

Sanford and Shaw Cabins At Cranberry House

The Sammy Sanford and Gordon Shaw cabins, formerly near Preble Cove, have been successfully moved to Cranberry House grounds. As mentioned in our last issue, O.P. Jackson gave the cabins to the Society, with funds to move them, as long as they were moved off his land, which is under conservation easement overseen by Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Larry and Garrett Hardison of Eastbrook moved the cabins, and Jesse Jameson of Bucksport did the carpentry and foundation work. The weather cooperated perfectly-unusually warm, with few storms. Fine working conditions helped expedite the considerable prep work: the old woods road to the cabins was cleared and widened, a temporary log bridge was built over the small stream, and the modular Shaw cabin was split in two. In January the ground froze enough to trailer the heavy buildings without creating ruts. The smaller Sanford cabin was moved first, in one piece. The two halves of the Shaw cabin were next, in two trips. Both cabins were placed at the rear of the Cranberry House parking lot on cement foundation blocks; the Sanford cabin on the north by the little frog pond, and the Shaw cabin just opposite it. Finally, all debris was removed from the original site, as well as the temporary bridge, and a one-seat outhouse. The entire process went smoothly, with no major hitches.

Where and When

The masthead photo, dated March 2, 2012, shows the Sanford cabin at Cranberry House. The day before, we had the biggest snowstorm of the season—not much.

Sanford and Shaw Cabin Renovations

We'd like to restore the tiny Sammy Sanford cabin to its look in Sammy's time, to act as a possible "living history" exhibit. Period furniture was already placed inside for Hitty Hoopla Day in 2011. This photo from 1911, with a dark interior visible through the open door, shows that the original porch was enclosed.



As the porch is screened now (see top masthead photo), we need to enclose it—and add a period window, as a concession to modernity.

Wini Smart's sketches (see page 4) show the cabins as we'd like to see them. Sammy Sanford's cabin will be unshuttered and available for public viewing, with inside tours at certain times.

Gordon Shaw's bigger, more modern cabin will be used to display large museum artifacts, such as rowboats, that don't require an attendant. So we'd like to add a deck, steps, and a ramp for public access.

(continued on page 4)

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Milestones

Mar 17: 80th Birthday of Wini Smart Quackenbush

Notes of Appreciation

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

▶ Wilfred Bunker (age 91) for cooperating during three interview sessions by Phil Whitney and Bruce Komusin, covering a total of six hours, to record his life story and the history of Beal & Bunker Boating Company for posterity.

Cranberry Isles

The State of Maine is noted For its firm and rock-bound coast. For its scenes that have no equal, Of its islands, I would boast.

There are many famed for beauty Nestling near the rocky shore, But a group of which I'm thinking Calls for praises, evermore.

Shadowed by the rounded Cadillac, Viewed in beauty o'er the miles. On the waters of Atlantic Rest superb, the Cranberry Isles.

Rest & peace, sweet joy, contentment Courage, strength, & health supreme, All are fostered on these islands, All the thoughts of poet's dream.

Come then, welcome to our islands, Share with us the magic charm. Leave behind the cities' noises, Rest and share our peace and calm. -Rev. James Belcher Ford GCI Pastor, Sept 1935 - Oct 1939

This poem was included in an early tourist brochure printed by the Town until the 1950s. —Hugh Dwelley

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 March 2011 or after:

Alson, Dr. Allan & Sue Ann Glaser Avery, Richard & Marianne Beasley, E.B. & Lorrie Bennett, Charles & Nancy Benson, Fred & Anne Bertles, Helen Bileck, Emily Nelligan Bradley, James & Virginia Bradley, Stephen Bradley, Philip & Julie Bradley, Katherine Brady, Jim & Julia Brawner, Jim & Julie Bryan, Ashley Buchsbaum, Peter & Elaine Bunker, Pauline "Polly" Bunker, Wilfred & Louise Bunker, Allison & Mary Anne Bunker, David & Wendy Rackliff Butt, Charles Carter, Alice G. & Katrina Christy, Alexandra Colby, Gaile Cole-Will, Rebecca Comiskey, Elsa R. Corley, Karl & Mary Corson, Neil & Candace Cox, Richard Cranberry Club (Mrs. Lawrie Harris) Kane, "Cap" & Anne Eldridge

