

St George Historical Society Newsletter

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

September 2021



Schoolhouses of St George Sept 30th Monthly Program

The Historical Society held its program in September via Zoom. Gathering the info and putting together the program on schoolhouses of St George took longer than expected, so this newsletter is a little late. If you missed the Zoom meeting, you can watch a recording of it on our website at www.stgeorgehistory.com.

If you have any photos of local schools and would like to share them with us, please contact us. This September program is a foundation for a future publication on the schools of St George.

The St. George Historical Society

proudly announces an

OPEN HOUSE

at the

Andrew Robinson Homestead

945 River Road, St. George

October 9, 2021 10 am to 2 pm

Historic House and Barn Open

Robinson Family Display ~ Fort Point Display



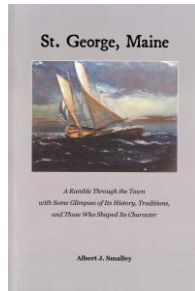
Andrew Robinson Homestead

The 2nd open house held on September 11th was well attended and received some rave reviews. There were about 100 people who stopped and toured the property.

Again, our thanks go out to the many people who helped on this phase of the preservation of the property and worked endless hours in the preparation for these Open House events.

For those who missed the August and September open houses, there is another one scheduled for Saturday, October 9th from 10am to 2pm. Hope you can make it!!

Reprint of History of St George & Other Local History Books 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.

We also have copies of "**The Voyage of Archangell**", the story of Weymouth's voyage here in 1605; "**The St George Peninsula**" by Tammy Willey; and "**Cemetery Inscriptions of St George, Maine**" by S Sullivan & R Welsch.

Membership Stats

We are pleased to report that we have added 12 new members in the last month and stand at 144 paid members helping to support our group and its activities. We also have over 200 people who are signed up on our website to receive emails and other notices.

PLUS, we have 820 people who follow us on Facebook! We hope you all enjoy what we 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/or application form to:

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

The Dead Alive

Excerpt from The Rockland Gazette, January 27, 1876

"A statement was telegraphed from Rockland to some of the daily papers a few days ago, to the effect that Capt Sylvanus Robinson, of St George, was drowned last Thursday, by the upsetting of his boat in that harbor and that the body had not been found. We are happy to say that the body has since been found, and that it gives such unmistakable signs of animation that the "funeral" has been indefinitely postponed. The story is in this wise:

Capt Robinson's vessel lay at anchor at St George, last Wednesday, within hailing distance of the shore, and he had gone on board of her with a small skiff, which he used for that purpose. During the evening the schooner Maria Theresa, Capt Kellar, of Rockland, came along, bound for Thomaston, and seeing Capt Robinson on board his craft, and it being foggy, Capt Kellar ran alongside of him and hailing him, asked him if he would pilot him up the river. Capt R assented and went on board the M. T. for that purpose, taking his skiff. Before doing so, however, he hailed the shore and shouted out to some one there, telling where he was going. His voice was heard, but what he said was not understood, and owing to the thick fog he was not seen.

Evening came and Capt Robinson did not come home to supper. His family and friends became anxious and began to search for him. Those who heard him shouting then bethought themselves that he was calling for help. The vessel was boarded. Capt R was not to be found; his skiff was missing, and the conviction became general that he was drowned. Search was diligently made for him that night, and the next day (Thursday), persons came to this city for grappling irons to drag the river. Thursday afternoon his neighbors were dragging for the body, and were still unsuccessful, when suddenly it was discovered. The innocent and unsuspecting cause of all this grief, anxiety, and bootless search came serenely paddling down the river and wanted to know what was the matter! The search for "the body" was suddenly suspended, and family and friends rejoiced for the dead, which was alive again, and for the lost which was found."



As we continue to sort through the many papers and pictures from the **Andrew Robnison House**, we find many interesting items. As you can see from what was placed on the back of the photo, this was probably taken around 1900.

“Gram Catherine” was the wife of Capt James Robnison. Catherine’s father-in-law, Andrew, transferred the property to her in exchange for care during the rest of his life.

This picture must have been taken about 1900. Gram Catherine Robnison, who is sitting on the steps, died in June 1907 at the age of 89. With her are Chester Robnison and his wife, Mary.

Thanks to all for your help and donations!

- Thanks to Sonja Schmanska for the donation of some McGuffey’s “Eclectic” books
- Thanks to Frances Quinn for six volumes of The Great Migration genealogy books
- Thanks to Candace Vancko for the ledgers from the Central Labor Union Hall at Clark Island, plus other papers and pictures related to Clark Island
- Thanks to Bill Barnes for the donation of his book on “Benjamin Barnes and his Descendants”
- Thanks to Mary Kinney Blenk for the donation of some books used in St George schools
- Thanks to Jim Skoglund for all the items he continues to bring in, including pictures of students in Harlan Bragdon’s class of 1964-1965, school photos from the 1930s from FLS Morse, and things too numerous to mention!
- Thanks to those who have helped man the Old Library Museum during the summer months, and those to have volunteered to help with this for next year.
- Thanks to Bill Colby for donating a book by Albert S Bickmore that was published in 1869 and titled “Travels in the East Indian Archipelago”.
- And thanks to everyone else who have helped us preserve the history of this town!

Thanks!!!

St George Historical Society

2021 Ballot for Officers

Due to the continuing pandemic issues, the Historical Society is unable to conduct its annual election in person. We are following what we did last year and we are conducting the election by a written ballot to society members.

Please print and fill out the ballot and return (postmarked no later than 10/31) to:

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

Place an X or check mark in the box next to the name who you wish to serve in the position for the coming year.

PRESIDENT

John M Falla

Write-in candidate

VICE - PRESIDENT

James G Skoglund

Write-in candidate

SECRETARY

Tammy Willey

Write-in candidate

TREASURER

John M Falla

Write-in candidate

Some notes on what's to come...

- The trustees have plans to continue the monthly programs – through Zoom – starting in January after taking off November and December for the holidays. If you have any items of local history that you'd like to have us cover, please let us know. We can do a Power Point presentation or have a panel discussion.
- The trustees also talked about having the Old Library Museum [OLM] open during the winter months, maybe one Saturday a month. If there is interest, please let us know. We also can open the OLM by appointment. In October we have some sisters from Arizona visiting to look at some letters and papers left by family members.
- We're hoping we'll be able to be open more next summer. We will be changing our displays on a regular basis, and hopefully have some new things to watch or listen to. There are quite a few audio and video tapes that we are in the process of copying.
- There have been discussions on publishing some items of interest – Postcards of St George, Schoolhouses of St George, Lighthouses and Life Saving Stations of St George, etc

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 _____