

# Sanford and Shaw Cabins Coming to Cranberry House

Exciting things are happening! Next season will find **two** more structures on Cranberry House grounds. One cabin was the historic home of Sammy Sanford; the other was Gordon Shaw's newer seasonal camp.

For years the cabins stood side-by-side on Shaw's land—now O.P. Jackson's—near Preble Cove. The land is in conservation easement under Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT). Wishing to restore it to a more pristine condition, Mr. Jackson recently donated the cabins, plus funds to move them, to GCIHS. He hired mover Larry Hardison and carpenter Jesse Jameson for the job, to be overseen by Terry Towne of MCHT, and Phil Whitney of GCIHS.

The newer, larger Shaw cabin will be partially disassembled. Then both buildings will be transported up the old woods road over Bruce Komusin's property behind Cranberry House. The newer building will be reassembled at the left rear side of the parking lot, at an angle to Cranberry House. The smaller Sammy Sanford cabin will be placed a little further back, behind and to the right of the parking lot, near the little frog pond. Jesse Jameson will complete foundation work in December, with the actual move planned for January when the ground is frozen.

The Sammy Sanford cabin should be open for public viewing next summer. It was furnished with a bed, table, and chairs for Hitty Hoopla Day this season, but few people saw it because of the weather and distance.

No definite decision has been made for the use of the larger building, though it would be a good showroom for our larger historic pieces, such as antique boats.

GCIHS is extremely grateful to O.P. Jackson for his generosity and support with all aspects of this project. When complete, our grounds will become an historic complex, using more of our property, and allowing easily accessible viewing of important artifacts of our Island's history.

#### Where and When

Dated February 12, 1934, the masthead photo shows the Sunbeam breaking ice in Spurling Cove. Two men can be seen on the Sunbeam; the man at the bow has a grappling hook. Two other men, presumably islanders, are standing either in their iced-in vessels, or just behind them on the ice. One hardy soul appears to be walking toward Islesford, perhaps to regale friends there with the story of his remarkable visit.

Steve Spurling, who supplied the photo, says that the Pool was completely frozen over, too.

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#### Milestones

June 18 Marriage: Willa Dawson & Graeme Allen

June 19 Marriage: Susan Patterson & Patrick Whaley

Sept 9 Passing: Hans Noether

Sept 16: Ruth Westphal retires as Library Director, Ingrid Gaither takes over the position

Oct 30: 90th Birthday of Louise Millar

# Notes of Appreciation

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

- ▶ Rodney Wimer: for maintaining the Cranberry House lawn and grounds in immaculate condition free gratis during the warm weather months.
- ▶ Vicky Johnston, Chris Johnston and Nancy Wood: for volunteering many hours as Museum Receptionists this season. Their friendly, efficient presence, relating stories and anecdotes of island life to interested visitors, helped many to better appreciate and understand the history and heritage of Cranberry Island.
- ▶ O.P. Jackson: for donating both the Sammy Sanford and Gordon Shaw cabins to GCIHS, and for paying the entire costs of moving both buildings onto the Cranberry House property this winter.
- ▶ Bruce Komusin (Cranberry Chronicle Editor): for donating hundreds—possibly thousands—of hours towards making Cranberry House the great center of recreation for the island.

#### **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 a free tour map on museum entry. Memberships help keep Cranberry House alive. A heartfelt **Thanks** to the folks below who sent their dues in December 2010 or after:

Alson, Dr Allan & Sue Ann Glaser Avery, Richard & Marianne (Beal) Moore, Caryll Bennett, Charles & Nancy Benson, Fred & Anne Bertles, Helen Bileck, Emily Nelligan Bradley, James & Virginia Bradley, Philip & Julie Bradley, Katherine Brady, Jim & Julia Brawner, James N. III & Julianne R. Bryan, Ashley Buchsbaum, Elaine & Peter Bunker, Pauline Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne Bunker, David & Wendy Rackliff Butt, Charles Campbell, Charlotte R. Carter, Alice G. & Katrina Colby, Gaile & Arvard Savage Cole-Will, Rebecca (Acadia N.P.) Corley, Karl & Mary Corson, Neal & Candace Cox, Richard Cranberry Club Donald, Malcolm

Donald, Peter (GCI Trust 2007) Dunbar, Charles & Nelia Dunn, Eric & Susan Encarnation, Dennis & Kathy Graven Fernald Anna Fitch, Dorothy Peterson Freeman, Robin Fuerst, Richard, Jr & Joanne Garrett, Sylvia H. Gertmenian, Jim & Susan King Gifford, Stephen N. Glaser, Michael & Kathleen Glidden, Suanne Goldberg, Mark Grandgent, Gail Gray, Ed & Jane Guth, Polly W. & John Harlan, George Jr. & Charlotte Harris, Nancy Hartley, Holly & Oscar Anderson Hartley, Grace Herrick, Paul W. Heyerdahl, Virginia Ann Hinnant, Miriam D. Hogg-Chapman, Cheryl Hook, Janet A. & Bill Patterson Jackson, Jr., Mr & Mrs Orton P.

