

St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

www.stgeorgehistory.com – website

207-372-2231 – tel.no.

stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com – email address

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

February 2021

Annual Update and Appeal – 2021

Thanks to your generous donations in 2020 we were able to accomplish quite a bit, considering the circumstances we were in. In addition to the usual operating expenses, such as insurance, utilities and office expenses, we were able to re-shingle the roof on the Old Library Museum AND the house at the Andrew Robinson Homestead. These roofing projects were put together by Dale Pierson and with the donation of money, time and materials, both buildings were done. And we had only planned to do the roof at the Old Library Museum!

We also were able to fund the reprinting of Albert Smalley's *History of St George, Maine*, with the addition of all "new" old pictures of the area. We brought back to life the Society's Newsletter, and with the exception of a summer issue, they have been going out on a monthly basis. Another project we actually started back in 2019 was a website and a Facebook page. Many thanks to those who have given or loaned photos to be added to our digital library. We hope to have many of the photos available on-line in 2021. The one-time software setup fee is about \$1000 and it also has an annual fee for maintenance and support of about \$1000.

As of the end of the year 2020 we have over 100 members, with new applications coming in each month. The Cemetery Preservation Fund – created to restore and preserve gravestones in town – has grown to over \$1200. We have also been able to create a Repair & Maintenance Reserve (R&MR) for the Old Library Museum, so we may have funds available for major repairs when they occur, adding \$2500 in 2020 and expecting to add that same amount until we reach a goal of \$10,000. At that point we will use the fund for needed major repairs and replace what was used through the next appeal.

We feel we are doing what we can to protect and preserve the local history of the Town of St George. With your continued support, we hope to improve our technology at the Old Library Museum to allow for Zoom meetings and the production of on-line videos. In response to your inquiries, we are also discussing new publications on various topics of local history.

For those of you who have already sent in your generous donations, we thank you. Our annual operating expenses are about \$7500. We are looking at about \$5000 to provide for equipment to allow for Zoom meetings and videos, video equipment to display our ever-expanding digital library, and software to make this all happen. Finally, we hope to receive enough donations to add \$2500 to our R&MR for the Old Library Museum, and \$10,000 to create a R&MR for work that needs to be done in the near future at the Andrew Robinson Homestead. We will be looking for grants to assist with the work at the Andrew Robinson Homestead, and the Reserves could be used for matching funds toward any grants.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us protect and preserve the history of the Town of St George! Donations can be sent to:

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

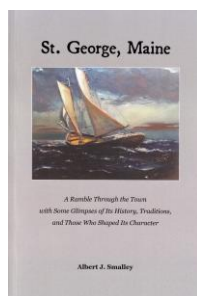
Cemetery Preservation Fund

In 2019 a special fund was created to help preserve some of the old stones in our local cemeteries. Due to your generous donations the fund is in excess of \$1200!

We are looking forward to the restoration of some gravestones in 2021. If you would like to donate to this fund, please send donations earmarked for this fund to:

St George Historical Society
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Reprint of History of St George NOW AVAILABLE



The Historical Society has reprinted Albert Smalley's "**History of St George, Maine**". It has many new old photos added to Smalley's "ramble through the town" and a more readable font. Copies are \$32 each. If you would like a copy, please contact us via email, or call and leave a message at 372-2231.

Membership Dues

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

To renew your membership for 2021, please send the appropriate amount to the address below.

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

St George Historical Society
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Newspaper Items from Years Ago

As you can see from the content of this newsletter, I've been spending time looking through old newspapers on-line. Some of the more interesting items are being shared.

The Tenants Harbor Days article about the wrecks at Tenants Harbor is from a series about the old days in Tenants Harbor that appeared in the Courier-Gazette by Albion "Boze" Crocker. This specific article was in the 7 Feb 1924 issue of the newspaper.

The article about the Wildcat Quarry, which is also known today as Atwoods Quarry, was submitted to the paper by Elmer E Allen and it appeared in the 29 Jul 1937 issue of the Courier-Gazette.

Monthly Programs for 2021

At a recent meeting of the trustees it was decided to have monthly meetings via Zoom. We don't know when this pandemic will allow us to gather again in person, so we'll gather together virtually. Please bear with us as we learn how to conduct a meeting on-line.

