

# St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

[www.stgeorgehistory.com](http://www.stgeorgehistory.com) – website

207-372-2231 – tel.no.

[stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com) – email address

An IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

June 2022

**WAN-E-SET INN OPENS.**

**Banquet and Cabaret Saturday Night Was a Great Success.**

Wan-e-set Inn, on the shore side at Tenant's Harbor, Charles W. Rawley, proprietor, and Frank S. Pellett of New York City, clerk, opened Saturday night with a shore dinner and cabaret. The cabaret program of singing and dancing was furnished by Miss Verona Whitcomb of Somerville, Mass., in a tasty red costume, assisted by Mrs. Alice Wiley and Mrs. Norma Hawkins. The dining room was tastefully decorated in blue and white and sprigs of Maine pines, this task being performed by the skillful hands of Misses Verona and Lillian Whitcomb and Miss Sue Gillis. The office and reception room were decorated with dahlias and phlox. Each guest room was also decorated with sweet peas. The spacious piazza was ornamented with pines and Old Glory hung over the main entrance.

After dinner, dancing was enjoyed on the piazza, music being furnished by Marston's Orchestra.

The chef was Weston N. Wiley, assisted by Mrs. Grace Lumsden, Mrs. Charles Rawley and Mrs. Beatrice Wallace. The guests were seated by Mrs. Nettie A. Pellett of New York City and served by Miss Eva Cloutre of Rockland, Miss Louise Teel of Tenant's Harbor, Miss Jennie Goodwin of Franklin, and Miss Marguerite Pratt of Tenant's Harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Rawley feel extremely grateful to the kind friends who assisted in this opening, and especially to Mr. and Mrs. Erickson of Magee Island, who sent the beautiful flowers used for decorations.

Wan-e-set Inn is a splendid new hotel of 22 rooms, and having a dining room which seats 50 persons. It is one of the show places of Tenant's Harbor, and promises to be a very popular summer resort next season.



## Wan-E-Set Inn – Tenants Harbor

The East Wind Inn in Tenants Harbor was known in its earlier days as the Wan-E-Set Inn. The photo above was taken around 1920s to 1930s, and the news article is from the August 30, 1921, issue of the Courier-Gazette.

In its earlier days, the building in the photo was part of the working waterfront of Tenants Harbor. It was owned, and probably built, by John Fuller. The top floor is said to have been a sail loft, and later used for public meetings. Before the local Masonic group built its own lodge, meetings were said to have been held on the top floor. Details to support it are a little vague, but it is believed that at one point the upstairs was known as Centennial Hall. The vagueness comes out of the fact that it appears that the name also applied to other halls in Tenants Harbor.

The Fuller building later became owned by local entrepreneur George W Rawley. Rawley kept the use of the building as commercial, with a tin shop and other uses calling it home.

George W Rawley died in 1917, and without any surviving children, his large estate was divided among his near relatives. In 1919 this property was transferred to George Rawley's nephew – Charles W Rawley, who renovated the building into an inn and restaurant, opening in the summer of 1921.

## The St. George Historical Society

proudly announces an

# OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, July 16th, 2022 10 am - 2 pm**

at the

## Andrew Robinson Homestead

945 River Road, St. George

Historic House and Barn Open

Special Feature - Vintage trunks found in the home and  
information regarding local hiking trails

This is a family friendly, free event. Donations gladly accepted.



### Membership Dues

Membership dues cover the calendar year and are \$10 / individual and \$15 / household.

An application form for a new membership can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please send dues and application form (if new) to:

**St George Historical Society  
P O Box 14  
Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860**

### July 2022 Events

Saturday – July 16<sup>th</sup> – 10am to 2pm –

- Andrew Robinson Homestead will host open house focused on trunks & trails.
- Postcard Event at the Old Library Museum

Thursday – July 28<sup>th</sup> – 6pm – Walking Tour of Seaside Cemetery. Bring insect repellent!

Every Saturday during July the Old Library Museum will be open from 10am to 2pm.

## How Unwanted Pregnancies were Handled in 1804

We learn from Justice of the Peace records from the early 1800s in St George how unwanted pregnancies and illegitimate children were handled. Below is an excerpt from the Hezekiah Prince, Justice of the Peace (JP) records, from 1804.

The JP records start in 1804 and continue until the 1810s. There are several entries similar to the one shown, identifying the mother of the child and the accused father of the child, along with the circumstances of when and where it happened. The purpose of the claim was to keep the child from becoming a charge of, or financial burden to, the town.

Some of the charges against the accused father resulted in the financial responsibility of \$500 to provide for the support of the child. That was a lot of money at the time, but was it enough to pay the expenses of raising a child?

The following excerpt tells the story of Miss Bradford being impregnated in a room adjacent the store of Hezekiah Prince by John Miller of Lincolnville.

To Hezekiah Prince, Esq<sup>r</sup>, one of the Justices of the Peace within and for the County of Lincoln ~

Complains on oath Elizabeth Bradford of St. George and says that on the second day of June one thousand eight hundred & four she was delivered of a male bastard child – and that John Miller of Lincoln Ville is the father of the s<sup>d</sup> child he having begotten the same upon her body on the twenty-seventh day of August one thousand eight hundred and three at St. George in the County of Lincoln and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in a room adjoining a store owned by Hezekiah Prince, Esq., in the evening of s<sup>d</sup> day. She desires a prosecution against the s<sup>d</sup> John Miller and that he may be apprehended and held to answer this accusation as the law in such cases directs.

Dated at St. George the twenty seventh day of June one thousand eight hundred and four.

Eliza Bradford



## Walking Tour of Seaside Cemetery July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

The Historical Society's program for July – held on the last Thursday of the month – will be a walking tour of Seaside Cemetery in Tenants Harbor. The tour will begin at 6:00pm and will begin at the north entrance. Please bring insect repellent, as the mosquitoes might be fierce !

### St George Historical Society, Inc.

P O Box 14

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Membership runs for a calendar year – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup>*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: Individual / \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Household / \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest \_\_\_\_\_