

St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

www.stgeorgehistory.com – website

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stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com – email address

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

March 2021

2021 Programs & Events

A review of CDC and State guidelines has led to the following changes to programs and events for the coming year. We want to keep everyone safe but offer what we can to the public.

Monthly Programs

Later in this newsletter you will see an updated schedule for monthly programs. We feel we should offer programs through Zoom meetings, and if guidelines change, then we will change accordingly. The July program will offer a walking tour of the Ridge Cemetery, starting at 6pm.

Old Library Museum

This site will be open every Saturday from 10am to 2pm, starting May 29th and ending on October 9th. We will also be open by appointment only. So, if you know you will be in town on days other than Saturdays, and would like to stop by and visit, please call us at 207-372-2231 and leave a message. Or send us an email requesting a day and time to stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com. In order to maintain safety, masks will be required, and occupancy may be limited.

Schoolhouse Museum

We will have this open on Saturday, May 29th, from 10am to 2pm. If there is enough interest, we will consider more hours. Also, we will try to accommodate visitors by appointment. Please use the same contact information listed above.

Andrew Robinson House

The Committee working on this site is looking to hold an Open House on Sunday, August 15th. The 15th of August is special to this site as it is the birthday of Andrew Robinson. Please watch for more information for open house times and details on what will be happening!



Daylight Savings Time

In 1784, Benjamin Franklin proposed the idea of Daylight Savings Time. He said by having everyone spend more of their workday in the sunlight, fewer candles would be needed for light. Official use of Daylight Savings Time in the US can be traced to World War I, when Congress imposed one standard time to help the country better utilize resources. This followed the European model. The 1918 Standard Time Act was meant to be in effect for only seven months of the year and was discontinued nationally after the end of World War I. But individual states continued to turn clocks ahead one hour in spring and back one hour in fall.

St George town records of the 1920s into the 1940s show occasional votes at our town meeting to address Daylight Savings Time, and what was sometimes referred to as “Rockland time”. One uniform time helped reduce confusion with such things as train and boat schedules.

World War II legislation that imposed daylight savings time for the entire nation was repealed in 1945 when individual states once again imposed their own “standard time”. It wasn’t until 1966 that Congress passed a law that set a standard time that superseded local habits.

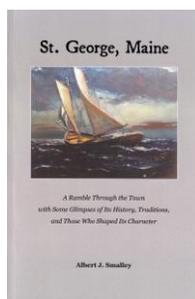
Cemetery Preservation Fund

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 almost up to \$1400!

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
P O Box 14
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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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Halls Market – April 1946

Seventy-five years ago a new kind of store opened in St George – a self-service grocery store. This new concept of grocery shopping was started in 1916 with the opening of the first Piggly-Wiggly store in Memphis, TN. Prior to that you placed your order with the clerk and then they gathered everything for you.

Almond Hall purchased the old Whitehouse store in Tenants Harbor and opened it in April 1946. Our 1st monthly program for 2021 will be a walk down memory lane about a place that is still referred to by some by its longtime name of Halls Market.

The April 29th Zoom meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Please email us for the Zoom invite.

What's A Zoom Meeting?

At a recent meeting the trustees 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 for the time being.

The meetings will be held every month - see the list of programs on another page in this newsletter. 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. If there is enough interest, we'll hold a practice Zoom meeting.

