

Cranberry Chronicle

Living It - Our Agricultural Heritage ~

Jessi Duma, Americorps Island Institute Fellow
Is family farming returning to Great Cranberry? This first year of my fellowship, I researched 19th-century farming and developed an exhibit while helping cultivate vegetables in three 21st-century island gardens. It isn't often a person gets to literally live their research.

It may seem odd to choose a land-focused approach in a place where fishing, shipping, and boat building were paramount, where farming was only a small facet of a complex economy, and farm labor was often done by women and poorer folks whose history isn't well documented. But by exploring island history through this lens, I get a glimpse of what daily life was like for Cranberry Islanders in centuries past, and gain an understanding of the men and women who shaped these islands.

In May, after nine months of research, it came time to synthesize my findings for an exhibit at the museum. As an exhibit-making neophyte, this task seemed monumental. How could I condense centuries of history, stories, and the complexity of farming into five 36" x 24" panels? To start with, I fine-tuned my time period and focused on 1760-1890. Documents and maps reveal that people of European descent settled permanently on the Cranberry Islands starting about 1760. This date ignores thousands of years of natural and human history on these islands, but given the sources available to me it made sense to start there. 1890 is the closing date for my exhibit because that's when rusticators began to arrive and dramatically alter the economy and rhythm of the islands. After 1890 we

enter a period in which islanders can recollect stories of island life. Working with oral history is a different research process; I'm exploring this history as documented by deeds and censuses, ledgers and letters. And these documents are astounding.

Cranberry Isles farmers were not homesteaders or self-sufficient subsistence farmers cut off from the world. They were an interconnected community with a wide reaching web of trade and commerce. Their food system was varied, complex, and tied to a network of exchanges and markets ranging from barter with neighbors to sale in faraway ports. Even the Inventories of Estate of some of the 18th-century settlers such as Benjamin, Sam, and Robert Spurling show that they were not subsistence farmers grubbing out a life on the isolated edge of a continent, but prominent merchants and seamen who farmed the islands to supplement their professions. These men owned shares in vessels, owned multiple buildings in addition to their homes, and were each worth thousands of dollars when they died. In the late-18th century, the Cranberry Islands were at the crossroads of transnational fishing trade, and men like the Spurlings came to these islands to make the most of it. Farming was clearly part of their lives—they all had barns, cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs. So, while the Spurling fortunes may have been bound up in fishing or shipping, the presence of livestock demonstrates that early settlers farmed as well.

(Continued page 5)



GCIHS Board

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Notes of Appreciation

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

► **Ken Schmidt**—For donating a 1995 Ford Windstar van for use transporting personnel and visitors when special needs arise.

Treasurer's Report ~ Jim Bradley

This issue of the newsletter includes the list of 2014 contributors to the Friends Membership Program (page 3). 2014 was the first full year of this program. Names are listed by category for the various levels of giving, where the highest level is Benefactor.

As the 2015 summer season begins our cash position is good; we have already received four contributions at the Benefactor Level (\$1,000 or more). However, we have significant costs to cover as the season continues in support of our archives program, including archivist wages and a \$4,000 upgrade to our IT infrastructure. So I urge you, if you have not already made your membership contribution for 2015, please be as generous as possible in recognition of all that the Historical Society means to you and to the whole island. And if you have already made your membership contribution, we heartily thank you.

A Recent Visitor from Utah

Below is an excerpt from a note from author and conservationist, Terry Tempest Williams, who came to GCI in search of her ancestor Benaiah Bunker. She thanks GCIHS Trustee Jim Singerling and President Phil Whitney for spending time with her on the island after she crossed paths with Jim on the Northeast Harbor dock. It's a great example of how much people appreciate the work we do.

"Meeting someone like you on an excursion that meant so much to me was like a dream. Thank you for opening up Great Cranberry Island to us--introducing me to David Bunker; showing us the magical places along the island, allowing us to witness and feel the singularity of out of the way places like the Cranberry

► **Ric Gaither**—For landscaping the ponds and areas around the Sanford and Shaw Cabins; for repairing and painting *High Hopes*; and for planting flower and vegetable gardens around the Sanford Cabin.

► **Ben Walls**—For building a footbridge to Little Island in the larger pond; for coordinating repairs and moving a duck house to the larger pond; and for making urgent small carpentry repairs around Cranberry House.

