

St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

www.stgeorgehistory.com – website

207-372-2231 – tel.no.

stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com – email address

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

May-June-July 2023

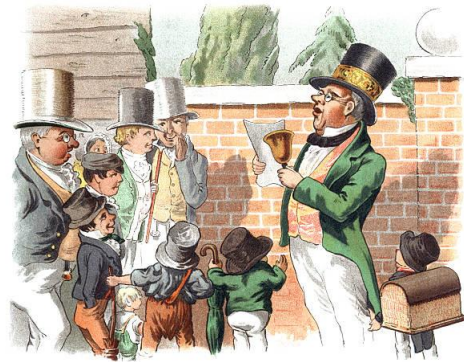
Changes to the Newsletter

Beginning with this issue, we are changing from a monthly newsletter to a quarterly newsletter. There is so much information and “news” to put into a newsletter, but not as much time. Issues of the newsletter will arrive in your mailbox in the months of January, April, July and October.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, or articles you’d like to submit, please let us know at our email address at stgeorgemahinehistory@gmail.com.

Thanks for understanding the change.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



Old Library Museum – Summer Hours

During the summer season – May 27th to October 14th – the museum is open every Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Stop by and see the displays and learn our history!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 20 August 2023** - Walking Tour of Wiley’s Corner (*times and routes to be announced*)
- ..Social Organizations Attended by the Robinson Family (*Andrew Robinson Homestead from 10am to 2pm*)
- 23 Sept 2023** - Lost Arts and Tools (*Andrew Robinson Homestead from 10am to 2pm*)
- 30 Sept 2023** - Martins of Musketo Harbor (*on site on Mosquito Head Road, time to be announced*)
- 8 Oct 2023** - Apples & Apple Pressing (*Andrew Robinson Homestead from 10am to 2pm*)
- 26 Oct 2023** - Annual Meeting and Brief Program (*time and location to be announced*)

This is just a brief summary of upcoming events. Please check out our website for more information, which should be posted a few weeks prior to the event on www.stgeorgehistory.com. If you have signed up on our website for email announcements, then you will receive a notice regarding the events. Members are automatically signed up for these email announcements.

Do You Know How to Clean Gravestones?

Would You Like to Learn How?

First Saturday of Each Month During the Summer!

At Seaside Cemetery



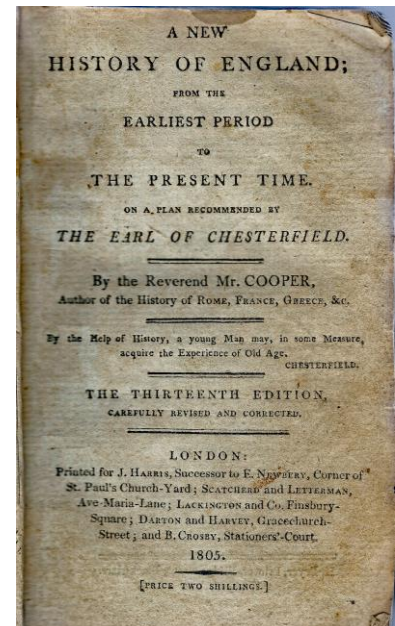
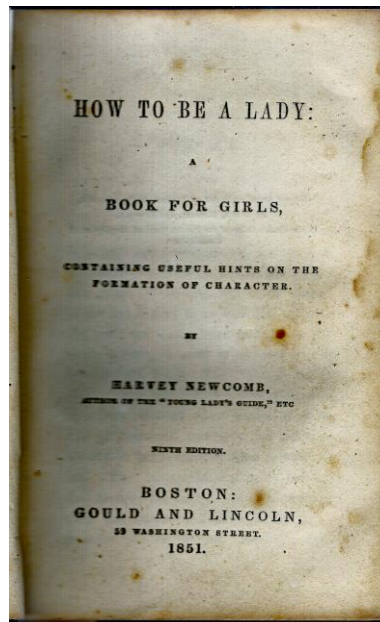
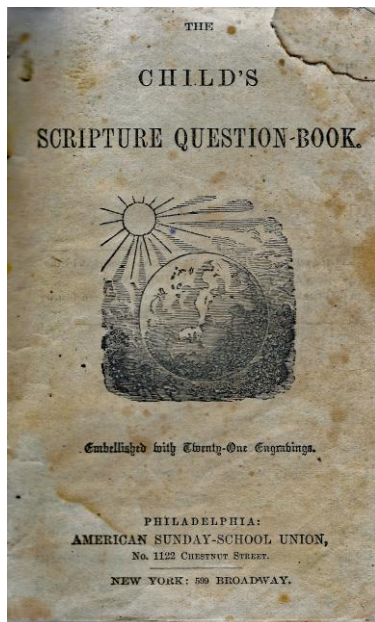
Last year the St. George Historical Society hosted several volunteer headstone cleaning events at the historic Seaside Cemetery in Tenants Harbor. Due to its popularity, we decided to hold similar events this summer season on the **first Saturday of each month from 9am to 2pm** – no rain date. Come for the day, or a few hours – whatever works for you!!

Come join us - no skill required! We will provide the tools necessary to clean the headstones - nontoxic cleaning solution, pump sprayers, and scrub brushes - as well as brief training. You only need to bring work gloves, drinking water, and bug spray.

For the rest of the summer, the dates of these events are **August 5th, September 2nd and October 7th**. If you plan to attend, please contact Stephanie at stephanie.m.smith@maine.rr.com or call 207-372-2231 and leave a message. Please let us know if you are coming so we have enough supplies.