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Newell, Morrison & Johnna Newman, Susan & Jarvis Oppenheimer, Jonathan & Jennifer Pagels, Capt. Steve & Ivy Pew, Arthur E. III & Judith B. Pierson, Jr., Dr & Mrs Richard N. Polky, Adrien & Diane Polshek, James & Ellyn Quackenbush, Fred & Wini Raup, Henry A. Rich, Louise Spurling Richards, Eileen Richardson, Amy & Christina Richman, Michael Roberts, Owen & Janet Robinson, John & Barbara Rodiger, Georgiana Rome, Abigail Rome, Dan & Cindy Rose, Dr. Dan & Martha Rose, Emma Saltonstall David Schmidt, Kenneth Shaw, Gordon & Joy Shorey, Ev & Joan Silvers, Damon & Elissa McBride Singerling, Jim & Molly

Spencer, June B. Spurling, Leslie & Norma St. Germain, Robert & Lucille Stone, Gregg & Lisa Strandberg, Louise B. Sullivan, Richard & Ann Tyrrell, John & Veronica Wadsworth.Geoff&Sharon Whitham Wadsworth, Laurie Wallace, William & Lena May Ward, Susan & Rodman Watson, Thomas & Leslie Webster, Maynard & Marilyn Wells, Donald Westphal, Ruth Westphal, Gretchen White, Chris & Susan Whitney, Phil & Karin Williamson, Mark & Sarah Wilson, James & Jane Witham Family Ltd Partnership Wood, Cameron & Nancy Wood, Jonathan & Robin Wrobel, Nancy Spurling Yorke, Robert & Judith Zirnkilton, Jane

## President's Message

We are deep into Winter here on Cranberry Island. The Summer residents have departed, the migratory birds have gone South, the grass has finally stopped growing, and only an occasional vehicle traverses the Cranberry Road. The museum and café closed Columbus Day; The Seaside Playhouse (movies) and the Whistler Cove Trail closed the end of October. The tables and chairs were put away, the gardens pruned, the water turned off, items were either stored away or covered over. The Summer days spent at Cranberry House—all the fine programs and events, relaxing times at the café, energetic hikes through the woods and along the cove beach, browsing among the museum exhibits—are now but happy memories. It was personally a very satisfying season. Much was accomplished by the Cranberry House crew, but usually in an atmosphere of laid back ambience: the way life should be lived on a Maine island.

The café was busy the entire season, and the museum set visitation records once again. A number of projects were completed, including the badly-needed expansion of the café kitchen and deck area, which resulted in a beautifully symmetrical building, as viewed from the Cranberry Road. Wooded areas were landscaped, extra bog bridging was installed on the trail, digging a larger pond was begun. Donna Sonday and Rodney Wimer continued their outstanding work of maintaining the beautiful gardens and manicuring the lawn and grounds. The staff at the museum and café (see Museum & Cafe Reports) were exceptional in making visitors feel welcome, and many laughs were shared during the season. Our volunteers were many and diverse, ranging from year-rounders to summer residents, kids to older folks, and once again included the visit of a dozen Unity College students to help with projects. All these volunteers helped in various ways, providing logistical support to events, contributing to the art exhibits, teaching classes, cleaning the beachfront and more. Just as gratifying were the nearly daily contributions received from many, many members of the community-either historical memorabilia for the museum or items for the increasingly popular Jumble Table (all proceeds utilized for Cranberry House operations.)

Special mention should also be given to Gail Grandgent, who joined our organization early in the Summer. She combined a love of local history with an interest in arts and crafts to provide great support in coordinating many of the events, archiving historical items, helping out as museum receptionist occasionally, and even teaching an art class.