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Newell, Ruth

Olson, John

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President's Message

Out here on the islands we've had the mildest winter in memory, with almost no snow, very few nights of severe temperatures, and few storms of any consequence. Signs of an early spring are already around us: muddy driveways, ice-free ponds, birdsong at sunrise, and temperatures of 40°-50°. Anticipation is building as we approach another fun-filled Cranberry House season. But we've been busy all winter. The Archiving Committee met weekly at Cranberry House, documenting and reminiscing over our extensive, ever-growing collection of historical materials. In January and February the Sammy Sanford and Gordon Shaw cabins were moved to the Cranberry House grounds (see lead article.) The long-awaited "Growing Great Cranberry" affordable housing project broke ground in early February on the oneacre parcel which owner Bruce Komusin is giving to CIRT (Cranberry Isles Realty Trust) directly behind the Society's two acres. CIRT's land was cleared, an access road constructed, and two septic systems installed. Nearly all work involving these two unrelated projects was done while 'Yours Truly' was away in Sweden, which probably was a motivational factor for the construction crews.

The affordable housing is not a GCIHS project, but its construction does require close coordination between us and CIRT, as their access road begins at the rear of the Cranberry House parking lot, and meanders west along the northern edge of GCIHS land to the affordable housing acreage. When Komusin donated two acres to GCIHS in 2004, he retained a right-of-way through it to his remaining land further back.

CIRT's construction schedule has most setup work and heavy vehicle traffic completed by late June. A relatively quiet period follows in July and August. The two modular homes are to be delivered and assembled over several days in September. So the peak seasonal visitor traffic at Cranberry House should not be disrupted. Once construction and landscaping is done, the CIRT property will be an attractive neighbor.

Planning for the season's events has begun in earnest. Gail Grandgent will return to help coordinate event scheduling and implementation. She'll also chair the Events Committee, and work as Museum Receptionist several days per week. Other Receptionists rounding out the schedule will be Ruth Westphal and Katherine Whitney. Volunteers will staff the museum when these folks aren't working. Some new museum displays are

being planned, including a large model of the Baker Island Lighthouse. We're considering a field trip to Baker Island in conjunction with this exhibit. The Arts Center promises to be fully occupied, with movies several nights weekly beginning in April, a weekly lecture series, art exhibits and classes, and perhaps some concerts and other exceptional events.

Both the museum and the Cranberry House café will be open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day Weekend. Karin Whitney will return to oversee cuisine operations at the café. The legendary Aaron Buchsbaum will not return this season, to the dismay of many, especially the island girls. Aaron has found bigger fish to fry in a larger New Jersey restaurant. But Karin has been extremely fortunate in finding Margaret "Peggy" Hall to assume the role of Café Assistant. Peggy plans to work the entire season and is looking forward to her new life on the island. Watch for more about Peggy in our June Cranberry Chronicle. Karin also anticipates occasional assistance from our new family dog, "Toby Whitney," whom she's hired as "Customer Service Representative." Karin reports she's looking for two part-time cashiers for July and August. Readers are encouraged to refer potential candidates to Karin.

Extensive outdoor work is planned for this summer. A short segment of the Whistler's Cove Trail has already been relocated eastward, to avoid CIRT's affordable housing acreage. An alternate trail will also be blazed, beginning at the rear of Cranberry House near the basement entrance, through the woods at the edge of the ballfield, and connecting with the original trail at the first bog bridge. The woods around this new trail will be landscaped to permit easy walking and viewing. A second, larger pond will be dug in the open, muddy area behind the current trail head. Young Samson Gaither has been hired as "Pond Wildlife Superintendent" (aka Frog Supplier.) All these activities, combined with exterior renovation and landscaping work proposed for the two newly-arrived cabins, promise to keep our crews busy.