The meetings will be every month, starting in March and running through October, and will be held at 7:00pm on the last Thursday of the month. If you'd like to attend one of the meetings via Zoom, you need to have Zoom installed on your computer or laptop, and you'll need to send a request by email to stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com to receive an invitation that includes a meeting number and a passcode.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. Later in this newsletter is a list of topics we plan to discuss.

Digital Library

We are still receiving photos – on loan and as gifts - of local people and places in St George. If you have some early photos that we could borrow to scan and include in our digital library, please contact us at 372-2231 and leave a message.

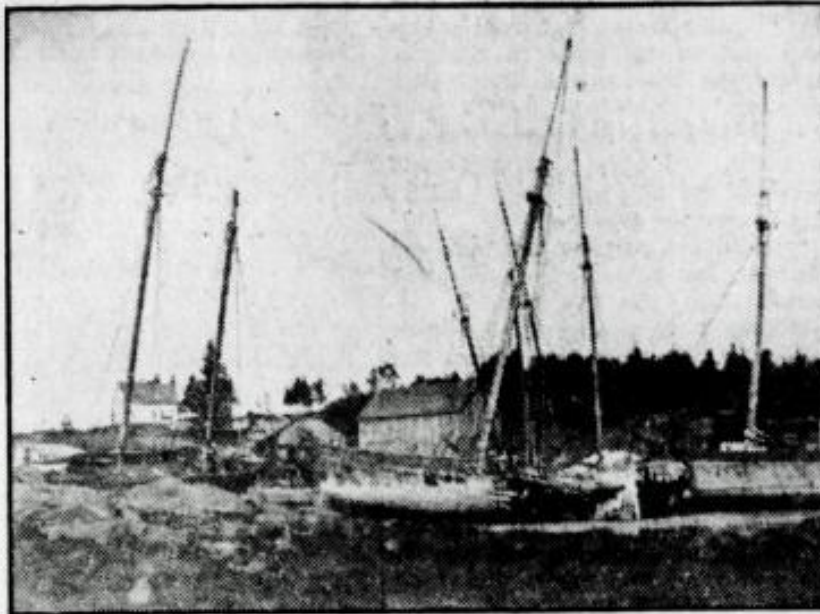
TENANT'S HARBOR DAYS

Port of Last Resort For Schooners Whose Days Are Ended.

There are graveyards and graveyards. Some are filled with dead men's bones, and some are filled with the bones of old schooners. It is of the latter that I write. The accompanying picture gives the reader a good idea of how the one looked at Tenant's Harbor. It was taken some years ago

the title of "Captain" you would be right seven times out of ten—and the other three would be captains in embryo.

Ships have a language of their own and only seafaring men understand it. Probably you have read Rudyard Kipling's story, "How the Ship Found Herself," being the experience of a new craft on her maiden voyage. The first gale she encounters sets the different parts of the ship talking to each other. "Hey, stop pushing!" "Quit



In the Tenant's Harbor Graveyard Where Seven Schooners Lie Mouldering
In Their Final Sleep.

by C. C. Cross of Rockland, who had accompanied a friend to the Harbor and brought his camera along. It shows very plainly what time and the elements will do to wood and iron.

The schooners here shown, as nearly as I can place them, are the Jane Fish, Georgianna, Rising Sun (whose sun had already set,) Mary W. Hupper, P. Nelson, Pushaw and Searsville. Many a stormy wind had blown through their rigging before they were laid to rest in the graveyard. It is the fate of us all once to die, and schooners are no exception. Many a hardy captain has trod the quarter-deck of these vessels when they were "sailing the bounding main." The visitor at the Harbor today will note some change in the graveyard as shown in this picture, as time and the elements have kept steadily at their work of dissolution.

Time was at the Harbor when if you addressed any man on the street by

crowding"—"Lay off a bit"—"Ease up there, can't you!" until these various parts of the ship get adjusted to one another.

I never experienced a gale at sea. It must be a wonderful experience—after you have got back on shore. The old Challenge had a voice, and used it, but I was not sailor enough to understand what it said.

Hark to the spray on the weather bows
Where the southeast combers break.
From the rhythmic furrow the schooner plows
And the gurgle of the wake:
Hear how the timbers their voices raise
To the roar of the running seas.
The vibrant wall of the windward stays,
And the steady boom of the breeze.
The surf runs strong off Highland Light,
And the tide floods over the Rip,
The Nausetts are blinking across the night,
And I hear the song of the ship.