Although activity around the Cranberry House is much quieter now, we still remain active. The unseasonably warm weather and lack of snow this autumn has enabled outdoor work, such as woods landscaping, to continue well into December. We have also been spending considerable time in the basement of Cranberry House, organizing it after the confusion of Summer. Additionally, we have begun regular meetings of the Archiving Committee, to pore over old photos and documents, gleaning additional information, and to determine what materials are pertinent to GCI history and should either be retained or otherwise discarded. Bruce Komusin and Ingrid Gaither are slowly and methodically cataloguing the archives, which is a huge job, but extremely important. We also plan, based on community interest, to show several Christmas movies during December, in the Arts Center. We have decorated the Cranberry House with



Christmas lights and candles once again this season, to brighten an otherwise dark village center. The building looks very pretty, even without snow.

Those of you who can't spend the Winter months on Cranberry Island are truly unfortunate. Cranberry is quite a different 'paradise' this time of year, but no less beautiful and rewarding. Tonight, as I write this, there is a clear starry sky, nearly full moon, glistening moonlit waters in the Pool, an owl hooting somewhere over on the Backside. The fireplace is glowing, and shortly I'll take a walk down the road in absolute quiet (except for the owl) and look at the Christmas lights. We enjoy the Winter out here. But it won't be long before we'll begin planning for the warmer weather activities at Cranberry House, and looking forward to the return of our seasonal friends to the island.

In the meantime, we wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. -Phil Whitney

## Treasurer's Report

Most of you will have recently received an Annual Appeal letter from President Phil Whitney describing the many activities which took place at Cranberry House in 2011, and asking for financial support for next year. He referred to a sizeable funding shortfall.

As Treasurer, I would stress that this shortfall does not indicate an out-of-control financial situation over this past year. That was not the case. In fact, in past years GCIHS, in a very fiscally conservative manner, carried over a large cash reserve from year to year: at each year's end there was sufficient cash on hand to cover budgeted operating costs for the following year, even if budgeted revenues amounted to zero.

This large cash reserve also acts as source for emergent capital requirements. At the end of 2010 it was used to move quickly in 2011 to build the muchneeded café addition to Cranberry House. This drew down that cash reserve by about \$21,000.

The trustees now desire to restore the full cash reserve, to sustain our long-held conservative budgeting policy, and to prepare for future capital requirements, such as a new roof on Cranberry House. To bring our cash reserve position back to a conservatively comfortable level after the café addition will require additional donations of about \$20,000. This was the thrust of the Annual Appeal letter of a few weeks ago.

If you have any questions about financial details, please don't hesitate to call or email me. Thanks.

-Jim Bradley 703-683-7675 jsbradley 25@gmail.com

## Museum Report

The Historical Society Museum saw a significant jump in attendance this year: 3346 visitors, an increase of over 600 from last year. Many visitors were day-trippers, from nearly all 50 states, and several foreign countries. Cranberry Islanders, past and present, tended to visit on weekends, when they'd wander in, sometimes with visiting relatives or guests, to revive old memories and perhaps learn new historical anecdotes about the island.

There were several new exhibits, created primarily by Wini and Fred Quackenbush: the Great Cranberry Congregational Church, the Hamor Tea House, and an enhanced Rachel Field/Hitty display. Perhaps the most popular exhibit, attracting much attention and raising

fond sentiments, remains the enhanced 'Wall of Fame', bringing back memories of prominent year-round and summer islanders no longer with us.

We were fortunate to have several museum receptionists this season, alternating days, who brought interesting and diverse backgrounds to the job, including a former GCI schoolteacher, multi-generational summer residents, and both current and former year-round residents. The Museum Store offered GCIHS publications, DVDs, and gifts produced by local craftsmen. A new publication, "A Cabin in the Woods", authored by Wini Smart, describes the life and times of Sammy Sanford. The Museum continues to be the core of all activities the Cranberry House property has to offer.

-Phil Whitney

#### Café Report

The Cranberry House Café had an exceptionally successful season: sales increased about 25% in spite of the generally poor economy. Manager Karin Whitney earned her success, working a second straight 136-day season from Memorial Day thru Columbus Day weekends. The expanded café kitchen and deck made working conditions more comfortable, and the building more attractive, both inside and out.

Out of nowhere (Burkina Faso, West Africa) superhero Aaron Buchsbaum arrived to rescue our café heroine from a season of drudgery. The twosome made an incredible team, working long hours, often under pressure, serving hundreds of meals to apparently satisfied customers, many developing into regular visitors. During quieter periods, laughter and verbal witticisms were often heard, replaced by groans from around the two-acre compound when Aaron picked up his guitar to play. Many café days were individual financial record-breakers, with one supposedly routine summer day breaking all previous records, with all tables taken and up to 17 people standing in line to place orders. On several occasions at lunchtime, Charlie Jones, visiting artist at Heliker-LaHotan Foundation, would delight the café-goers with an hour of fiddle tunes. On hot, lazy days it was fun to spend a few moments watching everything: Aaron moving effortlessly here and there with food orders, the customers enjoying their lobster rolls or ice cream, chatting with friends or family members, while the kids played at the toy box, and visiting dogs sprawled lazily around the Deck. It was small town, summertime island living at its finest.