The upcoming 2012 season, our fifth(!), should be the best ever. We look forward to welcoming back long-time summer cottage friends, and making new friends among first-time island visitors. We hope you'll enjoy your times this season at Cranberry House with us.

Phil Whitney - President



Artist's Conception of the Finished Gordon Shaw and Sammy Sanford Cabins (L & R respectively, by Wini Smart)

Renovations (continued from page 1)

Both cabins will be complete and open this summer, with landscaping and attractive plantings by Donna Sonday. This season's work will be:

Sammy Sanford Cabin Renovations

Enclose Porch

Install Topsoil

Install Window Remove Shutters Landscaping/Flowers

Foundation Work

Install Entry Stones

Gordon Shaw Cabin Renovations

Join Building Halves Repair Roof
Repair Porch Screen Add Deck
Painting Install Planters

Install Lattice Work Landscaping/Flowers Foundation Work Remove Shutters

Renovation Support

We're working to make the cabins attractive additions to the grounds. Many renovations are needed. If you'd like to help, either with a specific item, or simply a general donation, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. A donation form is on the back page.

To help those wishing to contribute to landscaping, Donna Sonday gave us a list of suggested native plants. They are \$30 each. Three pieces of any one type are recommended for landscaping purposes.

For: Butterflies	Fruit/Flowers	Birds
New England Aster	Bayberry	Beach Plum
Black-Eyed Susan	Blue Flag	Low Blueberry
High Blueberry	Cranberry	Chokecherry
Purple Coneflower	Bunchberry	Gray Dogwood
Joe-Pve Weed	Elderberry	, ,

Winterberry or Summersweet

More on the Shaw Cabin

Gordon Shaw's cabin, now just behind Cranberry House, is a "Unit One" modular cabin still available from Shelter-Kit.com Len Faria of that company kindly supplied these details:



"...Gordon Shaw was the original owner. He purchased the kit as you see it now in 1976 for \$4,483 after about a year of correspondence and visits to Shelter-Kit... Most of this exchange was related to door and window and roofing choices, nothing unusual, though Gordon did submit a sketch for an outhouse that was also provided in kit form for \$76. The kit was loaded into a U-Haul truck and was driven to Southwest Harbor on Memorial day weekend by Gordon and his nephew. Details at this point are a little unclear and it will take a closer reading of all of the letters but it appears that the materials were brought to the island in a small boat."

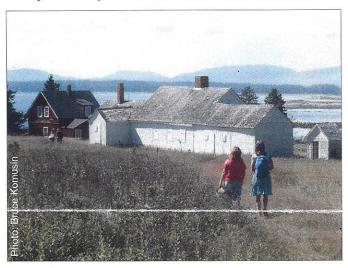
By the way, it would cost about \$30,000 to buy the same cabin from Shelter-Kit today.

Milkweed

Baker Island Lighthouse

The Maritime Museum in Northeast Harbor has kindly lent us a splendid model of the Baker Island Lighthouse. We will exhibit it this year, along with an in-depth study of the history of Baker Island. Baker Island Light was first built as a wooden tower in 1828, and rebuilt in stone in 1855. Baker Island was incorporated into the Town of Cranberry Isles in 1830.

John Gilley settled on Baker Island as early as 1806, at first in a deserted log cabin, which probably was an earlier fish camp. He was made the first lighthouse keeper in 1829, and was "compelled to retire" in 1848 due to political reasons. During his long tenure the Gilleys felt they owned the island.



Efforts are underway to organize a fundraising excursion to Baker Island this summer, and perhaps tour one of the homes there. The view alone is worth the trip; every vista inspires a painting.

-Wini Smart Quackenbush

A couple from Downeast Dance on the famous Baker Island "Dancing Rocks" dance floor, July 15, 2001



SOS - Missing House Histories!