I admit the soft impeachment that I am "no sailor,"—but how this conjures up memories of home, sweet home, way down in Maine.

Boze.

St George Historical Society

2021 Monthly Zoom Programs (tentative)

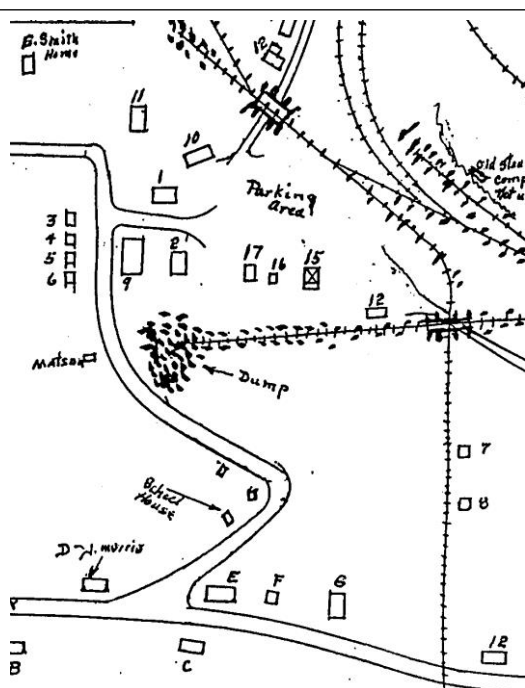
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|----------|-----|---|
| 25 March | 7pm | Historical Society's Digital Collection |
| 29 April | 7pm | The Hooper Sisters of the 1800s – or – What We Learned from the Papers Received from Patty Echelmeyer |
| 27 May | 7pm | St George Genealogy |
| 24 June | 7pm | Historical Society's Old Library Museum Collection |
| 29 July | 7pm | Sailing Vessels of St George in the 1850s – from tax records |
| 26 Aug | 7pm | Lighthouses & Life Saving Stations of St George |
| 30 Sept | 7pm | One Room Schoolhouses of St George |
| 28 Oct | 7pm | Annual Meeting & Plans for the Coming Year |

If you'd like to attend any of our Zoom Meetings, please send an email to stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com and ask for a Zoom Meeting invitation that will include a meeting ID and passcode.

We are planning on Zoom Meetings for the 2021 season, but if things change to allow in-person meetings, we will be sure to let you know! Stay safe!!!

In 1993 a letter arrived at the town office from a man who emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1955. He said the family story passed down was that his grandfather died in the United States, and that nothing else was ever said. He said that going through some papers after his parents passed, he found the death certificate for his grandfather that gave the cause of death as "hemorrhage from stab wounds in throat". He was in search of more information to explain what had happened. This newspaper article was sent along to him, for which he was very grateful to know "the rest of the story".

This newspaper article is from the 26 Dec 1911 issue of the Courier-Gazette, an early Rockland newspaper.



This is a sketch of Long Cove by Ed Hill as he remembered it in the 1920s. The buildings identified as #9 and #11 is where the boarding houses in Long Cove were at the time. The boarding house identified as #11 was known as the "Beehive". The road shown at the bottom is Route 131.

A Long Cove Tragedy

Richard Ingram, Paving-Cutter, Killed By John H. Fellows, Cook— No Witnesses of Terrible Duel in Which Stove Poker and Carving Knife Figured.

Richard Ingram's persistent demand for liquor, after a long period of "keeping straight," led to a horrible tragedy at Long Cove, St. George, late Saturday night.

Ingram, who was a Scotchman, about 50 years of age, had been employed the past two months as paving cutter for the Booth Bros. & Hurricane Isle Granite Co. He had worked at that trade in various parts of New England, coming to Long Cove from Waldoboro.

Friday morning he drew a portion of his pay and proceeded to celebrate Christmas in a manner that was destined to have an awful termination.

Saturday evening his stock of liquor gave out and he was at the boarding house impatiently awaiting the arrival of new consignment, which was to be brought by a man who has long plied his nefarious trade among the workmen in the little granite settlement.

Vexed at the delay and suffering thirst torture, Ingram went to the highway to see if the liquor peddler had arrived. Meantime the messenger arrived at the boarding house by a different route, turned two bottles of liquor over to the care of John H. Fellows, the cook, and from the latter received his pay, \$3.