St George Historical Society

2021 Monthly Zoom Programs

- 29 April** **7pm** **The 75th Anniversary of Halls Market – 1st Self-Service Store**
A walk down memory lane with pictures and stories about the many years that we shopped at Halls Market.
- 27 May** **7pm** **St George Genealogy**
A discussion on how to research the early families of St George.
- 24 June** **7pm** **Early Settlers of Warren, Maine**
Presentation by Deb Mansfield and Karin Larson on the early settlers of Warren, the earliest settlement in the area known as St Georges.
- 29 July** **6pm** **Walking Tour of Ridge Cemetery**
To take advantage of the daylight, this walking tour will begin at 6pm.
- 26 Aug** **7pm** **Lighthouses & Life Saving Stations of St George**
Learn the history of these important parts of maritime life.
- 30 Sept** **7pm** **One Room Schoolhouses of St George**
In 1883 there were over 1000 students in St George and over a dozen one-room schoolhouses. Now there are a little less than 300 students.
- 28 Oct** **7pm** **Annual Meeting & Plans for the Coming Year**
October is our annual business meeting when we elect new officers for the coming year. We'd also like to hear from you on what programs we should be looking to do in 2022. PLUS, we may have a surprise presentation!

If you'd like to attend any of our Zoom Meetings, please send an email request to stgeorgemainehistory@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, except for the Walking Tour in July, BUT if things change to allow in-person meetings, we will be sure to let you know! Stay safe!!!

From the 25 Feb 1870 issue of the
Rockland Gazette

MURDEROUS QUARREL IN ST GEORGE
A Young Man Fatally Stabbed

A fatal affray took place last night (Wednesday) between several young men in St. George in which one of the number, named William Jones, was killed. The facts of the case, as nearly as we can now ascertain them, are as follows: It appears that Jones and another young man named Smalley got into a quarrel on Tuesday night, which resulted in a conflict between the parties, in which Smalley was pretty severely whipped by Jones. Last night, on the way home from singing school, the quarrel was renewed between these parties, and Smalley was assisted by two other young men, one of whom was Edward Andrews. In the fight which took place, Jones was stabbed in several places and died in about twenty minutes. He was able to reach home in this time and told his mother that Edward Andrews had stabbed him. Andrews is about twenty years of age and lives at Seal Harbor. He has been arrested and is now in custody of the officers in Thomaston. All the parties to the quarrel were quite young men, and it seems that the quarrel arose at the singing school which they all attended.

This murder of William Jones in 1870 was mentioned in the 1892 Chronicles of St George as the first of two murders that took place in town, the second murder being the famous Hart-Meservey murder.



The scene of this murder was the singing school, a regular event at the First Baptist Church at Wiley's Corner.



The next issue of the *Rockland Gazette* on March 4th contains quite a bit of testimony on the incident from eyewitnesses, identifying the other man involved in the quarrel as Frank Smalley. It seems that in continuing the quarrel Jones had asked Smalley, before he went into the church, if he had had enough the night before and told him he would give him more that night if he hadn't had enough. Smalley's reply was that he had enough and didn't want more. However, in sworn testimony, Frank E Keller said he heard Andrews say to Jones, "Smalley has not got enough, you misunderstood him", to which Jones replied "I will stay and give him enough". After the church event, in exiting the church, Fanny Shaw took Frank Smalley's right arm. If, by doing this, her intent was to avoid any further fighting between the men with a lady in their midst, it didn't work. As they left the church, Jones confronted Smalley and the fight was continued. Even Fanny Shaw went flying "five or six feet". The quarrel between Jones and Smalley continued, during which it was reported that Andrews approached them and hit Jones twice, the same number of stab wounds that Jones suffered. Subsequent testimony and evidence showed that Ed Andrews "hitting" of Jones was an attempt to break up the fight. After this interference by Andrews, Smalley got up and ran, with Jones following him, towards Wiley's store. (con't)

MURDEROUS QUARREL IN ST GEORGE

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When the crowd caught up with them, Jones was sitting on a rock by Wiley's Store. Rufus Kinney said "I asked William who hurts him, he said Ed Andrews hurt me". During further testimony, however, the discovery of a knife cut on Frank Smalley's hand turned the question of guilt his way, after which Smalley admitted that he had stabbed Jones, but in self-defense. After two days of testimony, as the March 2, 1870, issue of the *Rockland Free Press* reports, "Andrews is pronounced not guilty and dismissed. Smalley is bound over for trial at the next Criminal Court in \$1000 bonds."

