

St George Historical Society Newsletter

P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, ME 04860

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Summer 2020

Newsletter Timing

Due to several unexpected events, waiting for the latest updates, plans, etc., it has been necessary to combine the July, August and September newsletters into one summer issue. With the October issue we should be back on track with monthly newsletters. Thanks for your understanding.

Change in Plans

With regrets we have cancelled the rest of the monthly programs scheduled for September and October. State requirements for gatherings makes it almost impossible to put on an event safely and for all those who wish to attend. As we saw with a recent wedding reception in Maine, this virus can spread rather quickly among a variety of contacts.

The group working on an Open House at the Andrew Robinson House have cancelled their plans for an open house in September. They are doing a fantastic job fixing up the place and getting it ready for an Open House, but to be safe, plans had to be changed. We are looking forward to a grand open house when the timing is right!

The Old Library Museum on Main Street in Tenants Harbor will remain closed until further notice. Even though we never had a grand opening, our soft opening last November was well received and the 2-days a week we were open during the winter always attracted a few visitors. Even though we are closed to the public, we still are receiving items donated to the Historical Society for preservation and display. More on those donations in next month's newsletter.

Old Movies Filmed Locally

Most people are aware of some movies that were filmed in the area, like Forrest Gump and his brief visit to Marshall Point Lighthouse in the 1990s. But did you know that there were some movies from the 1940s and 1950s filmed in this area?



Deep Waters was released in 1948 and was filmed mostly in the Knox County area. There were lots of scenes of Vinalhaven, with several of Rockland and even some in St George. The film is about a Maine lobster fisherman and his fiancée, a welfare worker for the State. Click [here](#) to see the full movie. Did you see the funeral at the Ridge Church?



Almost everyone has heard about **Peyton Place!** It was released in 1957 and the opening scene is at the railroad tracks on Rt 131 in So. Thomaston. Click [here](#) to see the full movie.

Great way to see what the area looked like in the 1940s and 1950s!!!

Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum Celebrates 30 Years



Below is a copy of the Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum report from the 1991 St George Town Report. Congratulations to the many volunteers over the years for a job well done in providing a beautiful and historic spot in our town for visitors and residents to see.

MARSHALL POINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

The Marshall Point Restoration Project was essentially completed last summer when the fireplace mantel was installed. It had been almost five years since the selectmen had approached the St. George Historical Society for assistance.

The restoration was more complete than was expected or even hoped for five years ago.

The following is a brief financial summary of the project (figures have been rounded:)

Expenditures		Receipts	
Cost of restoration.....	\$125,000	Town appropriation....	\$25,000
Museum display	7,000	Preservation grants.....	55,000
Store inventory.....	9,000	Contributions from four annual letter requests.....	60,000
		Open houses and ensuing contributions...	20,000

Additional museum and store display cabinets and shelving are planned for 1992.

Reserve accounts have been established for future "big item" maintenance and equipment replacement.

Apartment rental and store sales should provide for regular maintenance and operation of the facility.

Over 7000 people, from at least 41 states and 19 foreign countries, visited the museum last summer between May and October. Many more than that come to Marshall Point to enjoy the grounds and scenery.

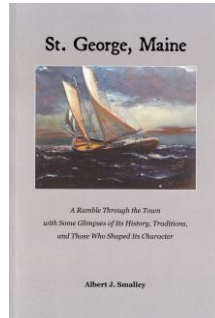
A unique part of St. George history has been preserved for public enjoyment and its future appears financially secure.

Rockland Newspapers On-line

The Digital Maine Repository, a service of the Maine State Library, has scanned images of Rockland newspapers: Lime Rock Gazette (1846-1850); Rockland Gazette (1851-1882); and The Courier-Gazette (1882-1950). The issues from 1941 to 1950 have recently been added to the collection.

The collection can be viewed at the link <https://digitalmaine.com/rockland/>. It is a great way to spend some quarantine time!

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 on Saturday, October 3rd from 10am to noon. Other times and places coming soon!

Membership Dues

Membership dues cover the calendar year from January 1st to December 31st and are \$10 / individual and \$15 / household. To renew for 2020, please send the appropriate amount to the address below – no need for a new application. An application form for a new member is at www.stgeorgehistory.com. Please send dues and application form to the **St George Historical Society at P O Box 14, Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860.**

Long Cove Quarry Supt Shirreffs Dies Unexpectedly in 1887

A native of Scotland, John Shirreffs came to Long Cove in its early days to represent Booth Brothers at their quarry operations in Long Cove. The last paragraph of the local news describes the shocking event:

TENANT'S HARBOR.