In 2010 we printed *House Histories of Great Cranberry Island*, with a short history and photo of the 65 houses we knew about, some old, some new. Now we'd like to make a second volume with all the **missing houses—about 79**. If your name appears below, we desperately need your house info. Please send us: house name (if it has one), when built, previous and current owners, and any stories you know about the house, property, or early owners. Thanks for your help. —Wini Smart Quackenbush

Allen, Hall, 50 Cabin Creek Road Avery, 31 Boat Yard Drive Baldwin, 281 Cranberry Road Bancroft, Murphy, 681 Cranberry Road Beal, 43 McSorley Road Beal & Bunker Office. 9 Shore Front Rd Bracy, 202 Cranberry Road Bradley, 78 Harding Point Road Brown, 456 Cranberry Road Buchsbaum, 75 McSorley Road Carter, 43 Shore Front Road Cocker, 9 The Lane Colby (Blair), 308 Cranberry Road Colby (Sonja), 33 The Lane Colby (Trailer), 54 Dog Point Road Colby, Savage (Barn), 24 Dog Point Rd Comiskey, 396 Cranberry Road Corley, 207 McSorley Road Corson, 269 Cranberry Road Cranberry Club, 21 Rocky Road Cranberry Isl. Trust, 579 Cranberry Rd CIRT (Bracy), 88 Cranberry Road CIRT (Colby), 5 Elwood Spurling Lane Cumming, 78 Cumming's Road Cumming (Thrumcap), 844 Cranb. Rd Day, 207 Harding Point Road Frazzitta, 91 McSorley Road GCI Fire Club, 192 Cranberry Road Goldberg, 42 The Lane Gray, 195 Harding Point Road GC General Store, 12 Cranberry Road GC Post Office, 10 Shore Front Road Hawes, 71 The Lane Haydock, 433 Cranberry Road Horvath, 10 The Lane Jackson (Sammy Sanford cabin) Johnston, 45 Preble Lane Kane, 52 The Lane Keegin, 252 Harding Point Road Komusin, 300 Cranberry Road

Levin, 242 Mink Brook Road Mountain, 217 Cranberry Road Murch, 60 Dog Point Road Newell (Sarah), 256 Harding Point Rd Noether, Eldredge, 68 Harding Point Rd Perry, 416 Cranberry Road Peterson, 186 Cranberry Road Pierson, 353 McSorley Road Pierson, Roberts, 378 McSorley Road Richardson, 44 Jimmy's Point Road Robinson, 26 Ocean Road Sampson, 26 The Lane Sanborn (Norman), 8 Blue Bucket End Sanborn (Beverly), 102 Cranberry Rd Savage, 307 Cranberry Road Savage (Arvard), 21 McSorley Road Shaw, 152 Harding Point Road Shorey, 46 Rocky Road Silvers (Dorothy), 287 Cranberry Road Silvers, Paterson, Hook, 171 McSorleyRd Singerling, 254 Harding Point Road Smith, 195 Cranberry Road Sordyl, 299 Cranberry Road Stainton, 474 Cranberry Road Sullivan, 390 Cranberry Road Swain, 132 Cranberry Road Uillein, 246 Harding Point Road Wadsworth (Geoff), 42 Jimmy's Pt Rd Wadsworth, (Laurie), 34 Jimmy's Pt Rd Ward, 557 Cranberry Road Ward, 217 Mink Brook Road Ware, 82 Jimmy's Point Road Wedge (Clara), 90 Cranberry Road Wedge (Deborah), 105 Cranberry Rd Wedge (Kevin), 99 Cranberry Road Wedge (Russell), 162 Cranberry Road Weinreich, 82 McSorley Road Westphal, 9 Woods Road Williamson, 73 May Tom Road

Baker Island Light, 1892



Burning the Fields: A Spring Ritual

Recollections gathered by Gretchen & Ruth Westphal.

There Goes the Siren!