The indictment in the case of the State vs Franklin S Smalley "was found at the March Term A D 1870, when the said Franklin S Smalley was brought into Court and set to the bar and had this indictment read to him, and thereof said he was not guilty." The case was continued from term to term to the September 1871 term. [Apparently the wheels of justice didn't move fast then either!]

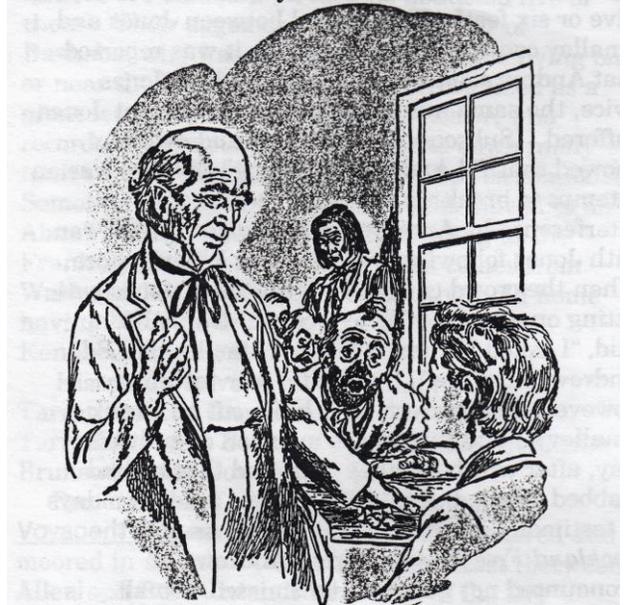
The October 13, 1871, issue of *The Rockland Gazette* contains almost two full pages on the trial. Needless to say, it caused quite a bit of public interest. The County Attorney, A S Rice, called upon the State Attorney for assistance with the case, and the opening arguments follow: "The indictment which you have heard read charges the defendant with the crime of manslaughter. I propose to give you the shortest definition of that offense that will serve to present a clear idea of its nature."

"Mr Rice then read from R S Sec. 5, Chap. 118, the statute definition of the offense and then proceeded to explain the different kinds of felonious homicide and the distinguishing feature of manslaughter – that is the absence of malice – and quoted from Grenl. On Ev. And other authorities brief descriptions of the nature of the offense."

"He then proceeded to remark that there were some features in the case at the bar which, if pressed, would bring it within the technical

definition of murder in the second degree, but the grand jury had seen fit to present the prisoner for the lesser offense of manslaughter. And that was all he could ask them to convict him of."

"In stating the facts the County Attorney said he did not intend to go into detail, but only to present such a general idea of the case as would enable the jury to understand the testimony as it came out."



"The crime was committed a year ago last February. As was natural, great excitement existed in reference to it in the community where it occurred, and there has been considerable feeling because the case has not earlier been brought to trial."

"He, the County Attorney, had done his best at every term of the Court to have the case disposed of, but have never succeeded in getting a trial until the present term. In the meantime, many versions of the tragedy had gone abroad in the community, and opinions had been formed in some localities as to the merits of the case founded necessarily upon a partial knowledge of the facts and often upon erroneous and mistaken statements. If any of the jury had formed such opinions it was their duty to dismiss them from their minds and prepare themselves to judge impartially from the facts which the evidence would develop."

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MURDEROUS QUARREL IN ST GEORGE

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“The simple facts are these. Some trouble had occurred between the defendant and William Jones, the deceased, two young men of about the same age, residing in St George. The difficulty culminated on the night before the homicide, after some words, in a fisticuff quarrel between them. We shall show you that the defendant went into the fight armed with a lead knuckle, which he used to take an unfair advantage of his neighbor, the deceased, who supposed the affair to be a simple trial of strength and pluck in a fair field. There is no evidence that the deceased ever came to the knowledge of the fact that the knuckle was used upon him. Notwithstanding his unfair advantage the defendant was worsted in the encounter, and when separated he came out as the vanquished in pugilistic encounters usually do, with a black eye and bloody nose.”