Sch. Wm. R. Drury, Capt. Sherburn Sweetland, sailed for St. John Saturday.

Capt. D. W. Giles of schooner Levi Hart is at home. His vessel is at Rockport loading ice.

C. Long has moved into the tenement over the store lately occupied by T. L. Williams.

Mrs. Mary Hart has been making extensive repairs on her house. The house is now occupied by Capt. W. F. Hart and family.

The fall term of our Primary school closed Friday. The school has been very successfully taught by Mrs. G. E. Allen of this place.

Capt. Levi Hart has purchased of A. W. Fuller his fine black colt Pilot. This is one the many promising horses in our village.

Tobias Smalley, blacksmith, who has been in business here the past year, has moved to Rockland where he will engage in business.

Our community was very much startled Wednesday morning by the report that John Sheriff, superintendent of Long Cove Granite Co., had been found dead in his bed. Upon further inquiry your correspondent ascertained that on Tuesday night Mr. Sheriff retired about 10 30 o'clock in his usual health. Mr. Sheriff not making his appearance in the morning as usual Mr. McConchie, with whom he boarded, went to his room and found him lying in bed lifeless. Dr. Woodside was immediately summoned and after a careful examination of the remains and surroundings returned a verdict that Mr. Sheriff died from the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants. Mr. Sheriff was a member of the firm of Booth Bros. of New York, and for a number of years has had charge of their granite works in this town. As a business man he was honest and intelligent and shrewd; as a superintendent he was large-hearted, compassionate and very much loved by all his workmen and those with whom he had dealings. The funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at his boarding place. A large number of friends and workmen assembled to pay their last tributes of respect. The remains were interred in our cemetery.

Courier-Gazette ~ 8 Nov 1887

Shirreffs died without a will and his only heirs – a mother and half-siblings - were across the Atlantic. Knox County probate records show his estate valued at about \$45,000 (*over \$1 million in today's dollars*).

50th Anniversary of Port Clyde Packing Company Fire

In September 1970 there was a massive fire that destroyed the sardine packing company in Port Clyde. It had a terrific impact on the village of Port Clyde, the town of St George and the economy of Knox County. Words can not describe what happened, so here are some photos of the event.



ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP!



WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP RE-ROOF THE ANDREW ROBINSON HOUSE AND THE OLD LIBRARY MUSEUM. WE HAVE SET ASIDE FIVE DAYS - OCTOBER 10 TO 14, 2020 - IN ORDER TO GET THIS DONE.

- DO YOU VALUE AND LOVE OUR HERITAGE AND UNIQUE HISTORY?
- DO YOU ENJOY HELPING OUR COMMUNITY?
- DO YOU HAVE TIES THAT EITHER STARTED YESTERDAY OR PERHAPS GO BACK CENTURIES?

WE HAVE SET THESE DATES TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS IN MAINTAINING SOME OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROPERTIES. THE HOUSE ONLY AT THE ANDREW ROBINSON HOMESTEAD WILL BE RE-ROOFED. THE OLD LIBRARY MUSEUM WILL BE STRIPPED AND RE-SHINGLED. *(IT MAY ONLY TAKE 3 DAYS BUT WE HAVE ADDED TIME FOR WEATHER DELAYS)*

ARE YOU READY AND WILLING TO HELP OUT AND JOIN IN? DON'T HAVE ROOFING SKILLS? THAT'S OKAY, WE NEED HELPERS TO PICK UP DEBRIS, LUGGERS TO MOVE SHINGLES TO NEEDED LOCATIONS, AND DRIVERS TO TAKE SHINGLES TO THE TRANSFER STATION. AND **YES!** DONATIONS TO HELP PAY FOR MATERIALS.

EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROJECT, WE CAN FIND SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

THIS WORK IS SORELY NEEDED TO MAINTAIN AND PROTECT OUR HERITAGE. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING IN AND HELPING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL DALE PIERSON AT 207-229-3178. DONATIONS MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND SENT TO:

**ST GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 14
TENANTS HARBOR, ME 04860**

EACH SITE WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO KEEP US SAFE AND MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID 19.

St George Historical Society, Inc.

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2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____ Phone (optional) _____

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

Areas of interest _____