-Phil Whitney

# Winter on Cranberry Island

Story & Photos: Catherine "Kitty" (Peterson) Nelson

So many people have said to me about my childhood on Cranberry Island, "Oh, it must have been so lonely and boring in the winter with so few people and no stores. You must have watched a lot of TV."

Well, nothing could be further from the truth. Once all the "summer people" had left, we settled back into school and different routines. The days got shorter and the weather became colder. Before we knew it, winter came knocking on our doors.

The Christmas Program - At school, we began planning the program that would be held in the church just before Christmas. We were all given our "pieces and skits" to learn, with the older kids helping the younger, and we practiced our Christmas carols.

I remember that a large tree would be set up in church a few days before the program, and we'd all help decorate it. It made the church smell so good. The night of the program, the whole community would turn



out. Everyone seemed to smile and have a great time. And, of course, Santa always made an appearance. We all received a gift from the Sea Coast Mission. It was always wrapped in white paper and red string. It was a piece of clothing (like a knit hat and mittens), a toy, and a small box of candy. And we also received a gift from the fire department.

Skating - Before the snow arrived, cold weather would come to the island—and to all the kids, that meant skating. We would all appear at the pond in back of Charles and Ada Rice's house as soon as the ice was safe enough. Some nights we had a bonfire to skate by and to warm us up. I always thought David Bunker was "the best ice skater" on the island.

I remember one morning after a freezing rain when everything was coated in ice—including the road. A bunch of us put our skates on and skated to the pond to

"go skating." Well, while we were there, they sanded the road, and I had to walk home in my skates. That makes my ankles hurt now just thinking of it!

Sledding - Once the snow came, it was off to School House Hill for some sledding. The town would sand only half the hill, so we could use the unsanded side for sledding. I've gone down that hill lying, sitting, standing, frontward,



backward, solo, as-many-people-as-could-pile-on-a-sled, and in sled trains.

We would make a jump on the corner. It was there that I learned the lesson never to go over a jump on your stomach. I have yet to forget that lesson. We would always try to go as far as we could, but we never could get all the way to Mickey's house.

My father, Filmore Peterson, hated the snow, and everyone on the island knew it. Whenever we had a big storm overnight, Phip Phippen would call my father at 5:00 a.m. to ask him if he had looked outside yet. I knew that when Phip called it meant sledding was on.

Other Winter Activities - Of course, not all the activities were outside. Friday night card parties were always fun. At home, there were daily cribbage games with my parents. And Karla Wedge would come up some evenings for a big game of Monopoly.

I also spent a lot of time "in the building," helping my father build and repair lobster traps and paint buoys. I don't know how much help I really was to my father, but he taught me a lot. I still know how to build a wooden lobster tray by myself, although that skill is no longer needed. Victor White would stop in almost daily to visit and tell stories.

I remember some of the winter storms. Afterward we'd go down to Murch's and Mink Brook to see the surf and to pick up damaged traps on the beach.

So, as you can see, there was no time to be bored, and I watched very little TV. I now know how blessed I was to have spent my childhood on Cranberry Island and to have been part of such a special community.

Story encouraged and gathered by Gretchen Westphal

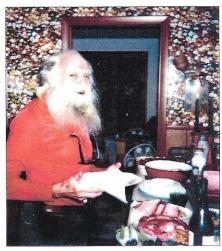
#### **Christmas Memories**

**Veronica Aspinwall** remembers that at Christmas time, Mickey Macfarlan's mother would send a big box from Mexico for the Cranberry children. It was filled with Mexican figures, animals, and toys—a wonder to them all.

Gerry Noether wrote that Marjorie Phippin, Postmistress, filled a candy dish for her customers for everyday of the holiday season. White Poinsettias would decorate the post office and if the weather was nasty one could call to see if there was any mail worth fetching...

-Wini Smart Quackenbush

Gretchen and Ruth Westphal remember Christmas dinner parties at artist Carl Nelson's. Carl started coming to the island in 1946, but moved here year-round in 1969. He looked a bit like Santa Claus, with his long flowing white beard and happy disposition.



