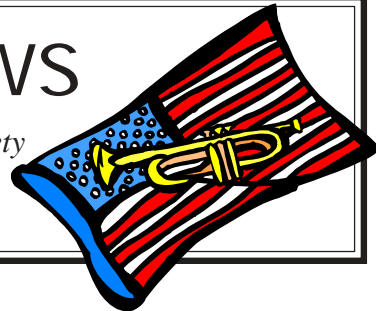


Mussel Ridge News

*A Free Publication of the Mussel Ridge Historical Society
Owls Head, Maine
Spring 2012 ~ Issue 14*



VIEW FROM THE TEACHER'S DESK

The Mussel Ridge Historical Society has been creating biographies of our one room school teachers from memories and anecdotes shared by their former pupils. Here's a sample from our file.

Mrs. Lura Whalen taught at the Timber Hill from early 1920s. Living at Ash Point, she traveled by horse drawn wagon or sleigh driven by her son, Edwin. Mrs. Whalen often prepared a hot lunch for the students who couldn't get home. It wasn't unusual for her to be reading from a book held in one hand while stirring soup with the other. And, she had a knack for turning ordinary events into learning experiences such as the recess calisthenics pictured on our February, 2008 calendar.

Although not a teacher in our school system, Jean Entwistle Young grew up in Owl's Head village, in the house next to the Post Office. As a young bride, she had been living on Matinicus Island in Penobscot Bay only a short while when asked to assume the duties of island school teacher. The offer came as the result of a recently hired person reneging just days before school opened for the season. With little time to prepare, psychologically as well as professionally, opening day found her behind the teacher's desk facing about two dozen sub-primary through eighth grade students. Fortunately, her experiences as the eldest sibling in a large family had sharpened her patience and creative skills. She confessed, "We took a lot of field trips that year."

Jean speaks fondly of her brief stint as a one room school teacher, noting that each student was a special individual with a genuine curiosity about their world. There was one element of the job that caught her off guard, though. Having lived in Owl's Head during her teen years and subsequently marrying a lobsterman, she was quite familiar with life in a fishing village. But, the maturity of her thirteen and fourteen year old island students took her by surprise. Most of these kids had been going to sea since they were tots and seemed just as responsible as any full grown adult. Some were captain of their own boat, hauling many traps each day.

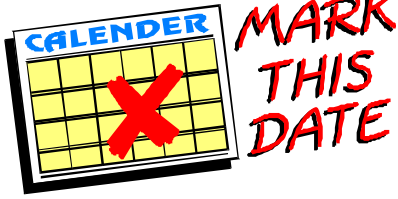


Of course, not all the teachers were kind and loving toward their charges. Our notes include stories of teachers showing favoritism toward one sex while tormenting and ridiculing the other. One teacher was accused of "...disliking boys of any age. She was a real taskmaster". The stories of corporal punishment administered in full view of the class seem barbaric to us today. It has even been suggested that more than one teacher may have been run out of town because of their attitude toward the students.

On the other hand, we also have a collection of anecdotes on those "little angels" who were subjected to such practices by their mentor. Stories of snakes in the teachers notebook, or things thrown into the wood stove in an attempt to fill the school with smoke, or nails removed from floor boards so the teacher would fall through into a puddle under the school should be seen as mere pranks. Certainly, these could not have been just cause for public embarrassment. A hundred years ago discipline in some schools had reached the point that men were assigned as head master for the winter months because much of the class was made up of older boys, (some as old as twenty), who were out of work.

OUR SUMMER & FALL CALENDAR

For information on any of these events call 596-6879 or 594-2438



2nd Wednesday of each month (7p.m.)- The Mussel Ridge Historical Society holds our monthly meeting at the Owl's Head Community Building on Ash Point. Dr. Any interested person will be warmly welcomed.

May 11 (5:30 p.m.)- Pot luck supper with alumni from the local one room schools. Students from any one room school and all interested people are invited. Dessert and beverage will be provided. A short program follows supper. Please bring a casserole or salad along with mementos, books, or photos for "Show & Tell"

Memorial weekend?- The Owl's Head Lighthouse will be open weekends for tours until about October.

June 12 (10a.m.- 3p.m.)- Bake sale at the primary election polls to raise funds for restoration of our one room schools. Anyone interested in donating baked goods can call either of the numbers above.

July 22 (noon - 3p.m.)- Old time picnic at the Homestead on Ash Point Dr. Old crafts revisited, live music, games, hand cranked ice cream and grilled hot dogs with all the fixings. Everyone is welcomed. Please bring family size salad, casserole, or dessert to share.

July, August & September (Wednesday, 1 to 3p.m.)- the Old Homestead, Ash Point Dr. will be open for public tours. M.R.H.S. members will be on hand to answer your questions.

August & September- historic photos & post cards on loan to Mussel Ridge Historical Society from the Penobscot Marine Museum will be on display at O.H. Community Building during regular business hours.

August & November- watch for the Mussel Ridge News to be published around the 10th of each month.