► **Chris Johnston, Karin Whitney, and Phil Whitney**—For serving as volunteer museum receptionists this spring

Milestones

Mike Westphal completed his first marathon in 22 years at GCI's annual Great Run Marathon on June 20 and qualified for the Boston marathon while raising funds for the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

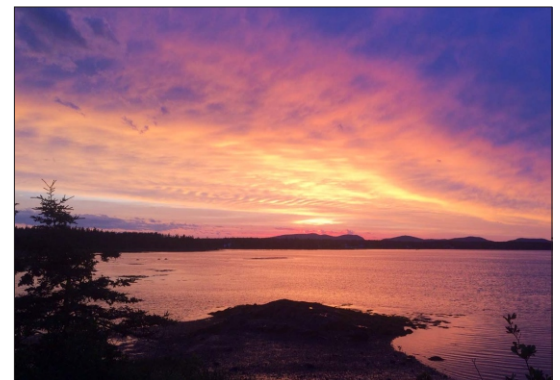
Passings: Parky Shaw—5/17/15

Birthdays: Audrey Sumner—6/22/15

Club. My time with Mr. Phil Whitney was revelatory. Our time with you was a gift. Thank you for not only your

hospitality but your generosity of spirit. I keep thinking of the beauty -- the wild coast, the weathered sea glass, the kindnesses." Terry Tempest Williams 5/2015

(Photo: Paul Liebow 2014)



Friends Keep Cranberry House Alive

We are grateful for your response to our Friends of Cranberry House support program. Your donations show that you value the work of the Historical Society and Cranberry House. You can join or renew with an annual tax-free gift to the society as a Friend (\$25) or Family Friend (\$50) which parallels our previous individual or family membership. But you may be moved to give more generously or underwrite a program you particularly enjoy or propose as a Donor (\$100), Supporter (\$250), Patron (\$500), or Benefactor (\$1000+).

Friends sustain GCIHS and Cranberry House for future generations. They also receive a 10% discount on museum purchases and trips, invitations to special events, and are kept abreast of what's happening in the *Cranberry Chronicle* three times a year. Our June newsletter lists all Friends (amounts not shown), unless they wish to be anonymous. A heartfelt thanks to the folks who renewed in 2014. We're counting on you to renew in 2015.

GCIHS thanks all of its members and all of those special friends who donated to specific projects in addition to their membership contributions in 2014.

- 43 donors contributed \$12,000 for the Stanley Cemetery Preservation Project
- Two donors contributed \$3,500 for architectural plans for expansion of Cranberry House
- We received \$600 in memory of Ginny Bradley and Virginia Murray.
- Two donors gave \$320 for the General Fund.
- One considerate couple donated \$250 for Cranberry Explorer expenses.
- One person gave \$100 to the Endowment Fund.

Friends of Cranberry House Support Program 2014

Friends:

Avery, Dick and Marianne
Comiskey, Elsa R.
Corson, Sarah
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Wallace, Mary
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Hall, Margaret
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Johnston, Alex and Kate
Little, Carl & Beaulac,
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Miles, Robert and Nancy
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Moore, Frank C.
Nevius, Mary E.
Ott, Marvin
Pinkham, Patricia M.
Saltonstall, David
Silvers, Damon
Spencer, June
St. Germaine, Robert and
Lucille
Wadsworth, Laurie
Wallace, Lena and William
Watson, Tom and Leslie
Whitney, Phil and Karin
Wimer, Rodney & Sondag,
Donna

Donors

Bradley, James
Brawner, James
Buchsbaum, Peter &

Elaine
Bunker, David & Rackliff,
Wendy
Butt, Charles
Cowles, Alan and Linda
Dalton, Timothy, Nina and
Lilja
Freeman, Ruth
Guth, John and Polly
Hinnant, Miriam
Kane, Charles & Eldridge,
Anne
Liebow, Paul
Millar, Louise
Moss, Janice M.
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Seanor, Jean Perry
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Supporters

Dunn, Eric and
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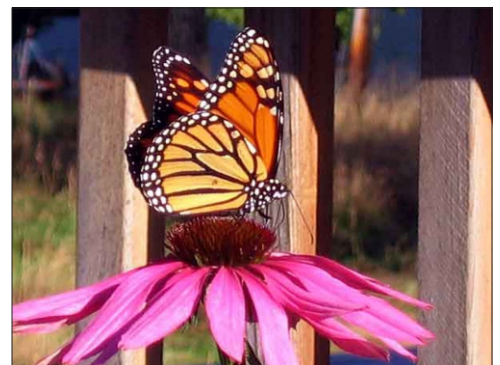
Patrons

Hartley, Holly
Holland, Thomas & Linda
Jackson, O. P.
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Benefactors

Johnston, Chris
MacFarlan, Michael
Pierson, Alice and Dick
Singerling, Jim and Molly

(Photo: B. Komusin/2007)



President's Message ~ *Phil Whitney*

After experiencing the worst winter in recent memory, Islanders endured a short, cold spring. Daily temperatures consistently averaged 10 degrees below normal. Nevertheless, we here at Cranberry House pushed on and got things ready for the summer season. It has been a difficult and emotional transition without Bruce Komusin. But it has been especially gratifying to see volunteers step forward to help out whenever and wherever possible.

Tom Powell, Rosalie Kell, Karin Whitney, and Alan Cowles have been instrumental in technical support. They've worked on upgrading our website, resolved Komusin computer password mysteries, and identified and successfully lobbied for much-needed computer infrastructure upgrades and network improvements.

