

N E W S L E T T E R
of the
St. George Historical Society

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SUMMER 1993

The NEWSLETTER of the Historical Society is being reactivated and hopefully will be issued on a quarterly basis. It's success depends a lot on you, though. Articles and news items are needed, as well as feedback on what features you like best! Let's hear from you on what you want to see!

COLLECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Over the years, items of historical interest have been contributed to the Society for preservation and protection. A few years ago the St.George Selectmen adopted a policy to offer space in the Town Office vault for storage of these items. The vault offers protection from fire and moisture, and serves as a safe location for these items. Items stored in the Town Office vault include:

- Glass negatives of pictures of St.George homes, circa 1890s
- Page from Bradford family bible
- Will Sheerer's photo album & record of marriages performed
- Thomas Kelloch family bible
- Samuel Watts book of marriages
- Records of the South Parish Cemetery Association
- various school district records

The December 2nd meeting of the Society is scheduled to review it's holdings.

TOWN RECORDS

In the years immediately following the incorporation of St.George in 1803, the town had the births and deaths of early families recorded in a town record book. In subsequent years, some other families were recorded, but very few. The record of births and deaths in St.George prior to 1892 is very meager. Census records, family bibles and gravestones have to be relied upon to fill in the gaps. Marriages records, however, are very complete. Starting in 1892, the State required that towns keep records of births, marriages and deaths, and forward the information on to them. Below is a list of some town records that provide other information on the people that lived in the different neighborhoods of St.George:

- * ASSESSOR'S RECORDS - 1803 to present...Some early records will tell how many horses and cattle were owned, carriages owned, even if musical instruments were owned!
- * VESSEL TAX LISTS - mid-1800's...These records tell who was involved in the town's shipping and what shares they had in each ship.
- * MILITIA LISTS - late 1800's to early 1900's...Militia lists show those eligible for service, their age, occupation, and if they were rejected, for what reason [lame, blind, cripple, etc.].
- * TOWN CLERK'S RECORDS - 1803 to present...Besides recording the actions taken at town meetings, some of the records in the 1850s also include the recording of mortgage deeds for personal property. Town Clerk's records can reveal some other interesting things, too.

DISCOVERIES!

The recent sale of the Barter homestead in Tenants Harbor provided some interesting discoveries during the cleaning of the barn. Some photograph negatives were found and printed, showing the early days of the Ball Field across from Barter's Garage. Four different prints show, 1) when the Dodge Hall homestead was still standing, 2) just the house with a ball field in back of it, 3) then the house with a ball field and a back stop, and finally, 4) no house, with the ball field and the grandstand proudly erected! The photos also show how well the games were attended. Model T's everywhere! The barn was also found to be the home of an old gravestone, that of Earl Barter's grandfather, Vickery Barter, who died in 1849, at the age of 29 years. It is hoped that the gentleman's final resting place may be identified and properly marked.

A gift of papers were donated in July 1990 by the Smalley family of Medford, Massachusetts; Judith, Shawn and Michael. Most of the papers are receipts belonging to William W. Fogerty from the 1830s to 1850s. It appears that he was the proprietor of the Fogerty & Verrill store at Fogerty's Corner. The majority of the receipts pertain to Fogerty's dealings with the James Bliss Co. of Boston, where, it appears, he purchased most of the supplies for his store. A few letters from family members are also among the papers. A big THANKS to the Smalleys for this donation!!

Vivian Leppanen says that she was told that a building stood at Fogerty's Corner and that the owner lived away. Apparently the building was always being broken into, so at the end of one summer, the owner moved all his furniture, etc. up to Harold Watts farm and then burned the empty building. Guess that solved that problem!! Vivian said she didn't know if that building was the store or not? Can anyone tell us about the Fogerty & Verrill store?

Herb Shirrefs of Clark Island has forwarded to the Society a gift of books and papers from Neva Renegar Kircher, who has family ties to the Clark Island area. Items include old school books, hymnals, meeting minutes of the Glen Cove Granite Company, and capital stock of the Glen Cove Granite Company.

VETERANS - War of 1812

Found in the town records was a paper listing "Inhabitants of the town of St. George who enlisted in the United States Army in the War between the United States and Great Britain in 1812." It is believed to have been completed by Samuel Watts (1799-1885), long-time town clerk. Can anyone add to it? Any errors?

John Kelloch
David Kelloch
William Wiley
"Old" Stover
Caleb Stover
Christopher Stover
John Stopher
David Pierson
Joseph Dolph
Dennis Dolph
William Biskey
John Gilchrest
John Plummer
Daniel Stewart
James Hatch
Joseph Hall
Joseph Fogerty
John Fogerty

William Wilson
James Wiley
Paul Giles
John Rawley
Benjamin Marshall
Peter Teel
Mark Barter
Joseph Barter
John Jones
Hiram Barter
Job K. Bennett
William Hart
Avery Hart
Elisha Hall
Mayhew

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

The Society's monthly meeting and program is held the fourth Thursday of each month, and is usually held at the St. George Grange. The schedule for the remainder of the year, which is always subject to change, is as follows:

- June 24th - Neil Rolde will speak on the *Influence of Maritime Interests on the Politics of Maine.*
- July 29th - Jane Radcliffe will speak on *Wall Paintings/Frescos in Maine*
- August 26th - Slide presentation on *Wildflowers*
- September 30th - John Falla will speak on his *Adventure at Norlands*, a living history center in Livermore.
- October 28th - Bill Colby & Steve Sullivan will speak on *Settlement Patterns at Seal Harbor*
- December 2nd - A review of the *Historical Society's Holdings*

NEWS FROM MARSHALL POINT

The Marshall Point Restoration Project was essentially completed in the summer of 1991 with the installation of the fireplace mantel. The group received a special award from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in July 1991 as well as the donation of a picture from Ann Wyeth McCoy. The theme for the museum in 1991 was the quarry industry, with the fishing industry in 1992, and boatbuilding being the theme for 1993. The museum welcomes over 7000 visitors each year, coming from the United States and foreign countries.

The hours of the museum from June to September are daily, except Monday, from 1pm to 5pm. In May and October, the museum is opened weekends, 1pm to 5pm. The Lighthouse museum is always looking for loans of artifacts of interest to visitors and local residents. Stop by and see the interesting displays!

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The 200th anniversary of the formation of the Town of St. George occurs on February 7, 2003. Although it seems that the year 2000 is far away, it really isn't! The bicentennial date of February 7, 2003 is less than 10 years away. Is it too early to plan for a celebration? What will take place? What should be done to commemorate such an milestone? Any ideas? Should the Society begin to formulate a plan for the anniversary? Let's hear from you!

MEMBERSHIP LIST

This newsletter is being mailed to current members of the St. George Historical Society, as well as past and "prospective" members. At the end of your name on the mailing label an "8/93" will indicate current membership and that dues are paid until August 1993. Other dates will show the last date dues were paid up to. If you are not current, or wish to join, dues are \$3.00/year and are due in August of each year.

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