October ??- businesses such as Blue Yonder Gifts, Owl's Head General Store, and Breakwater Vineyards along with The Mussel Ridge Historical Society, and other groups will host "Open House" with tours, gifts, refreshments, samples(?) and good old fashioned neighborliness. Watch for the date!

November 17 (9a.m.- 2p.m.)- our fourth annual Fall Craft Fair will be held at the Owl's Head Transportation Museum. This is a new venue for our fair with all craft booths on one level. NO STAIRS TO CLIMB!!

HARD NEWS

Writing for the Mussel Ridge News can be fun when digging into the "good old days". But, it can also be quite sobering. We offer a few entries from the diary of Melissa (Arey) Emery of Owl's Head. Melissa was the wife of master mariner, John J. Emery and the sister of Captain Seth C. Arey.

May 7, 1883- hear that Seth arrived in Boston Sunday the 6th a little ahead of time as usual for him.

May 14, 1883- Seth and wife and Ernest & child George and Lowell [Seth's sons] called on their way to Rockland to take boat to Boston. Georgie quite sick.

May 17, 1883- Rec'd letter from Seth A. saying *Chapin* was ready for sea.

June 5, 1883- got home found letter from Seth Arey bringing the sad news that his boy, Lowell, was lost overboard and drowned when three days out from Boston. Hard news to hear, how much harder for them to bear. Wrote to him and to Seth Emery [her son].

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FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Lu Hufnagel

Her daughter-in-law, Jinx, writes, "My husband's parents were long time summer residents of Owls Head, beginning in 1938. Lu had been a home economics major in college in the early 30's, and she was a wonderful cook who made everything not only taste good but also look effortless to do. When she died, so many people wrote to us about cherished memories, and lots of those memories included specific favorite foods she used to prepare.—This recipe is one of those."



Potato Chip Cookies

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 lb. butter, softened | 1¼ c. sugar | 1½ c. crushed potato chips |
| 3½ c. flour | 2 tsp. vanilla | Confectioners sugar for dusting |

Preheat oven to 350°, Cream butter and sugar, Beat in vanilla, Blend in flour, Fold in chips. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake 10 - 14 minutes. After they are cooked and removed from the oven, dust lightly with confectioners sugar. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

Owl's Head Community Pot Luck Picnic

The Mussel Ridge Historical Society will host its annual Owl's Head Community Pot Luck Picnic on Sunday July 22nd, from Noon to 3pm at the Old Homestead at 453 Ash Point Drive in Owl's Head. Everyone is welcome and the event is free although donations will be gratefully accepted.

This year will again feature bean-hole beans made by Maynard Stanley. These beans are cooked the old fashioned way popular at picnics years ago, in a hole in the ground. Since it is a potluck, everyone attending is asked to bring a salad, casserole, side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. The MRHS will provide hot dogs, drinks and ice cream cranked at the picnic.



This is an old-fashioned community picnic with games for all ages, live music, craft demonstrations & great conversations with old and new friends. Hope to see you there.

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I would like to join or learn more about the Mussel Ridge Historical Society. Please contact me.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas

Restoring Homestead
 Writing
 Research
 Fundraising
 One Room Schoolhouses
 Preserving the Grange Hall

I have items that I would like to share or donate or stories to tell. Please contact me.

I have enclosed a tax deductible donation. (Please note if you would like it used for something specific)

The Hurd-Heard-Crockett Family of Ash Point, Maine

Ann Eliza Heard was born in Ash Point on May 25, 1841 and she married Sidney Morse Bird in Rockland (September 25, 1859) who was born on March 11, 1840. They are buried in the Achorn Cemetery in Rockland not far from their home on Old County Road.

In 1862 Sidney was admitted to partnership in the "John Bird Company" which was founded by his father. The firm based in Rockland, was engaged in wholesale and retail grocery business, also active in shipbuilding, eventually developing one of the largest fleets in the area.

In 1891 the company was incorporated with Sidney Bird as one of its Directors: he later served as President of the firm, also as President of the North Bank, Rockland, organized by his father, whom he succeeded in this position.

He was president of the Camden and Rockland Water Company having been one of its foremost promoters prior to its formation.

He also promoted the Rockland-Thomaston & Camden Street Railway, which served the three towns. Mr. Bird was a staunch and active republican, serving three terms in the Sate Legislature and one on the Governor's Council, under Governor Powers Administration.

While on the Council, he became interested in a project for the construction of a mental hospital, and later appointed sole authority to continue an investigation as the project's feasibility, which resulted in the construction of the Eastern Maine Hospital for the insane, near Bangor.



The Bird Block on Sea Street (Tillson Ave). Built in 1898, wholesaler in groceries and manufacturer of the "Three Crow Brand". Now the home of the US Coast Guard in Rockland.

William (1746- 1808) and Abigail (1754-1841) some of the first settlers of Ash Point. They had ten children. The above is a story of one of their ancestors, Ann. We will add another chapter to this family in coming issues.

Information taken from Charles Candage's book Descendants of Willam Heard and Abigail Crockett of Ash Point, Maine 1746- 1987.