Ric Gaither and Ben Walls have taken over the lower end of the Cranberry House property. Ric landscaped the Blue Heron Pond, Sampson's Pond, the Sanford and Shaw cabins, and he planted a garden around the Sanford Cabin. Ric has also begun painting and fixing up our lobster boat, *High Hopes*, for programs and demonstrations. Ben constructed a foot bridge to Little Island in the larger pond, and relocated a duck house adjacent to the larger pond. He has also made arrangements to stock the pond with trout.

Jen Walls has been updating computer records to ensure GCIHS has accurate information for its mailing and membership lists. Anne Grulich, Jessi Duma, and Gretchen Westphal showed great imagination and teamwork in setting up the new museum exhibits, as did Karin Whitney who reorganized the museum store and implemented improved record keeping procedures.

The Whistler Cove Trail was in terrible shape after our stormy winter, with many trees blown down. Ben Walls and Blair Colby spent an afternoon chainsawing a passageway through the debris. Later, Terry Towne, Regional Maintenance Steward, and a trail crew from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust widened the overgrown areas of the trail and secured some loose bog bridging.

Donna Sunday and Rodney Wimer's beautiful gardening and landscaping work have become tourist attractions in their own right.

Karin Whitney volunteered to chair the Events Committee. The group has been meeting regularly since March to plan this summer's programs. We will have a wonderful assortment of lectures, classes, movies, and assorted special events. (See page 9 for the schedule.)

Cezar Ferreira returned for another season at Hitty's Cafe. Cezar not only provides memorable meals at affordable prices, but his personal approach makes the cafe a very special place. He is hiring several young people to help out this summer.

Volunteer museum receptionists this season include Chris Johnston, Karin Whitney, Phil Whitney, Nancy Wood, and Jim Bradley.

The Cranberry Explorer shuttle is back for its third season. The service will run from mid-June through September. We have reduced the hours of service slightly (10-4 daily), but extended the operating season by two weeks. Chris Johnston oversees general shuttle operations.

During this transitional year, the Trustees have decided to proceed conservatively to ensure basic operations run smoothly and efficiently. We have avoided scheduling large events that would require a great deal of planning and manpower.

Supporters of Cranberry House continue to be numerous and supportive in so many ways. The latest example is Ken Schmidt's generous gift of a 1995 Ford Windstar van that will be used for special transport needs and to carry groups.

The Trustees are determined to keep moving forward in spite of our recent loss. In June, they unanimously agreed on a goal to extend the basement and museum levels of the Cranberry House by 20 feet. A donation last year enabled preparation of preliminary architectural drawings of the proposed expansion. There are many artifacts and displays which cannot be exhibited with our current space limitations, and more archival space is required to properly store and maintain our growing collection. The addition will be named in honor of Bruce Komusin. Jim Singerling and the Finance Committee will guide fund raising efforts and implementation. Watch for more information about this project in the coming months.

Agricultural Heritage *(continued from page 1)*

Perhaps the most famous of all the 19th-century Cranberry Isles farmers was John Gilley. Born and raised on Baker Island, he moved to Sutton Island as a young man and set up a farm. His life is documented in Charles William Eliot's book, John Gilley: Maine Farmer and Fisherman. Eliot's book provides vivid details of the life of a farming family.

John's parents, William and Hannah Gilley, moved to Baker Island in 1812. In some ways, the Gilleys embodied the rugged frontier ideal of self-sufficiency. They grew vegetables, hay, and potatoes to feed themselves and their livestock; made their own clothes from the wool produced by their sheep; slaughtered cows and lambs to see them through the winter; and supplemented their diet with fish and other seafood from island waters. But even these early Gilleys were involved in networks of trade and sale for both agricultural and non-agricultural products. In order to purchase some "essentials to comfort," they sold or exchanged butter and eggs at a store in Southwest Harbor. Butter was a valuable commodity, selling for 12 ½ cents a pound. Butter and eggs represent the labor of the Gilley women as tending to cows and chickens usually fell to females. The Gilley men shot birds and caught fish which were sent to Boston and New York markets in coasting vessels. These activities defy the idea that Cranberry Islanders were isolated pioneers using only what they produced. They were actually shrewd businessmen and businesswomen who found their niche on this little group of islands.

It is hard to know just how typical the Gilleys were of Cranberry Isles families in the early 19th century. It's not until 1850, when the Federal Agricultural Schedules become part of the census, that we begin to get a reliable perspective on farming. The Agricultural Schedules list the names of the farmers each decade, as well as information about their land, farming implements, livestock, and crops. From these documents, we know that islanders invested heavily in livestock. Most farmers owned two or three cows, a team of working oxen, a swine or two, and a flock of sheep. While many farmers owned 15 sheep or fewer and were likely producing just enough wool to clothe their families and perhaps barter on the islands, some farmers owned flocks as large as 100 and 150 sheep. In fact, in 1860 there were more sheep on the islands than people. Just as with the Gilleys, butter and wool

were important commodities, and on average farm families produced about 200 pounds of butter a year. Hay was the primary crop since it was needed to feed livestock. Farmers averaged about 10 tons of hay a year, and grew potatoes in large quantities, too.