Come late April or mid-May, with the promise of summer just around the corner, it took only one long, loud blast of the Fire House siren some calm evening to get the children rushing out the door to help the Fire Club burn the fields. We'd arrive on bikes, on foot, or by hitching a ride with anyone going down the road. If mother caught us in time, we'd be in our old clothes, boots, or sneakers—anything ill-fitting or with holes or stains. To us kids, this dirty, smoky, sooty work was actually out-of-the-ordinary fun.

Of course the fire chief had already determined that weather conditions were right for a particular field to be burnt. The most important factor was wind—it should be as calm as possible. A little fog or dampness in the air was a plus.

Each fire club volunteer, and anyone else wishing to help, including the older children, would be assigned a duty. The men soaked a rope in kerosene, then lit it and dragged it across the field to start the burn. They kept a close eye on the fire's progress. A few stayed with the trucks, ready with water hoses to douse a runaway, soak the brooms, and fill the Indian Tanks. The children took turns using wet brooms to pat out the flames.

The Purpose of Burning

Former Fire Chief Herman Savage burned many a Great Cranberry field back in the mid-1960s and 70s. He told us why: to keep the tall grass down. An unexpected fire in thick grass, fanned by a steady or gusty wind, could quickly spread across the island. Burning the fields ahead of time turned them into a fire break, instead of a fire hazard.

Also, many believe burning adds useful nitrogen to the soil, and clearing away the matted old grass lets summer blueberries, lupine, and wildflowers thrive.

Keep the Water Coming

During a burn there were two trucks on site, each holding about 500 gallons of water. This was a wise precaution because, as Herman said, "A fire isn't going to wait for you to go get water—you've got to be ready."

Once a controlled burn was done, the men weren't done for the night. Trucks had to be refilled in case there was a real fire later. Back then they drew water from wells that were easily-accessible, and with a history of plentiful water. Today, the pond near Louise Strandberg's home is used—"Carl's Pond," named for Carl Strandberg.

Water-soaked Brooms

The first line of defense against stray fires was a gang of people with water-soaked brooms. Kids and adults alike, everyone could manage one. As the fire spread, men would watch for any threat of escape where it wasn't intended. Then someone would call out, "Hey, I need a broom here!" and the swatting would begin. By taking turns and chipping in, the fire was checked.

Indian Tanks

Sometimes more serious measures were needed: the D.B. Smith "Indian Tank" fire extinguishers.

They were fun to use, especially for older children who were big and strong enough to carry one. It sat on your back and had a spray nozzle with a slide action pump. Filled with 5 gallons of water, it weighs 53 pounds! You had to be at least 80 or 90 pounds yourself to scurry around with a tank.

Each person with a tank was responsible for serious business. The fire chief told everyone where to go and what to do. One minute you might be soaking down a tree or bush to preserve it from heat damage; the next you might be working an edge of the fire line, to prevent its spread because the burn goal was met.

Norman Sanborn II remembers one of the first times he tried using a tank. For kids just getting used to them, Herman Savage would only half-fill the tank. But another fire club member inadvertently filled Norman's tank to the top, resulting in him falling over backwards. Herman had to help him up and pull him away from the fire. But it was surely a proud and exciting moment in a kid's growing up on the island when they were old enough and strong enough to use an Indian pump!

By the way, D.B. Smith Indian Tanks have been made for over 80 years, and are still available for about \$170 from TheFountainheadGroup.com

continued on next page

The Traditional Fields That Were Burned

- Behind Siemer (now Weibel), Brooks, Rome, and all the way over to the Hartley driveway (Encarnation and Holly Hartley houses weren't there then)
- The corner where the old tennis court used to be between Moss and Gertmenian
- Behind Moss going all the way over to Alley, and running behind Gertmenian, Vance, Bracy, Cox, Westphal, Rice (now CIRT), and Wedge
- Beside and across from Macfarlan (both sides of the road)
- Addie Duren (now Mountain) and Edith Drury (now Meyers-Dowling)
- Lou and Lulu Alley (now Horvath), and across the street at Harold Wedge (now Coker)
- Behind many homes on Dog Point: Colby, Janice & Clayton Murch, Sanborn, and the boat houses
- Behind Strandberg and Haydock, and beside and across from Towns (now Lim)
- Beside and across from Elwood Spurling (now Whitney)

Authors' Afterword

Organized, controlled burns began in 1948, when the volunteer fire club started, and built the fire house. David Bunker told us that his father, Wilfred, is the only person on the fire house deed who's still alive.