He loved cooking and each year invited everyone on the island, including children, to a Christmas dinner. He'd repeat the meal the next day if there were too many for one seating on his front porch. Down the center of his long kitchen table was an assortment of brass candlesticks lighting up the room in an old-fashioned glow. Carl would converse and join in the merriment while cooking on his wood-fired cook stove. He made all kinds of delicious food: homemade sausage, pork stuffed with prunes, roast beef, corn pudding, bread and rolls, fruit salad, and strawberries from his own garden. His famous Glögg (hot spiced mulled wine) simmering on the stove gave the house a festive scent.

#### Carl Nelson's Swedish Glögg

1 quart white wine

1 cup sugar

1 quart red wine

1 cinnamon stick

1 cup gin

1 Tbsp crushed cardamom seed

 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp of cloves  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp nutmeg

Heat, but do not boil. Add 1 cup of raisins and a small piece of lemon peel.

-Gretchen Westphal

A painter, printmaker, and teacher, Carl Nelson was born January 5, 1898, in Hörby, Sweden, and died August 6, 1988. To learn more about Carl Nelson, go to our website:

http://cranberryisles.com/photos/carl\_nelson.html

## Gift Appeal

We encourage everyone who enjoys the programs and activities at Cranberry House to provide financial support whenever you can. Membership fees alone don't cover our annual operating costs. Summer fundraising events, museum store sales, and visitor donations usually fill the gap. But this year, even with record-breaking visitor numbers, visitor donations were substantially lower than previous years. This is forcing the Board of Trustees to redouble their efforts to raise revenues, not only to cover routine expenses, but to plan ahead for capital expenditures.

The Christmas season is an excellent time to remember the fine times experienced at Cranberry House this past year, and to support, however financially possible, future years of entertaining, educational and recreational activities. This coming year, once annual expenses are covered, we are trying to set aside monies for anticipated future roof repairs, and land-scaping / rehabilitation needs for the two donated cabins (see front cover article.)

Donations toward our Endowment Fund are very important and greatly appreciated. Donations can be in the form of cash, stocks, or bonds, and can be immediate or through a Legacy Will. An immediate donation allows the donor to appreciate the results of their giving. A Legacy Will donation holds designated funds in writing until the donor's passing, then transfers the intended gift to GCIHS. Either way, Endowment Fund donations are normally gifted in general terms, rather than for specific projects.

If you'd like to ensure the future of Cranberry House and its place in the community through an Endowment Gift, please don't hesitate to contact Phil Whitney (244-5933), Bruce Komusin (244-3682), or Treasurer Jim Bradley (703-683-7675). Remember, Great Cranberry Island Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.

Phil Whitney - President

### Some Photos from the Archives



The wharf by Cranberry Island Boatyard. The Pool often ices from the edges even when the ocean is ice-free.

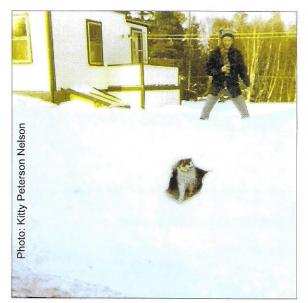


Photo: Ada Rice

snow after a big storm, December 1971.

Kitty Peterson and her cat, Rusty, play in the Skating on the pond behind Charles & Ada Rice's house, as mentioned in Kitty's article in this issue. October 1992.



Charles Rice has a goodly supply of firewood, 1980.



Edgar Bunker's tractor at Spurling Cove, 2004.

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

#### Order & Membership Form

Night of Poetry and Music 2002 Night of Poetry and Music 2004

Ralph Stanley and Friends, music Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry play

House Histories of Great Cranberry Island

If It Were Yesterday... GCI Coloring Book

**PUBLICATIONS** 

Cranberry Road

Boatdog Bess

A Cabin in the Woods

**Enterprising Islanders** 

Winter: The Other Season

Artists of the Cranberry Isles

#### **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.

<b>Item</b> Balsam Pillows, 6-in. wide \$10 ea., 3 f	<b>Price</b> for \$25	Q'ty	S.Tot
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		77 <del>8</del> 78
Moving Cranberry House, Nov. 16, 2004	\$14		
Great Cranberry Island: Hitty's Home	\$14		
Rachel Field Recites: Fantasy by Daniel Masla	an \$14		
Once Upon an Island, D. Jackson & K. Blodge		4	
Spinning Sheep Tales with Gail Grandgent	\$14		- A
Manset Ribbon-Cutting, May 15, 2003	\$14		

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