The number of farms varies between censuses, but in 1860, nineteen farms were listed on the five Cranberry Islands. Of the 19 farmers listed in the Agricultural Schedule, only three individuals identified themselves as farmers in the Population Census. Two identified as merchants, two as shipmasters, four as fishermen, two as seamen, and six did not list a profession. This suggests that farming was a supplemental, not a primary, occupation. Farming was probably such a part of daily life that individuals didn't think of it as a profession, just as people today who mow their own lawns regularly don't consider themselves landscapers. However, as the numbers of farms, livestock, and acres in crop production attest, agriculture was a key part of the life and landscape of the Cranberry Isles in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Today, the rich agricultural heritage of these islands is barely discernable on the landscape. A few old barns, cleared patches, and gnarled apple trees are all that remain as testament to an agrarian past. However, the islands maintain a strong gardening tradition, and there are a growing number of islanders pursuing farming. A trend echoing island history seems to be emerging. People want to make agriculture part of daily life once again, and I'm lucky enough to work with them. In the second year of my fellowship, my focus will explore how farming declined and almost vanished in the 20th century. But as I write this piece, evidence of a 21st century agricultural renaissance is blossoming.



Above: Kayla Gagnon in Macfarlan garden June 2015.
(Photo: Sarah McCracken - Island Ecology Project)

Support Cranberry House~ Phil Whitney

Cranberry House, owned and operated by the GCI Historical Society, is the home of the island's museum and archives, and has provided thousands of hours of entertainment, educational opportunity, and community organization support since its inception in 2008. Exhibitions, concerts, lectures, movies, poetry readings, receptions, health clinics, art and exercise classes, nature walks, and meetings have all figured prominently in island life.

The historical museum now hosts nearly 4,000 visitors each summer. The displays, which change each year, provide important insights into the heritage of Cranberry Island and the region. The changing times, reflected in population shifts, economic challenges, social adjustments, and interactions between year-round residents, seasonal residents, and tourists are all part of the history GCIHS researches and displays.

Our archives contain paper, film, digital, metal, glass, ceramic, leather, cloth, and organic materials including: 2,100 catalogued artifacts from 1800 to present; 2,000 uncatalogued digital images chronicling island life in modern and historic times; 2,000 more artifacts approved for accession and cataloguing; and 110 audio and video oral histories (1991-2014). The finding aid for the collection is at gcihs.org/1/gcihs/museum/new_finding_aid.html

Our Whistler Cove Trail and preserved shoreline are jointly maintained with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. This aspect of the property provides wonderful outdoor experiences for young and old, and offers insight into the natural history and geology of Great Cranberry. The gift of two cabins and the construction of two ponds further enhance the property and offer additional learning opportunities. Visitors experience history at the Sammy Sanford Cabin, while the Shaw cabin provides classroom space, and the Blue Heron and Sampson ponds afford year-round recreation.

The addition of the GCIHS owned and operated Cranberry Island Explorer golf cart shuttle two years ago has been wildly popular and beneficial for the entire island.

Unfortunately, maintaining all of these activities requires money. We never forget that the core mission of GCIHS is the collection and preservation

of Cranberry Isles history. So we pay a part-time archivist, Anne Grulich, whose cataloguing, research, and writing have yielded a great deal of historical information and opened up new avenues for collaborative projects and future studies. We have also hired a part-time grant writer, Lindsay Hancock, whose job is to research grant opportunities and prepare grant applications for worthy GCIHS projects. Last year, Lindsay successfully obtained a \$10,000 grant to cover archival expenses.

Other major on-going expenses include utilities; propane heating fuel; property and liability insurance; computer, internet, and telephone services; gardening services; licenses; and never-ending, often unanticipated, maintenance issues. Capital improvements currently under discussion include a new roof; a more efficient, reliable heating system; and a two-story, 20' building expansion to provide improved archival storage and additional exhibit space.

Cranberry House needs your financial support.

The great work that philanthropist Bruce Komusin started ten years ago when he donated two acres to begin the Cranberry House must continue. Over the years, Bruce kept on giving, establishing a record of generosity as an example for others to follow. There may never be another Bruce, but you can help in many ways.

