

St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

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

Oct 2022

St George Historical Society's Monthly Program

Haunted Houses of St George

Thursday, October 27th, 7:00pm – ZOOM Meeting

This program will be held via ZOOM, so please send a request to stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com for a link for the meeting.

This will be a program of sharing stories about haunted houses in St George. We know of some, and we're hoping you do, too. So please join us and share any stories of possible hauntings in St George.

October is the last monthly program for the year. We will be taking off the months of November and December, and will return in January with monthly meetings.



A Brief History of the St George Ambulance

Annual Report, Town of St. George, Maine

As the St. George Fire Department consists almost entirely of the St. George Volunteer Fireman's Association members, I find it fitting to make a report on their contributions to the Town in the past year. Their main contribution, is the free ambulance service. Since 1956, the year it was put into service, to the year 1959, eighty-nine (89) calls were answered. This saved the citizens of the Town about \$3,000.

Excerpt from the 1958 Town Report

As the newspaper clipping above says, “through their efforts and the generosity of the townspeople, have provided the town with a free ambulance service to meet any emergency.” This was the case for almost 60 years – the generosity of the townspeople provided funding to buy ambulance vehicles, equipment and supplies; and the ambulance crew members volunteered their time for not only responding to calls, but for the many hours of initial and ongoing training.

Over the years the number of calls increased. In 1960 there were about 50 calls a year. The 1970s saw an average of about 75 calls, with the 1980s seeing an average of about 100 calls. Again, all handled by volunteers – and free to the residents and visitors of our town. This continuous increase in calls, and the everchanging protocols that required more training and the need for a paramedic on calls, led the Ambulance Association to make a major change – hire responders to be on call and to bill for the service to help pay for the increased cost. This change began about 10 years ago and has evolved to where there are three (3) full-time paramedics. The ambulance service also has seen the number and types of annual calls increase. In 2021 they responded to 252 911 calls, 142 Community Paramedic visits, 52 ALS Intercepts to South Thomaston, 13 Mutual Aid calls and 378 Vaccines given. They have also continued to make Community Paramedicine visits to many surrounding areas

When the Association started to change operations by having full-time employees, it began asking for partial funding from the town. As costs have increased, so has the amount requested from the town. The ambulance service has become a major full-time business that is overseen by the volunteer group known as the St George Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Association. This growth caused the Association to take a realistic look at what they have and what is needed for the ambulance service to continue and provide the necessary level of service to the residents and visitors of the town.

There are currently talks with town officials to assume the responsibility for the operations of the ambulance service, with a vote to be taken at the next Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 2023.

Remembering The War of 1812 From Albert Smalley's "History of St George"

The *Massachusetts Records of Volunteer Militia of 1812*, page 206, gives the following list of St. Georgers. Unfortunately, this does not include those who served in the Naval Forces:

Thomas Kinney, Captain.

John Watts, Lt.

William Watts, Ens.

John Robinson, Sgt.; James Linnekin, Sgt.

John Montgomery, Sgt.; John Leeds, Sgt.

William Kelloch, Corp.; Solomon Norwood, Corp.

Luther Bryant, Corp.: David Wall, Corp.

Privates were; John Allen, Benjamin Bickmore, John Chaples, John and William Clark, Francis, Jeremiah, and Richard Foster, Dennis Fogerty, Thomas Colley, Barnabas Fountain, Alexander, Robert, and Samuel Gilchrest, Archibald, Isaac, and Peter Hall, Henry Handley, James Harris, Ephraim, Samuel and William Hart, Charles Haskell, Robert Hawes, Joseph Henderson, Robert Hawes, Joseph Henderson, William Hupper, Samuel and William Jones, Haunce and John Kelloch, John Kelloch, Jr., Ephraim Kiff, Benjamin Linnekin, Michael Long, John Marshall, Thomas Martin, Daniel Matthews, Robert Murphy, James Mills, Isaac and Jacob Norwood, Richard Rivers, Andrew and Ephraim Robinson, Daniel and Nathaniel Seavey, Archelaus and Isaac Smalley, Caleb Stover, James Sweetland, Ephraim Wall, George and Moses Watts, David Wheeler, Adam Wiley and William Wilson, and David Kelloch.

The only record found of sailors in this war is in the early family records where Joseph Long, Arch and Urquhart Fogerty are listed as dying in Dartmoor Prison. How many others lost their lives in their country's service may never be known. A thorough search has failed to uncover the identity of the *Horatio*, the vessel they were supposed to have been on when captured.

The most substantial relic of the War of 1812 left in St. George is the old fort at Wiley's Corner, which is now a State park. It was built in 1809 by Thomas Vose of Thomaston. It consisted of a rampart in the form of a crescent, facing the river. Supposedly it was equipped with three 18-pound cannon. There were barracks and a small blockhouse and powder magazine built of brick.

The old fort had only one engagement. In 1814 *H.M.S. Bulwark*, a ship of 74 guns sailed up the river. At the fort they were opposed by only one man, Ephraim Wiley, veteran of Valley Forge and many battle engagements during his long service in the Continental Army. Eph was sorely outnumbered by his Majesty's forces, so for the first time in his life he surrendered. The foe spiked his guns and departed.

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

Coming Events

Thursday – Oct 27th – 7pm – the monthly program on Haunted Houses of St George.

Saturday – Nov 26th – 10am to 2pm – Old Library Museum will be open for those looking for Christmas gifts – we have lots of books!

We will be taking off the months of November & December – see you in January!

Spanish-American War 1898 – “Remember the MAINE”

From Albert Smalley’s “History of St George”

During the war with Spain, the life-saving service was found to be a ready-made signal service, applicable to the needs of the navy, therefore was brought under the Coast Signal Service, Department of the Navy. The light-house keepers and assistants also came under this department, bringing men in these two services into the Spanish-American War veteran category.

The Spanish-American war had little impact on St.Georgers other than the excitement over the outcome. Frank H. Brown and Alex Humphrey were two of the townsmen who enlisted and survived. Eugene Bond enlisted and was assigned to Co. F., 2d Artillery and died in Cuba. John Taylor served on the *U.S.S. Lancaster*. There may have been others.

St George Historical Society, Inc.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership runs for a calendar year – Jan 1st to Dec 31st

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____ Phone (optional) _____

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

Areas of interest _____