“They were parted without difficulty and the affair seems to have been regarded by the deceased as at an end. Not so with the defendant. On the succeeding night, being the night of the homicide, there was a singing school at the upper church at St George. We shall show you that the defendant came to that school armed with a sheath knife which he wore in his sheath fastened by a belt around his body, and that upon reaching the church he had conversation with the deceased in the course of which their difficulties were settled to the satisfaction of Jones – that by some means during the course of the evening the dispute was reopened – that at the close of the school, as the defendant passed out of the church he drew his knife and held it in his right hand – that as he left the church a young lady took hold of his right arm - that they soon met Jones – that a quarrel ensued in which Jones struck the first blow; that the defendant returned the assault with the knife. After a clinch they went to the ground, defendant underneath; that defendant again used the knife as they lay on the ground; that intervention by one of the by-standers took

place immediately. Jones was taken off from defendant, who got up, threw away the knife and ran.”

“The deceased died in the course of twenty minutes without having become conscious that he was stabbed.”



St George Baptist Church

“The defendant ran across the road north of Wiley’s Store, jumped the wall, ran down into the swamp and woods; shaped his course by the stars; came out at the Seal Harbor Road. As he came out, he saw a bush that he thought was a man, which frightened him, and he did not dare go on till he found it did not move. Then he struck a wood road and went down to Long Cove and out on the ice and down the ice till nearly opposite his father’s house; then by another wood road into the open field back of his father’s house. Here he stopped again and listened, then pulled off his boots, and in his stocking feet at that inclement time of the year, crept over the field up to the house; peered in at the window and finding no one within but the members of his family, went in with his clothes saturated with the blood of the dead man. He had traveled about twice the distance necessary to go by the road home as an innocent man would have gone; and his long absence had excited the fears of his friends who went in search of him. They returned shortly after he reached home and had conversation with him in the course of which he admitted the stabbing and told what he did with the knife, which was found that same night in the precise locality indicated by him.”

*(Closing Arguments)
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MURDEROUS QUARREL IN ST GEORGE

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Closing Arguments

“A P Gould, counsel for the defense, occupied three hours, and his argument was characterized by that sagacity and ability which mark all his efforts. He dwelt long upon the fact that the defendant was attacked by a person of greatly superior physical powers, and as he claimed, in a brutal manner; that he had taken every precaution to avoid an encounter; having told the deceased that he had got enough; that he wanted nothing further to do with him, surrounded himself with ladies, exchanged caps for a disguise, that he might not be recognized by Jones, and having in every particular, met the requirements and letter of the law in trying to avoid an encounter with him. This he could not do, and thus when violently assaulted, with no means of escape, he only exercised a God-given right in defending himself, even to the taking of a human life. He referred to the great principle of self-defense, of the laws which regulate it, and the duty of all men to exercise it. It was incumbent on the government to establish three propositions in order to make out a case of felonious homicide. First, the death of Jones; second, his death by the hand of the defendant; third, to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that it was not done in defense of life; or to prevent great bodily harm; that so long as there was a reasonable doubt on either proposition, Franklin S Smalley was entitled to an acquittal.”

“The Attorney General occupied only about an hour in arguing for the State. He began by contrasting his position in the trial that of the counsel for the defense. The defense could do anything that a gentleman could do to clear the prisoner, and it was the counsel’s duty to do all in his power for his client. His position was different. It was his duty to see the laws of the State executed. He had taken a solemn oath to prosecute faithfully; that he had no personal interest in convicting anyone and when he believed a person innocent he never would pursue him for a moment. He believed the prisoner was a guilty man. Guilty, too, on his own showing. He reviewed the defendant’s own testimony and dwelt principally on the fact which he himself admitted. There had been a mere boy’s fight the night preceding the fatal affray. Defendant had been whipped. His injuries could not have been of a very serious character, for he was about his customary labor the next day, and the next evening went to the sing, into the company”

“of ladies. The counsel for the defense had magnified the injuries with a wonderfully exuberant in that direction; had shaped the testimony to suit himself; had asked if defendant had not received a terrible blow; if his head was not terrible swollen, and whether the injuries were not truly appalling, but it did not appear that it had been necessary to use a single bandage, considering the whole array of injuries.”