Become a Friend of GCIHS and donate

annually: Friend: \$25; Family Friend: \$50; Donor: \$100; Supporter: \$250; Patron: \$500; or 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!**

Woody, the Dear Deer ~

Gretchen Westphal & Doris Rice (1912-1994)

While going through my boxes of art school “stuff from the 1980s,” with a fine-tooth comb and traveling far down Memory Lane, I slammed on the brakes. I found a real, historical gem for the GCIHS - a sweet letter that my one-time next-door neighbor, Doris Rice, wrote me in 1982 about a tame deer that lived on Great Cranberry in 1952. During my last semester at California College of Arts & Crafts, I had written Doris to get information about the deer. I thought it might make a good storybook. But, it was too big a project to take on at the time, so I had tucked it away for the future.

Doris was Annie Alley's mother, Mark Alley's grandmother. She lived in the white house with green trim next to ours, where Rosalie Kell, her son, Will, and their dog, Tank, now live. Next time you see Tank napping on the porch, picture a deer napping alongside.

“Dear Gretchen, Nice to hear from you and I always like to talk about Woody the Dear Deer. He was a late spring lamb and brought to me in the fall of 1952 when he still had his spots. He was an orphan, his mother having been killed illegally by a degenerate poacher. He was only a few days old at the time the warden found him and near death from starvation. The warden took him home and he and his wife kept him in the house and gave him lots of tender loving care and named him Woody and the name sure suited him. He was the nicest pet, loving, mischievous and so clean. He loved to pull the wash off the line so I had to take him on a walk while Annie got the wash out. He also helped the neighbors with their wash but nobody got angry – they all loved him. He liked children and was always in the middle of their play.

It is illegal to confine a wild animal and as he grew the warden knew he had to turn him loose and with the hunting season coming on he was sure to be shot. My brother was a warden at the time and he suggested they bring him to Cranberry so they brought him to me on a leash and told me to keep him tied for a few days so he would make my house his headquarters and from then on there was no getting rid of him. He made friends with my dog and was so sad when he couldn't come into the house with him. I would have let him in except that his hooves didn't work so good on slippery floors

and I feared he would fall and break a leg. He would eat anything but loved hot toast, donuts and milk. I don't know where he slept at night but he was here in the neighborhood for handouts in the morning. He cruised from the Cox house, this lady there fed him grain when she fed her hens, then along to your house, then he bypassed my house and got his treats all the way to Sanborns, then he came to me for his milk. He would drink two or three quarts of diluted warm canned milk and then curl up on my porch with my dog for a nap. He was quite an attraction needless to say. After a while he would disappear but late in the afternoon he would be back for his supper and then off again.



Above: Deer snacking at the Westphal house

I had him for about a year and a half and he was getting so big when suddenly he began to get mean with the children especially if they picked up a stick. I was told that one of the boys had beat him with a clothes pole and that may have been true and then a buck deer was very apt to go that way. But he worried me for he could hurt a child with his sharp hooves and I knew I had to banish him. Finally I called the warden and told him Woody would have to go and one morning he and my brother came and took him to Bartlett's Island, not far from here and where there was a caretaker on an estate there and they wanted him. I cried. That was when he went into the kitchen. The lady was frying donuts and Woody could smell them and he jumped over the bottom half of a French door and landed in a heap. I guess the lady nearly had a heart attack. I just hope he got a donut. For a while I got reports of him then I guess the estate changed hands and I don't know what became of him. Maybe he went wild and found a nice little doe and produced a lot of little Woodys. [...] Lots of love, Doris”

Archives News ~ Anne Grulich

GCI Dendrochronology-Tree Ring Dating

Thank you Mickey Macfarlan, Rosalie Kell, Bill Dowling and Barbara Meyers, Judi and Chong Lim, Elizabeth Selim, and Paul Liebow for welcoming GCIHS into your basements and attics. In early June, GCIHS took advantage of a last-minute opportunity to work with Becky Cole-Will of Acadia National Park and two dendroarchaeologists from the 25th Annual North American Dendroecological Fieldweek at the Schoodic Institute to investigate several GCI houses and the Carroll Homestead in Southwest Harbor through tree-ring dating. On May 31, Paul Krusic (Stockholm University) and Bill Flynt (Historic Deerfield) surveyed the cellars and attics of the Macfarlan house and six of the nine GCI early 19th-century cape houses. On June 3, Krusic, Flynt, and students, Meghan Ladolcetta, Gary Macadae, and Jeffrey Lee Benjamin, took core samples from cellar ceiling beams in the Rice and Dowling-Meyers houses.

On Tuesday, June 9, the group presented their fascinating preliminary findings at the Schoodic Institute. Chief among them was that the wood used in the cellar beams of the Rice and Dowling-Meyers houses is not from the local area. Their dendrochronological data does not correlate with a local chronology. It matches the Great North Woods Red Spruce chronology, leading them to hypothesize that the cellar beams were part of the massive 19th-century lumber industry that sent logs down the Penobscot River and its natural and man made tributaries and canals for processing and distribution. They also suggested that some of the GCI cape houses might have been pre-fabricated (beams notched and components made ready elsewhere before installation on a site). Indeed, at least a dozen sawmills were cutting beams, boards, lath, and clapboard in our region in the early 19th century.

