongst many new families who have been incredible additions to the island and our community. The Sumners keep goats that they tend to remarkably well, and they grow food for their family in various locations due to the help of neighborly community members on the island. They are a family that has much knowledge and knows how to get dirty and work hard to provide for themselves as well as giving back to their community. The kindness and support of our community can be clearly seen in what they tend to and the support from others who have lent them land to make it possible to farm out on the island.

Another family using similar practices of lent land are **Sarah McCracken, Jessi Duma, Page Hill**, and myself who have continued their hard work on their project called the **Island Ecology Project**: a volunteer project bringing connections of agriculture and sustainability to the island. This year we took on a fourth garden, that of **Sam Donald** and continued our work in the gardens of **Mickey McFarland, Blair Colby, and Mark Alley**. We used compost we made the year before from our island compost collection and we now have two new piles in the decomposition process ready for next spring. We continued with a community farmstand once a week for the entire summer, offering the community fresh island produce.

One of the greatest additions to the farmstand is providing a place for anyone in the community to come and sell their home-grown or handmade goods. It's heartwarming to see members of all ages participate such as teenager **David Encarnation**, who grows beautiful blue ribbon produce in his mother's garden

to sell at the farmstand. Or **Barbara Meyers** who works long hours dedicated to her jobs, family, friends, community, and planet and still makes time to participate and share what she has at the farmstand.

Then there's **Eva Galyean**, who has gardened for years and years for herself and her family and chooses to come and offer the delicious and nutritious fruits of her labor to the community. Everyone has something special to offer to our community to keep it vibrant, healthy, and supportive. The farmstand has been just one of many places on the island where community support and collaboration, nutrition, love, joy, and a strengthening local economy is being realized.

Janice Murch has brought more ties to agriculture on Great Cranberry. This spring and summer, Janice has continued to maintain her orchard and plant up to 40 new fruit trees with the help of her dedicated workers. She also brought four woolly additions: two baby ewes and two baby wethers to accompany her other three sheep. It was quite the adventure to boat them onto the island, but the ride was smooth and enjoyable under a summer evening sky. The three sheep she had previously are growing in age, but not in spirit and the addition of the younger sheep has brought a younger energy to the other three. The seven now have a new pasture by the sea to be in, munching on grass, ferns, and alder. One could say they are enjoying the tranquil life of Great Cranberry more than we humans.

One of the agricultural highlights of this summer was the **Farm Day Fair** at the Cranberry House on Saturday, July 16th! It was a marvelous collaboration with the Historical Society, the **Island Ecology Project**, the Sumners, and many others. The day was filled with fun and educational activities! There was a farm animal section where people could come and see islanders' animals and ask questions about them. The **Sumners** had their goats for people to see and touch and **Wendy Rackliff** had various animals to display, such as her angora rabbits and various types of birds. The farmstand was held at The Cranberry House that day as well. There was face painting made from natural ingredients, and two insightful lectures by **Jessi Duma**, one on composting and another on the history of agriculture on the Cranberry Isles. **Page Hill** offered a fun and informational demo on beekeeping basics, having a hive out for display and showing off honeycomb while highlighting key facts about bees and their importance to us. She then did a candle making activity with beeswax that had us all dripping with joy and laughter.



© Crockett's Victory Garden

I held an informational planting for pollinators activity where we created a community garden near the Cranberry House. Children learned how to work and amend the soil, plant lettuce seedlings, and surround the garden with pollinator-attracting plants such as sunflowers and butterfly weed.



Pumpkin carving party at the Rice House

Photo: Willoughby Hastings

We talked about the importance of pollinators, how many types of pollinators exist, and how to care for them in your garden. **Hitty's Café chef, César Ferreira**, organized an outdoor café and BBQ with delicious food for folks to munch on. The day was filled with laughter, joy, fun, and education for anyone who stopped by. It was such a success that plans are in the work for a fair next summer!

It's clear to see that this small part of Vacationland, Great Cranberry, continually thrives on the pleasurable vacation from the hustle and bustle in the rest of the world to be immersed in life and work. All elements of life have organic properties to them, organic as in living entities taking their natural form. Growth itself is an organic concept for it is the essence of life itself. The organic growth that is wildly happening all around us could not only be seen as life's natural progression but also as the livelihood and the lives of our community members. It is connecting with something greater, something fully and wholly connected to love. Love for dirt, love for food, love for birds, love for bees, love for poop, love for water, love for sun, love for growth, love for death, love for self, and love for the community. So, the next time you are in Vacationland, take a real vacation. Go talk to your local farmer, beekeeper, orchardist, etc. They are most likely your neighbor. Go see them on vacation, ask questions, learn like a child, prepare to uproot yourself from cleanliness and order, live organically, and experience what love is for your neighbors and community. Go see what it really means to be in Vacationland.