“Defendant had testified that he went to his chest, unlocked it and took out his belt and knife, put them on; did not remember if he had suspenders on or not, therefore, the belt could not have been put on to hold up his pants, for if it had, he would have remembered it; testified that he sat down and waited some time before he could decide to go to the school. He shrank from the bloody deed he had contemplated. At the meeting house he told Jones he had got enough, he had not fully nerved himself to the bloody work he designed to do. He did not show his knife to Jones, told no one he had it. Says when he got to the door he saw Jones and took the knife in his right hand. Says he does not remember striking Jones, has no recollection. Yet up to that time he remembers everything perfectly. He says he took off his boots seven or eight rods from the house [1 rod – 16½’], and all the reason he gives for it was that his feet were cold and wet. It may be a custom in St George to carry sheath knives, but I don’t believe the custom of carrying the boots in the hands because the feet are cold and wet. He was conscious of a deep guilt, of having willfully killed a human being in the peace of God. The Attorney General referred briefly to the circumstance developed in the case, and said he believed the intelligent jury before him were fully satisfied that the defendant had feloniously taken the life of William Jones.”

“After a brief charge, the case was given to the jury. After being out about three hours, they returned and gave a verdict of ‘not guilty’.”

“The case occupied the court four days and excited intense interest. The court room was crowded and during the trial many of our first citizens were present.”

As you can imagine, this incident from 1870 was remembered by many – especially the Smalley and Jones families – for several years to come. In the 1990s it was said that some of the residents of Wiley’s Corner still remembered it!

My Neighbor

By Ivy D Hilton

From my window today I looked at the farm,
Where my neighbor had lived and worked with such calm.
Strength in her stride as she walked in her boots,
And the dress that hung long and uneven and loose.
About her brown hair a kerchief she'd place,
Revealing blue eyes and a seamed tanned face.

She, who worked in the fields from morn until night,
And as many times over with the aid of a light.
Finishing the chores or making her cheese,
Maybe churning the butter or shelling the peas.
A woman who worked by the side of men,
And playtime was past when her day would end.

I'm ashamed to think when I first settled here,
That I thought she was odd and funny and queer.
For through that first winter with less work to do,
I think she was restless and a bit lonely, too.
She'd cross through the fields sometimes on the run,
Then I knew her chores and baking were done.

Her English was broken but I listened so well,
That tales of her country to me she would tell.
The months passed by yet she came every day,
And her speech improved and chuckle grew gay.
How she laughed at the painting and sewing I'd do,
But I thought that her ways were very queer, too.

For I in my way was accomplishing much,
And in time over tea and coffee and such.
We grew very close in our little game,
Even though eye to eye we saw not the same.

Arms laden with apples, preserves and fine meats,
She'd come to my door in her boot clad feet.
So she taught me new dishes, delicious and good,
And we helped each other whenever we could.
Silent and patient with little of charm,
Typical product of the immigrant farm.

Honest but thrifty yet kindly, too,
This was the woman, the neighbor I knew.
I look through my window at the end of the day,
Across those fields where I'll soon see hay.
And I feel a loss that I can't replace,
And a tear rolls down and off my face.

I wonder if she is missing me, too,
Where ever she is up there in the blue.
And I'd give a great deal if she only knew,
That I thought she was fine and noble and true.

The author of this poem, Ivy D Hilton, was the daughter of an immigrant paving stone cutter, and lived in Tenants Harbor village in the late 1920s and early 1930s. During this time St George was home to many quarry workers from foreign countries and different accents could be heard everywhere.



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 _____