And yes, they did provide cutting dates for the beams used in the Rice house: 1837-1840; the Dowling-Meyers house: 1839-1842; and Carroll Farmstead: phase 1 is 1819-1822, and phase 2 is 1836-1841. (GCI resident Michael Bulger was a longtime friend of Carroll, and they built houses together on MDI. I suspect they worked together on GCI, too.) The group's final report is due in July.



Above: Bill Flynt instructs Meghan Ladolcetta while taking core samples from Rice house. (Photo: J. Duma)

Below: Paul Krusic with students at Schoodic Institute laboratory. (Photo: Bill Flynt)



Obviously, this opens a whole new window of inquiry into life on GCI 1830-1840s. Were Cranberry's forests already depleted or was it more economical to use milled lumber from the north woods? Was the Macfarlan house wood local? Built a decade earlier than Rice house, it might shed light on why and when islanders switched to distant building materials. Where was the lumber for GCI's shipbuilding industry coming from? Once again, we see how connected GCI was with the world at large, and how industrialized Maine was. Two students are considering continuing the project for their Masters or Doctoral theses, and I'm continuing my research. Here is the link to their presentation: <http://livestream.com/accounts/4350281/events/4104303>. (There's an interesting segment in the Q&A session just *after* the formal presentation ends, too.)

Summer Events Schedule ~

Summer is here and activities and programs are in full swing! We're offering a variety of programs to meet the interests of the widest possible audience. ***There may be tweaks to the schedule as circumstances warrant, so check online at gcihs.org (Events), and on the bulletin boards for last minute changes.*** Spread the news. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated.

JUNE

June 15: GCIHS Trustee Meeting, 7PM
June 16 and June 18: Watercolor Classes with Cheryl Moore, 11AM-1PM
June 22: Slide Show - Phil Whitney, 7:30PM
June 23 and June 25: Watercolor Classes with Cheryl Moore, 11AM-1PM
June 25: Nature Walk with Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM
June 28: Composting Talk with Lisa Bjerke, 1PM
June 29: Joshua Anderson, Holistic Self-Sufficiency, 7PM

JULY

July 2: Nature Walk with Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM
July 2: Lecture: Martha Arroyave, Peace Training Center, Ibague, Colombia, 3PM
July 5: OPEN HOUSE Featuring GCIHS exhibits; music, food, and more, with Norma Spurling's historical costume collection (on display July 5-12)
July 6: Slide Show - Phil Whitney, 7:30PM
July 8: Lecture by Ted and Jeri Spurling: Travel in South America, 7PM
July 9: Nature Walk with Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM
July 10: Heliker-LaHotan Meet the Artist at GCIHS, 4:30
July 12: Poetry Night with Michael Glaser and Rick Benjamin, 7:30PM
July 12: Last day to see Norma Spurling's historical costume collection
July 14: Lecture: Jessi Duma and Todd Little-Siebold: Our agricultural heritage, 2PM
Lecture by Tim Dalton: Africa's Agriculture, 7PM
July 15: Lecture by Dr. Richard Pierson: Aging, 7PM
July 17: Lecture by Hannah Gray, 7PM
July 20: Kids Crafts, Charlotte Harlan, (MTW 9-12)
Lecture by Phil Whitney, 7PM
July 22: Play Reading with Bonnie Alpert, 7PM
July 23: Nature Walk with Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM
July 24: CIRT Reception – Meet the Families 5PM
July 25: Heliker-LaHotan Open House at HLH, 4PM
July 28: MDI League of Towns Meeting, 10AM-12PM
Nature Walks with Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM and 2PM
COA Summer Camp Visitors all day
July 29: Slide Show Junior Bracy: Scuba Photos, 7PM
July 31: Film Festival: Local Shorts, All Day

AUGUST

August 1: Bruce Komusin Memorial Service at Preble Cemetery, 1PM
August 2: Annual Art Show: Opening Reception 7PM
August 3-8: Annual Art Show
August 10: Lecture by Former Ambassador to Yemen, Charles Dunbar, 7PM
August 11: Heliker-LaHotan Meet the Artist at GCIHS, 4:30PM
August 12: GCIHS Annual Meeting, 7PM
August 13: Nature Walk, Peter Buchsbaum, 11AM
August 14: Kids Art Show (TBD)
Lecture: Southeast Asia Travels, P. Buchsbaum, 7PM
August 15: Kids Art Show (TBD)
August 15: Special Movie Night: History of Northeast Harbor Summer Colony, 7:30PM
August 17: Health Talk with Dr. Pierson 7PM
August 21: Dog Mountain Band (TBD 4PM or 7PM)
August 24: Slide Show Phil Whitney, 7:30PM
August 25: Geology Walk and Talk with Sheila Seaman
August 26: Spinners - Gail Grandgent, 10AM-2PM
August 29: Heliker-LaHotan Open House, HLH, 4PM

