

# St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

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

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

October 2020

## Fort Point State Park

### The History

From Albert Smalley's "History of St George" we learn that "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." "Eph was sorely outnumbered by his Majesty's forces, so for the first time in his life he surrendered." After he told them to scram, they "spiked his guns and departed." "Aside from the remains of the fort, the only known relics are the key to the powder house , a musket owned by Bernard Rackliff and in a sense, the flintlock rifle owned and used in the Revolution and war of 1812 by Joseph Robinson. This musket is in the Knox Memorial at Thomaston. "

It was in the fall of 1808 that Joseph Robinson sold this piece of land known as Robinson's Point to the US government "for the purpose of erecting a fort on St George's River." At this time the point was used as a ferry landing between Cushing and St George. In 1923 the US government transferred ownership of "all of the land known as Fort Saint Georges" to the State of Maine "for public park purposes only".



### Plans for the Future

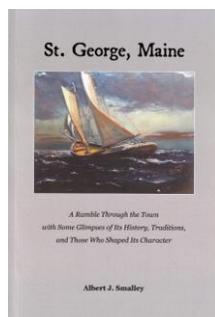


Our Conservation Commission was instrumental in building the Fort Point Trail from the parking area near Rt 131 down across town property to the State Park – the only public access to the St George River. The State Park is a special place with views up and down the river.

Due to very high use and erosion, the Fort Point Trail has deteriorated and had to be closed several times over the last few years. In reviewing some possible repairs to the trail it was determined that the trail could be improved to provide Universal Access (UA). A UA trail provides access for people with limited mobility, such as people with walkers, wheelchairs and families with strollers.

The Select Board recently formed an ad hoc committee to work with the State and develop plans for better access to and around the State Park. State officials were pleased with the idea of a UA trail and seemed willing to provide full funding for the construction of a UA trail. However, funding is needed within the next few months for the costs associated with design and planning. If you are able to help with this project, please send donations to the St George Historical Society at the address above.

## 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". Copies are \$32 and will be on sale at the Old Library Museum at 38 Main St in Tenants Harbor on Saturdays from now until sometime in December from 10am to 2pm. **We also have other local history books, postcards and mugs for sale. Do you know someone who might have this on their Christmas list???**

## Membership Dues

Membership dues cover the calendar year from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and are \$10 / individual and \$15 / household. Have you paid your 2020 dues yet? If so, thank you!

To renew your membership for 2021, please send the appropriate amount to the address below – no need for a new application.

An application form for a new membership can be found at [www.stgeorgehistory.com](http://www.stgeorgehistory.com)  
Please send dues and/or application form to:

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

## Donations Received this Summer

Even though the Old Library Museum was closed this summer due to the pandemic, we received many items donated to our collection of artifacts, pictures, papers, etc.:

- A tub full of diaries were donated by the family of True and Shirley Hall.
- Samples of the variety of lace items manufactured at the lace factory at Wiley's Corner and other related items were donated by Morton Tarbox
- Some papers, pictures and artifacts from the Barn at the Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum
- Marvon Hupper donated some school books from the Glenmere School from the 1920s-1930s, plus a genealogy of the Hupper family compiled by his sister Lorna and his daughter Lorna.
- An early proprietors map by Albert Smalley was donated by Dean from Washington, ME
- Eight fishing pictures near Drift Inn Beach from the 1940s were donated by the Herring Gut Learning Center. Four of those pictures are to be displayed at the Old Library Museum and four at Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum
- A collection of old tools and household items were donated by the family of Bert & Louise Ervin. Included in these items was an old phone from the Clark Island quarry.
- And, I'm sure I've missed others who have donated items...

***Thanks to all who help us preserve the local history of our community!!***

# **BIG** **Thank You!**

**To all those who helped with materials, tools, and labor for the St George Historical Society roofing projects at the Andrew Robinson House and the Old Library Museum. We live in a great community and certainly appreciate the support!!**

David Miller, Will Morris, Tom Gorrill, John Meyer, Steve Cartwright, Mark Pierson, Bruce Fagley, Mike Stetser and Kyle Smith

Also, thanks to Tripp Woodbridge, Richie Paulsen and Fez (*Dale Pierson's brother-in-law*) who all went above and beyond!

And to our OCR (*Occasional Refreshment Committee*) for their help with snacks and beverages! Thanks to Mike Pierson, Tammy Willey, Nancy Frederick, Stephanie Smith, and Carolyn Garratt-Reed!!

**And to Dale Pierson for heading up this project!!!**

## Request from Poland



EDWIN BISSELL HOLT

Last week we received an email from a faculty member – Dr Jacek Jarocki - at John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin, Poland, asking about a resident of Tenants Harbor back in the 1930s – 1940s. He was asking about Edwin B Holt.

Edwin B Holt was a professor of philosophy and psychology at Harvard University from 1901 to 1918. From 1926 to 1936 he was a visiting professor of psychology at Princeton University, retiring to Tenants Harbor in 1936, buying a place on the St George River, now known as 320 Wallston Road. Holt died in Rockland in 1946 and left the property on the river to his long-time companion, George X Bernier.

Dr Jarocki said that he is currently writing a biographical paper on Edwin Holt as well as a book on the New Realists, a philosophy from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Jarocki says that very little is known about Holt's time in Maine and he is hoping to make contact with someone who could shed some light on Holt and Bernier.

If you know something or someone who could help with this project, please let us know at [stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com) and we will pass along Dr Jarocki's contact information.

## Historical Society's Annual Meeting



The by-laws of the Society call for an annual meeting in October of each year with an agenda item to elect officers for the ensuing year. Due to the issues surrounding the pandemic and the requirements from the State on meetings and social distancing, the trustees have decided to cancel this year's annual meeting. However, we still need to conduct an election. Following the example of other organizations, it has been decided that the election of officers will take place by written ballot.

In the next few weeks, current members of the Historical Society will receive by mail a ballot with the names of people willing to serve in the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. There will also be a space for members to write-in a name if they so desire. The people elected to these positions will serve from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year 2021. The envelope will also contain instructions on how to vote and the deadline to submit the completed ballot.

If you have any questions on this voting process, please contact us at 207-372-2231 or at [stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgemainehistory@gmail.com) .

**We hope to meet again in person in 2021!!!**

**St George Historical Society, Inc.**

**P O Box 14**

**Tenants Harbor, ME 04860**

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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