AS WE SORT THROUGH BOOKS & PAPERS FROM JIM SKOGLUND'S ESTATE

In the years prior to Jim's passing in February 2022, he would mention that he had something "in the privacy of my own home" and that he wished he had the energy to sort through things so he could find it. Sometimes that task is left to others, and as we sort through the books and papers left to the Historical Society by Jim Skoglund, we have come across some interesting things. Below are some images of some small old books that we find very interesting –



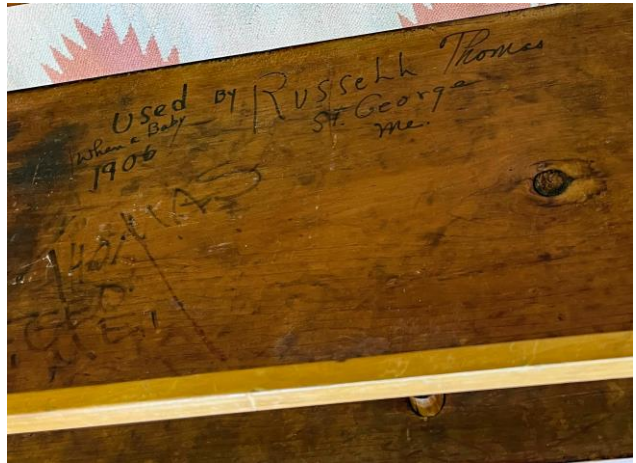
All three books were published in the 1800s. They are small – about 4" x 6" in size. The titles are "*Child's Scripture Question Book*", "*How to be a Lady – A Book for Girls*" and "*A New History of England from the Earliest Period to the Present Time*".

The "*Child's Scripture Question Book*" was copyrighted in 1836 and designed especially for the younger classes of Sabbath Schools by the American Sunday-School Union. The answers to questions are short, simple and, as far as practicable, in Bible language.

The book "*How to be a Lady – A Book for Girls*" was published in 1851 and contains chapters with the titles – Nature and Objects of Education, Treatment of Brothers and Sisters and Others in the Family, Behavior at School, Behavior at Table, Behavior at Family Worship, Knowledge of Household Affairs, Education of the Body, Education of the Heart, and Education of the Mind. A quick read shows a lot of "old-fashioned" values and manners.

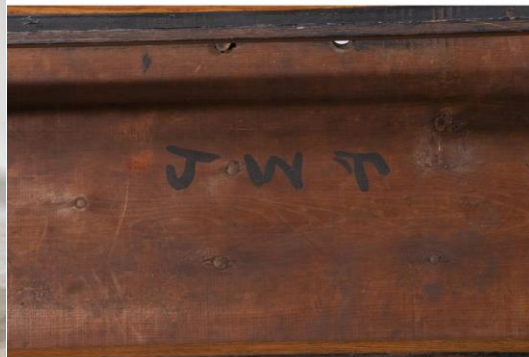
"A New History of England" was published over 200 years ago and gives an interesting perspective on the history of this country with a major influence on the world.

Recent Donation – Rocker Bench



Thanks to the McGown family for the recent donation of a rocker bench. Lorraine (Thomas) McGown passed away in 2021 and her wish was that the rocker bench, used to rock her father, Russ Thomas of Wiley's Corner, be donated to the St George Historical Society. On the bottom of the seat of this bench is confirmation that it was used by Russell Thomas of St George, Maine, in 1906.

In looking for more information about this rocker bench we came across a similar item that was auctioned at Thomaston Place Auctions here in Maine, in November 2021. Below are two images from this auction.



The initials JWT on the underneath part of the bench may stand for James W Thomas, who was Russ Thomas's grandfather. Capt Thomas had 3 grandchildren born in 1906, and it may be possible that both of these benches were made by Capt J W Thomas! We're still digging into the background and will let you know when we find more.

We Need Help!

The St George Historical Society is a non-profit group that relies on volunteer help and donations to keep things going. We currently have four (4) sites that we are responsible for – Marshall Point Lighthouse & Museum, Schoolhouse Museum, the Andrew Robinson Homestead and the Old Library Museum.

If you are interested in helping, we're sure we can find something that's just right for you. What we do (and need help with) are the following:

- Prepare and present programs for the public. During the summer months we have monthly programs and events, and during the winter from January to April we have been having Zoom meetings. If you have any particular interests and are willing to present a program (with help), let us know. This last winter Steve Lindsay, who has a keen interest in the early history of Maine in the 17th and 18th centuries, did a Zoom program on the Conquest of Maine.
- During the summer months we have the Old Library Museum and Schoolhouse Museum open for the public to come in and browse. If you'd like to help with displays, cover some shifts that we are open, or anything else, please let us know. No experience necessary, only a desire to learn and help out!
- We recently acquired software used by museums to catalog their collection. So far, we have over 2000 items recorded in the software and available for on-line viewing and searching. This accounts for less than 5% of what we have, so we need help in scanning photos and documents, entering the information into the software database, and maintaining the database.
- In order to do the work and maintain the properties, we need financial support. One area that we have yet to tap into are the many grant programs that exist to support historic preservation. Do you have experience in grant writing? Would you like to learn how? Just let us know!
- Speaking of financial support, an annual donation is very welcome to support our goal to protect and preserve our local history. The Marshall Point Lighthouse and Museum site is managed by a committee, and the Andrew Robinson Homestead site is also managed by a committee. Both committees work hard to raise money to maintain their sites. The Schoolhouse Museum is in need of staff to have it open more than a few days a year. It is also in need of volunteer labor to do repairs and maintenance. The Old Library Museum is open during the summer season, and year-round by appointment.
- Watch for a meeting later this year to discuss volunteering and what you can do!

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

St George Historical Society, Inc.

P O Box 14

Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com

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 _____