SEPTEMBER

September 4: Heliker-LaHotan Meet the Artist, 4:30PM
Slide Show - Phil Whitney, 7:30PM
September 18: Slide Show - Phil Whitney, 7:30PM
September 26: Heliker-LaHotan Open Studios, 4PM

MOVIES at Seaside Playhouse:

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 7:30PM

Guess Who

Who are these two summer young'uns munching on watermelon? (Email info@gcihs.org)



June Sheep Shearing ~ Jessi Duma



Geri Valentine shearing; Genny Mathews helping.
Photos: Jessi Duma

Kausen and Geri Valentine to her pasture on Dog Point Road for the spring shearing of her four ewes. I arrived just as Janice, Sarah McCracken, Genny Mathews, Donna and Geri were rounding up the sheep. At this point, the sheep embodied a “long hair don’t care” attitude, looking like giant fluff balls with spindly, knocked-kneed limbs. Luckily, the long fleeces were wonderful handholds, and after a few WWA-style wrestling matches, the crew flipped each ewe onto its back. With expert hands and a sharp, loudly vibrating razor, Donna and Geri sheared each one and trimmed their hooves in a matter of minutes. Janice and her son, John, swiftly wrapped up each fleece and put them in plastic bags, rubbing their hands together to absorb the lanolin as they worked. The fleece will be shipped off island to be cleaned and spun, and then returned as wool.

Watching this process, I thought about the history of sheep shearing here. In 1860 there were 420 sheep living on the Cranberry Islands and only 350 human residents. From those 420 sheep, 1,153 pounds of wool were produced. The islands were ideal for raising sheep, and they were often given free range. Far away from the predators of the mainland, they could roam at their leisure and feast on seaweed thrown up on the shore months after the good grass had gone.

Watching Janice’s newly shorn sheep prancing around, it seemed these winter-weary longhairs had turned into lambs; and I smiled at the cycle of renewal and rejuvenation on the island today.



With summer’s arrival, most of us packed away our winter woolens; and on June 8th it was time for the sheep of Great Cranberry to do the same. For years Janice Murch has invited Donna

More Archives News~ Anne Grulich

Museum Happenings - We rearranged the museum this spring to showcase our new displays. Jessi Duma’s “Nineteen Farms and Counting” exhibit occupies the three walls surrounding the fireplace. Designed by Jill Piekut and funded by the College of the Atlantic, it’s a beautiful, thought provoking portrayal of farming on the Cranberry Islands from 1760-1890. (See article on page 1.)

There’s a tribute to Bruce Komusin and a reinterpretation of Hitty in the back room, with maritime trades in the adjacent area, and bright new panels discussing the Stanley cemetery preservation project and the concealed shoes/cape houses research in the entryway. GCIHS daguerreotype, ambrotype, tintype, and cabinet card photos bring the faces of 19th-century islanders to life in the main room. And Mike Justa’s high resolution digital images of his 2014 walk around the coast of Great Cranberry will be shown on the large monitor upstairs.

The GCIHS collection serves admirably in other projects, too. As a result of Ralph Stanley’s 2014 donations, Phil, Jessi, and I have begun cruising the island to map the locations of houses recalled in a 1910 interview of Leslie Victor Stanley. Aided by Phil’s knowledge of modern houses, we are piecing together a lot of information that can later be substantiated (or refuted!) by historical documents. So, if you see Karin’s old grey Plymouth pausing in front of your house, don’t be alarmed. We’re just trying to match up a century old memory with present day GCI.

Stanley Cemetery News

Look for an intriguing article on the Stanley cemetery preservation project in *Memories of Maine Magazine* in late July: “Restoring the Past: The Stanley Cemetery on Great Cranberry Island” by Camille Smalley. She used our stanleycemetery.com website as the basis of her story. With her background in the history of medicine, Smalley makes some interesting inferences. (Article will appear online at memoriesofmaine.com in August.)

And there’s more good news on the cemetery front. The Church forgave the remaining \$6,000 of the \$18,000 loan it made to the cemetery committee for the preservation project. We are extremely grateful to the Church and the 43 other islanders and friends whose donations made this project possible.

Transitions

This spring, two new families moved to Cranberry Island and are already contributing to the community in many ways.

Rosalie Kell and her son, Will Pearce, moved into the Rice House May 1st. Rosalie works at an international non-profit organization in Bar Harbor and at Cape Air at Trenton Airport. Will has just finished his freshman year at Maine Maritime Academy and is earning college credits while working on a 50-ton vessel with Acadia Whale Watch in Bar Harbor this Summer.

Below: Sumner family with little Audrey, born June 22nd (Photo: Ingrid Gaither)



Members of the Sumner family moved into the Kane House in the first week of May. Ben Sumner and Cooper (age 10) arrived first, followed by Darlene, Hallie (age 12), and Kariya (age 7). Daughter Audrey was born June 22, 2015.