"Thumbtack" Re-Tacked in a New Location

JANE BARTON



Thumbtack's original location on Thrumcap



Nick Barton with the Hodgson Prefabricated Portable Camp



Blair Colby transporting pieces of the house from Thrumcap



Reassembly on Barton property

A historic structure, called a Hodgson Prefabricated Portable Camp, was saved from destruction, disassembled, moved to a new site, and reassembled on Cranberry Island in the fall of 2013.

In 1938, this prefab structure was floated across from the mainland on a small barge and erected at Thrumcap by the Sheppard Family. They owned the property until 1962, when it was sold to the Bob Cumming Family who enjoyed its unique location until approximately 2013. From this location the house enjoyed magnificent views but also withstood the wrath of several hurricanes. Seaweed was often piled at the front door and crabs or other creatures were able to sneak through the floorboards. The Hodgson Houses were designed to be assembled with bolts and wedges along with a coconut paper insulation which enabled the house to "breathe" and survive the harsh Maine weather.

In order to make room for a new structure on the Thrumcap property, the Ward Family arranged for Nicholas, Maria, and Jane Barton to acquire the house on the condition that it be moved within a six-week window. Nick Barton arrived on the island to examine and plan the project. He stayed for two to three months to complete the project. First, he had to prepare Jane Barton's property by clearing a site, laying a



foundation, and introducing water lines. Then, Nick and a friend numbered parts and disassembled the house. Blair Colby transported the stacked pieces of the house, on a flatbed pulled by his tractor, in just four trips from Thrumcap, up the incline, across the sand near Murch's, and up the road to the Barton land across the street from the School. Nick hired some helpers and successfully reassembled the house. He was able to save almost all of the original portions of the house.

As the winter closed in, Nick closed the house for the winter and came back the following summer to continue his work. Family and friends pitched in. All the windows were removed and reglazed, the exterior walls were sanded and painted, and the darkened floors were sanded — exposing old yellow pine and the coconut paper insulation — which had darkened and wrinkled over

the years — was removed. The original shutters were replaced and replicas of the historic shutter holders were installed. Finally, the original furniture from the house was put back into the house, including the 1930s bathtub. A deck was added and the yard landscaped with a stone wall.

The house, now called Thumbtack, was christened with this clever name by Eileen, Gaile Colby, and Arvard. "Thumbtack" came from referencing its previous location on Thrumcap with the fact that it was moved on the map. Arvard made a house sign; the house and mates settled into its new location closer to the hub of the Great Cranberry Island community.

The Longfellow School Bell Rings Again

PHIL WHITNEY



Teachers Audrey Noether and Lauren Simmons officially ring the bell to call the kids to school.



Before the opening ceremonies the students were asked to record their thoughts.

September 1st, 2016 was an historic day for the Cranberry Isles. After sixteen long years of being closed, the Longfellow School re-opened for business with eleven children in attendance. The weather was fair as approximately 150 friends and family from both Islesford and Great Cranberry gathered in the schoolyard to observe opening day ceremonies before the first school day actually began. News media representatives were in attendance. Many folks brought their cameras to record the event.

Teachers Audrey Noether and Lauren Simmons organized the program and acted as Masters of Ceremonies. The children prepared banners which reflected their individual thoughts about the special day. The teachers provided a brief history of the school and their hopes for the coming

school year. School Board Chairman Kelly Sanborn presented a poignant speech which captured the special meaning of the school and its importance to the community, as well as recognizing the many individuals who worked diligently to bring the school back from extinction. Subsequently, the American flag was raised by Phil Whitney and Jack Miller under formal military guidelines while the *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited after which Tom Powell played the *Star Spangled Banner* on his trumpet.

The old school bell, along with the bell tower, was removed sometime prior to WWII. The bell was engraved “1906”—the school officially opened in 1905. It had been abandoned in the school attic ever since, and was rescued prior to the start of the extensive school renovation project,

with the combined efforts of the Historical Society, the School Board and the General Contractor. Newman & Gray Boatyard polished the bell, repaired the base, constructed a concrete foundation, and placed the bell outside the school to the right of the main entrance steps. The teachers were given the honor of officially ringing the bell to “call” the kids to school, for the first time in over 75 years, to loud applause and cheers. The ringing bell never sounded better. The students then marched in single file up the steps and into the building. The audience was then invited by the teachers to enter the school and see the renovations prior to the commencement of the students “hitting the books.” It was a memorable day for everyone involved and a huge step in preserving the year-round community for future generations.



The first day of school, students, teachers, school officials, and their mentor Ashley Bryan, gather on the ramp of the newly renovated Longfellow School.

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



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