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RALLYING 'ROUND THE FLAG

In recognition of Flag Day and Independence Day, we dug up two articles submitted to the former Courier Gazette in 1971, by our very own (late) Mary Dyer. Each piece is presented exactly as printed in the paper except for the indentation of the paragraph describing the 1912 flag raising. This we did to prevent any confusion between the original news item and Mary's commentary on it. (M.R.H.S. editor)

“OWLS HEAD— The following account as printed in the July 7, 1912 issue of the Courier Gazette.

“About 175 persons, including many from Rockland assembled July 4th at Owls Head village at a flag raising. Mark H. Wakefield of Biddeford who is preaching at Owls Head Church offered prayer and introduced Judge Campbell of Rockland who delivered the oration. J.G. Mattocks, a veteran of the Civil War, unfurled the flag, while Havener's Band rendered patriotic music.

Lemonade was served free and three rousing cheers were given for Old Glory, Judge Campbell and Miss Burdell Strout. Postmaster J.A. Brown was much missed.”



Miss Strout, who now lives in her home “Snofarm”, North Shore Drive, had raised money for the pole and flag through soliciting the townspeople. The pole, about 40 feet high, had been purchased in Lincolnville, it was believed and towed on a scow and unloaded at Jameson's wharf, which at that time extended far into the harbor. Havener's Band was composed of Francis Havener, of Rockland on clarinet, his brother, Harold,

now of Hackensack, N. J., trombone; Frank Young, now of Rockland, trumpet; and his brother, Earl, now living in Connecticut, baritone.” (July 13,1971)

“OWLS HEAD — In connection with the placing of the new flagpole which has been purchased by the town for the 50th anniversary celebration on July 17th, it is interesting to note a “liberty pole” was raised at Owl's Head 110 years ago.

According to Eaton's history of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston, Volume I, “On the breaking out of the rebellion troubles, the people of South Thomaston were not slow to manifest their adhesion to the Union and determination to do their part in supporting the government. On the afternoon of May 11,1861, a liberty pole, 76 feet in height was raised at Owl's Head by the citizens of that vicinity, from which a handsome flag was given to the breeze and saluted by a discharge of musketry.

“At a meeting called for the purpose in that year on June 3rd, the town voted that the selectmen assist the families for such volunteers for the war as have a settlement in the town on condition that they bestow one-half their bounty money and one-half their monthly wages for maintenance of the same.”” (July 24,1971)

HELP WANTED!! *The Mussel Ridge Historical Society is desperately seeking one or two volunteers to assist with our publicity. Specifically, we need a dedicated person and helper to assume responsibility for lettering & placement of three or four road signs announcing certain functions and the retrieval of the signs after the event. Also you'll be asked to post approximately ten to twelve 8½ x 11 posters, which we'll print, at specific stores and businesses in the local area. Although M.R.H.S. is able to supply the basic supplies, (tape poster board, plywood, paint, etc.) this is an unpaid volunteer position. F.M.I. Tel: 207-594-2438*



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Life at Lucia Beach 71 Years Ago



“Here are two pages from the “Log” book of Ashmore Lodge also known as the “Weeks” cottage. Summering in Maine was bathed in traditions. One of those was to keep a “guest” book of all whom visited during the summer. This cottage appears to be the center of quite a social summer community at Lucia Beach. The journal/log book tells of local eating places, movies at the theater, books read, games played, food enjoyed as well as the frequent visitors that graced the many summer homes at Lucia Beach.

What is amazing, is that generations of these original summer visitors either still come in the summer or reside here year round. These two pages are from the year 1941. Many folks remember J Owen and Merle Weeks, this was his parents home and originally that of Moses Heard (son of Abigail and William Heard). If you have stories passed on about life here from previous generations, we would love to hear them. Email us at history@musselridge.org.

Aug. 14.
Dinner at Trails End.
Movies at Waldoboro. (Missing 10 days)

Aug. 15.
Edith left early.
Merle, Owen, Ethel & Mabel went to Boothbay to summer theatre.
Saw Craig's Wife. Home in rain.

Aug. 16.
Went to Skowhegan with the Jacksons
Had picnic luncheon, then went to the Fair. Saw horse race. Grand Dinner at the "Wishing Well" in Waterville. Home in bad thunder shower. (Note. President Roosevelt came ashore at Rockland, from private yacht. Had been in conference with Winston Churchill. Took private train to Washington.)

Miss E. H. Brain Newton
Mr. Alman Isenton Fairbald M

July 31.
Miss Bird & Miss Chase over
Played Treasure Hunt.

Aug. 1.
Miss Anna Mary Van Riden Media Pa

Aug. 5
LEWIS SMITH arrived in Rockland 10:50
and somewhat disappointed because no
one was in hand to give him an official
welcome. Arrived to High Street (9:00)
- stopped at Ashmore at 11:15.

A simple line drawing of a man in a hat and coat standing in a wooded area. He is holding a bag or bundle. The drawing is done in a sketchy, hand-drawn style.