The Sumners are farmers from Fancy Gap, Virginia. Ben does carpentry work for Jesse Jameson.

Darlene works part-time at Hitty's cafe and does light cleaning jobs. The children, who have previously been home-schooled, attended public school for the first time this spring, finishing the year at the Ashley Bryan School.

Longfellow School Update

The long-awaited Longfellow School renovation project finally began in March. Dunbar and Braun Contractors of Bar Harbor are the general contractors. A team of carpenters and electricians has been working on the entire structure, both inside and outside. Every effort is being made not to disrupt library activity during the busy summer season. Target date for completion is August, and it appears work is on schedule as of this writing. Once renovations are complete, the School Board will determine when the school will reopen.

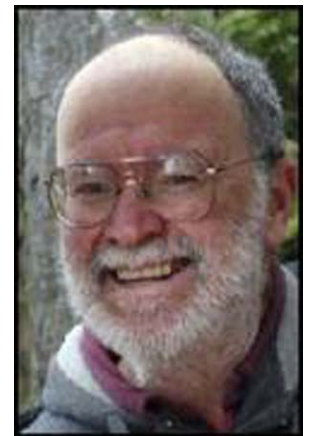
NEW PUBLICATION ~

Bruce: His life on Great Cranberry

by Wini Smart and Friends

Earlier this year we lost Bruce Komusin, a beloved friend of all Cranberry Islanders, especially those involved with the GCIHS. We are pleased to announce that our former President and resident artist, Wini Smart, who, along with Bruce, was a moving force behind the establishment of the Museum, has put together a book of photos and remembrances of Bruce.

Cost is \$22.50, with a 10% discount for GCIHS members. We'd be glad to mail this and any other publications if you are unable to visit summer.



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

Order & Membership Form Instructions:

Copy this page, including your address mailing label, right.
 Fill in the quantity & subtotal of the item(s) you want.
 Add your desired level of Friends participation.
 Indicate Newsletters by Email if you prefer a digital copy.
 Add a donation to any Cranberry House Sustaining Fund.
 Make check payable to GCIHS for grand total.
 Mail using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.
 (Website: gcihs.org Email: info@gcihs.org)

Item	Price	Q'ty	S.Tot
Balsam Pillows, 6-in. wide	\$10 ea., 3 for \$25	_____	_____

VIDEOS (DVDs in USA format)

Interview & Fishing with Wesley Bracy, Jr	\$16	_____	_____
Interview of Ada Rice	\$16	_____	_____
Interview of Charles Wadsworth	\$16	_____	_____
Moving Cranberry House, Nov. 16, 2004	\$16	_____	_____
Great Cranberry Island: Hitty's Home	\$16	_____	_____
Manset Ribbon-Cutting, May 15, 2003	\$16	_____	_____
Ralph Stanley and Friends, music	\$16	_____	_____
Carrie Richardson of Big Cranberry play	\$14	_____	_____

PUBLICATIONS

Bruce: His Life on Big Cranberry	\$25	_____	_____
Sam King Poetry	\$22	_____	_____
A Cabin in the Woods	\$24	_____	_____
House Histories of Great Cranberry Island	\$32	_____	_____
Cranberry Road	\$22	_____	_____
Winter: The Other Season	\$22	_____	_____
If It Were Yesterday... GCI Coloring Book	\$17	_____	_____
Boatdog Bess	\$22	_____	_____
Hitty Preble booklet & flat wooden doll	\$25	_____	_____
The Construction of Road "I-95"	\$ 8	_____	_____
The Fairies, a poem suitable for framing	\$ 3	_____	_____
Contributions For Cranberry House 2004-2008	\$ 7	_____	_____
Riding with Tud, Interview Mar. 18, 1993	\$12	_____	_____
An Interview with Tud Bunker, Oct. 1992	\$ 8	_____	_____
Interview with Ralph Stanley	\$ 8	_____	_____
GCI Maine Artist Sketchbook by S. Michalski	\$20	_____	_____
A Taste of Cranberry Art of Susan Michalski	\$12	_____	_____

TOTAL FOR ITEMS _____

Friends of Cranberry House Form

Renewal for 1 year, due in December (choose one):

Friend (\$25), Family Friend (\$50), Donor (\$100),
 Supporter (\$250), Patron (\$500), Benefactor (\$1,000+) _____
 (Please exclude my name from year-end Friends list.) _____

Donation to a Fund	Events	_____
(Fill in one or more category	Operating	_____
to help sustain	Endowment	_____
Cranberry House.)	Other	_____
Total of Order Form Items (from left side):		_____
GRAND TOTAL		_____

Please send future newsletters as:

_____ E-mail only. Email Address: _____
 _____ Printed copy

Mailing

Please complete if your name or address has changed from your
 printed label, and provide your email address here:

Name & Addr _____

Other notes: _____