When Ingram returned to the boarding house Fellows told him of the transaction, gave him one bottle of the liquor, and hid the other beneath the head of his bed in a small room opening directly off the kitchen.

Soon after the cook retired for the night and had just dozed off into a slumber when Ingram appeared at the bedside and demanded more whiskey. Fellows told him he had enough already, and the reply so angered the paving cutter that he smashed the lamp chimney and began to tear the clothing off the cook's bed.

Fellows retreated to the kitchen, but had hardly passed through the door when Ingram seized a knife from the table, brandished it over the cook's head, and threatened with oaths, to cut his brains out unless he gave up the liquor.

The cook sent a vigorous right to Ingram's jaw and the paving cutter fell heavily. In this position, and with the cook astride of him, it was an easy matter for the latter to get possession of the knife, and to wring from the paving cutter a promise to behave himself.

Ingram was no sooner on his feet, however, than he seized a poker which is used in connection with the kitchen range—a formidable instrument nearly 2½ feet long and made of iron. He drove the cook into a corner, and the latter saw that it meant his own life or the other man's.

Watching his opportunity, he got possession of a carving knife and aimed a sweeping sidewise stroke at his liquor-inflamed opponent. The point of the knife struck near Ingram's mouth, and with a horrible

ripping motion cut downward into his throat, severing an artery.

The paving cutter fell to one side with blood pouring from his gaping wound. Fellows saw that the situation was a very serious one, and ran out of doors for assistance. Nobody was at home in the nearby houses, practically the entire population of the little village being assembled in the hall, where Christmas tree festivities were in progress. Finally, however, he met Fred Smith and Charles Smith, who hastened back to the kitchen where they saw Ingram lying in a pool of blood, motionless. The cook felt of the man's left pulse, and saw that the encounter had been fatal.

The description of the tragedy as above set forth was obtained from Fellows by The Courier-Gazette reporter Sunday afternoon during the long ride to Rockland where the cook was brought by Sheriff Tolman and placed in the county jail.

No amount of cross questioning could shake his story. "I never intended to kill him," said the cook. "He was a larger man than I am, was armed with a dangerous weapon, and I acted in self-defense, intending only to slash the arm in which he held the poker." He said he had known Ingram only since last Friday and said that they had been on the most friendly terms at the boarding house.

Apparently there is nobody to contradict his story, for the tragedy had no witness and the prosecution finds itself dependent upon conditions as they existed in the boarding house when the officers arrived.

John S. Smalley, a former deputy sheriff, took Fellows into custody soon after being notified of the tragedy, and it was at Mr. Smalley's house that the cook remained until being turned over to Sheriff Tolman's care Sunday afternoon.

Coroner Otis left for the scene of the tragedy at 11 o'clock Saturday night, and found the three-hour ride over half-frozen roads the most strenuous job he has ever encountered in his present official capacity. He remained at Long Cove all day Sunday aiding County Attorney Howard in the gathering of evidence, and did not leave there until Medical Examiner Gould had completed his examination late Sunday afternoon. Dr. Gould was assisted by Dr. Victor P. Thompson. The body was then placed in the care of Undertaker Davis of Tenant's Harbor.

Ingram was known among granite workers as the champion hammer-thrower. He is said to have a wife and six children in Scotland.

Fellows, who is 60 years of age, was a resident of Gloucester, Mass., until about 22 years ago, since which he has been engaged in coastwise trade, either as steward or seaman. He was serving as steward on the schooner William Jones until the latter went into winter quarters. Nov. 20 he took the cook's berth at Long Cove.

A GLIMPSE OF GRANITE'S STORY

"Wild Cat's" Today and Yesterday—A Word Anent Supt. Manfred Humphrey

Taking a stroll recently toward Wild Cat (now Willardham), my wanderings brought me to the plant of the St. George Granite Co. In looking over the quarry and surroundings, I could not but hark back to the time when this quarry was almost in its infancy.

I was seven years old when I first saw this quarry and what a difference is apparent now—an up-to-date plant which includes six large derricks, \$15,000 compressor building, new blacksmith shop, office building, two large boarding houses, repair shops, three locomotives, a steam traveling crane, thousands of feet of railroad which conveys the junks of stone to the paving cutters and the



Manfred Humphrey, now superintendent, started in the quarry at 11 years of age

finished paving blocks and curbing to the wharf where they are put aboard barges for New York and elsewhere.