Most of these recollections are from a dozen or so islanders who remember burning the fields from the mid-60s up to the mid-90s. Apologies to others we didn't have the time to seek out and ask.

This yearly spring tradition became less common after the 1980s for various reasons, including lack of people to help with the task. We do have some photos of later burns.

(L to R): Keith Wedge (bending down in red jacket), Blair Colby, and Deborah Wedge help burn the field between Moss and Gertmenian (the old tennis court), April 20, 2007.





Burning Mickey Macfarlan's field, April 22, 2005 (3 photos.)



Notice above how thick the matted grass is, and that it was not burned around the two small trees hiding Mickey's house, to protect them from heat damage.



Share your talent and knowledge!

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

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

Order & Membership Form Instructions:

Copy this full page, including your address mailing label, right. Fill in the quantity & subtotal of the item(s) you want. Add a desired level of membership renewal. Add donation(s) to any Cranberry House Sustaining Fund(s). Make out check for grand total, payable to GCIHS. Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

Item Balsam Pillows, 6-in. wide	\$10 ea., 3	Price for \$25	Q'ty	S.Tot
VIDEOS (DVDs in USA format)	v			
Interview & Fishing with Wesley Bracy, Jr		\$14		
Interview of Robert Cumming		\$14		
Interview of Marjorie Phippen		\$14		
Interview of Ada Rice		\$14		
Interview of Charles Wadsworth		\$14		
Moving Cranberry House, Nov. 16, 2004		\$14	1	·
Great Cranberry Island: Hitty's Home		\$14		
Rachel Field Recites: Fantasy by I	Daniel Mas	lan \$14		
Once Upon an Island, D. Jackson	& K. Blods	gette \$14	1	
Spinning Sheep Tales with Gail Grandgent		\$14		
Manset Ribbon-Cutting, May 15, 2003		\$14		

TOTAL FOR ITEMS

Night of Poetry and Music 2002 \$14 Copy of TOTAL FOR ITEMS (from left column) Night of Poetry and Music 2004 \$14 Ralph Stanley and Friends, music \$14 Membership renewal for 365 days Individual (\$15) Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry play (fill in one) \$14 Family (\$25) **PUBLICATIONS** Donation to a Fund Events A Cabin in the Woods \$24 (fill in one or more to help Operating House Histories of Great Cranberry Island \$32 sustain Cranberry House) Endowment Cabin Renovation item Cranberry Road \$22 Winter: The Other Season \$22 Artists of the Cranberry Isles \$27 **GRAND TOTAL Enterprising Islanders** \$22 If It Were Yesterday... GCI Coloring Book \$17 Shipping Name & Address (if different from mailing label) Boatdog Bess \$22 Name God's Pocket by Rachel Field, hardcover \$28 Hitty Preble booklet & flat wooden doll \$25 The Construction of Road "I-95" \$8 Salvaging Cargo from the Emily F. Northam \$ 8 The Asa D. Stanley House, ca. 1857-1863) \$ 8 The Heraldry of GCI: lobstermen's colors \$ 3 The Fairies, a poem suitable for framing \$ 3 Contibutions For Cranberry House 2004-2008 \$ Riding with Tud, interview Mar. 18, 1993 \$12 An Interview with Tud Bunker, Oct. 1992 \$8 Interview with Ralph Stanley \$ 8 GCI Maine Artist Sketchbook by S. Michalski \$20 A Taste of Cranberry art of Susan Michalski \$12 Surf, Stone, & Spruce by Ted Harlan \$12