This modern concern has the distinction of shipping the largest cargo of paving stones at one time of any plant in New England. The barge, when loaded, carries 253,000 finished paving blocks for New York. The wharf where the stone is shipped has 20 feet of water at high tide. Fifty years ago the paving was carried to New York in two and three-masted schooners; 35,000 paving aboard a schooner was a large cargo in those days, but it must be remembered the paving were of larger dimensions than now.

A half a century ago the paving were hauled to the schooner by one horse dump wagons backed over the hatch on a slung bridge and dumped into the hold of the vessel. Sometimes they were thrown by hand into wooden shutes which conveyed them to a vessel's hold. Today they are loaded into iron boxes made from worn-out steam boilers one of which will hold 1000 paving or more. These are conveyed to the wharf by a traveling crane and piled up in readiness to be put into a barge.

A hasty glance over the plant

shows several thousand feet of railroad track which conveys the stone to the company's wharf, a distance of one-half mile.

The original owners of this quarry were the Bodwell Granite Co., J. S. Laupher and Samuel C. Dougan of New York and Herbert Blithen of Rockland bought the plant from the above named. A new company was formed to be known as the St. George Granite Co. Mr. Blithen sold his interest to William S. White of Rockland who had charge of this end of the plant with officers in Rockland. With the death of Mr. Laupher and Mr. White, Mr. Dougan became sole owner of the plant, the main office being at 417 Lexington avenue, New York.

The quarry has been widened and deepened to a great extent since this company began operations. A hundred acres of stone has never been touched. Some of the best working stone in the country is found here. When the Rockland post office building was constructed the stone came from this quarry, furnished by the Bodwell Granite Co., the original owners.

When this plant is going at capacity, 200 men are employed. Many million of paving blocks have been shipped from this quarry during the past 25 years, all shipped in barges. Samuel C. Dougan who directs the operations of this huge plant has been connected with the paving business in New York for many years.

Residents of St. George appreciate this concern as it employs mostly local men. Manfred Humphrey, the superintendent, was born at Clark Island. When quite young, the family moved to South Thomaston and later to Long Cove where the stone business was booming at the plant of Booth Brothers. When five years old, Manfred was making miniature paving blocks. At 11 he worked in the quarry, doing odd jobs, and when 15 he did hand drilling for paving cutters. He was a full fledged paving cutter at 19. His education was received in the common schools and International Correspondence School. He clerked in Booth Brothers' store for a number of years and has also held several town offices. In 1913 he became superintendent of the St. George Granite Co. The ups and downs of the stone business have been familiar to him during the course of 24 years. Due to his fine executive ability he has seen this company grow to one of the largest granite concerns in the country.

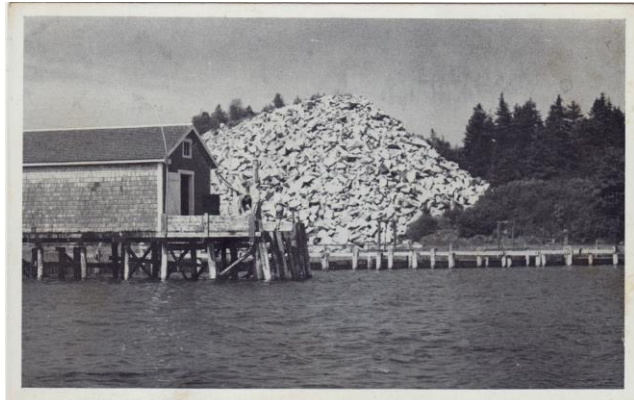
Mr. Humphrey is a past master of Eureka Lodge, Henry Knox Chapter, R.A.M., of Thomaston, King Hiram Council R.S.M. of Rockland, Claremont Commandery K. T. of Rockland, Naomi Chapter O.E.S. of Tenant's Harbor of which he is also past patron. Supt. Humphrey was married in 1896 to Elizabeth Andrews of St. George. He has always resided in Tenant's Harbor. Elmer E. Allen

Tenant's Harbor July 26.

Postcard Images of Wildcat Quarry



WILDCAT QUARRY, TENANT'S HARBOR, ME.



WILDCAT QUARRY
TENANT'S HARBOR, ME.

St George Historical Society, Inc.

P O Box 14

Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____ Phone (optional) _____

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

Areas of interest _____