

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SPRING 2009



Interior of the Auditorum at Northport Wesleyan Grove Campmeeting.
Courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum, Eastern Illustrating Archives.

Officers and Directors: Harold Hede, President; Joe Reilly, Vice-President; Bill Cressey, Treasurer; Pam Williams and Beverly Crofoot, Secretary; Angela Cassidy, Beanie Einstein, Sue Fleming, Amos Kimball, Janae Novotny, George Scholhamer, Maureen Stalla, Jane Strauss, Heidi von Bergen.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to our enthusiastic directors, loyal members and many supporters, BHPS had another successful year promoting our historical heritage. We also had a lot of fun in the process.

Our Bayside history book, *If These Cottages Could Talk*, was published and was a rousing success with a sellout by summer's end. A second printing of 200 books was ordered. The book received a Maine Historic Preservation award.

Our annual meeting was held July 12. Prior to the meeting an architectural walking tour was held. The tour was organized by Beverly Crofoot and commentary was supplied by the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation, Earle Shettleworth. The cottages of Ellie Lagner, Sally Wilson, Judy Rohweder and Ethan Dubro were graciously opened for the large group who enjoyed the many fine architectural details.

Maureen Stalla organized a Dancing Under the Bayside Stars that was enjoyed by those who tried their dancing skills on the tango, foxtrot and rumba.

A slide show was presented by Kevin Johnson, Archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum. The slides were from glass plate negatives taken by The Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company located in Belfast Maine. The company started taking pictures of homes and towns for post cards in 1909. The slides presented were early views of Bayside and the Northport area. Many in attendance were able to identify the location of where the photo was taken even though the view has changed. I was happy to see the only early view of our Pioneer Cottage.

Another successful raffle was held for the privilege of having Dick Brockway make one of his beautiful scale models of any structure they wished. Lisa Webster was the lucky recipient.

A number of programs have been discussed for next summer including another slide show and another dance program. Watch for additional information.

There will be some openings for directors including the presidency on the BHPS Board for 2009 and anyone interested should contact one of the present directors.

This Newsletter is being sent to all NVC residents and property owners, in addition to BHPS members to let you know what we do and solicit your help. We invite you to become a member. A form for that purpose is on the back page of the Newsletter.

Harold Hede



Courtesy Penobscot Marine Museum.

Memories Needed

Baysiders will have a unique opportunity this summer to participate in a joint project with the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport. Kevin Johnson plans to create a ‘wikipedia-type’ website for the Eastern Illustrating collection of images. Prints of Bayside images will be on display this summer in the Community Hall. You are invited to help with the identification of these by putting down your memories on the data sheet posted with each photograph. As the project continues, more helpers will be needed to enter this information into the PMM’s database.

Dancing Under the Stars

It could have been August 1928, instead of August 2008. There were happy couples, of various ages, arms in proper ballroom style, foxtrotting and tango-ing, and rumba-ing all around the Community hall.

The *Dancing Under the Bayside Stars* program, sponsored by the Bayside Historical Preservation Society was a popular success. For three evenings in August at 7 pm, ten to fourteen couples enjoyed free ballroom classes given by bubbly Courtney Porter who teaches year round in Belfast and other midcoast towns. Several Baysiders strolled in to watch.

There were smiles on everyone’s faces, and Courtney herself was thrilled at the chance to teach in Bayside. “I’m so happy. I can’t thank you enough for inviting me to teach here. This is such a great space,” she said.

Of course, we in Bayside always knew that.

Maureen Stalla

On the Road from Camden to Hampden with Kevin Johnson

The night was clear and very cold for the drive to Searsport's Union Hall. (Built in 1863 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, this Italianate structure was designed by John Lane and George Harding and now houses the Searsport town offices.)

A group of forty seated in the large second floor meeting room followed the old Atlantic Highway as seen through the eyes of photographers of the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company. Eastern Illustrating was founded in 1909 by Rudolf Herman Cassens and was a prolific and successful publisher of post cards through the 1950s. Although Cassens never realized his dream of photographing small towns from Maine to California, his legacy of 40,000 glass plate and film negatives in the collection of Penobscot Marine Museum transports the viewer in time and place.

The glass plates themselves are 5 x 7 inches while the postcards contact-printed from them are cropped to a 3 x 5 size. Thus the photographic information on the negative is two times greater than what one sees on paper. Lots of surprising details appear. Each unexposed negative was numbered, allowing the photographer to log in the location/event information. These 'titles' were added by the crew, mostly women, of Eastern Illustrating in Belfast where they had been shipped by train from all over New England.

While Eastern captured the commercial prospects of the then new craze for collecting postcards – postcarditis - these images provide an architectural and historical survey of Maine and New England small town life. We compare the early 19th c. views of the streets of Camden, Lincolnville Center, Belfast, Frankfort and Winterport with our own mental images of those same present-day sights. The ports of these coastal and river towns provide a look at the shipping trade – a six-masted coal schooner at present-day Mack Point, the bustling port of Sandy Point and the Aroostook Federation of Farmers railhead and pier at Cape Jellison. The September 19, 1917 view of the departure of troops from the Belfast train station speaks of the politics of that time.

While the collection at the Penobscot Marine Museum is large, there are still glass plate negatives from Eastern Illustrating that are 'on the market'. In particular, one large collection of 7000 has been offered to the Museum for purchase. Kevin Johnson has undertaken the work of cataloging, archiving, scanning, and reproducing these slices of history. This is a major task. He welcomes every kind of help and effort – whether physically scanning or contributing knowledge to the database concerning these images.

David Crofoot



Courtesy Penobscot Marine Museum

THE BOOK ARRIVED IN APRIL

The project that engaged much of my time and energy for the past nine years was finally delivered in April. Measuring 9 x 10.5 inches, weighing less than two pounds and consisting of almost 400 pages and probably that many photos, *If These Cottages Could Talk, a history of Bayside in Northport, Maine* sold out by the end of August.

The directors of BHPS voted to print 200 more copies and more than half of those were sold by the first of the new year.

In July, we learned of an award for the book given by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. This presentation was made in October; the citation closes with “*If These Cottages Could Talk* provides a shining example of how residents can capture the meaning and memory of their community between the covers of a great book.”

One truly gratifying aspect of this project comes from my conversations with people who are purchasing the book! With the second printing, many people from Belfast told me of their experiences in Bayside. Nancy Treat Burnham at Mr. Paperback said she and her friends, including Trudy Marsano Eldridge, would come to swim and hang out at the dock. She said times were more innocent then – when Al Keith told them it was time to go home, they did. Just a few days later Mr. Barnard, up on the hill, told me about his memories of being a teen-ager in Bayside, dating Trudy or was it Nancy? Ruth Holmes gave a copy to her mother who used to live on Beech Hill and delivered milk to the campground. One day the wagon turned over at Saturday Cove – must have been a mess and lots of disappointed customers. Peter Freeman said “I’m so pleased with your book – I found a picture of my grandfather(p.365).” Stan Butler went to the Belfast Free Library reference room to read the book; his father worked on building the Cobe Mansion and he had previously given to David and me the original blueprints for our house.

But Don Webster takes the prize – ‘I enjoyed reading your book.’

Beverly Chatham Crofoot

July 6, 1882. Cottagers vie with each other in making their cottage and surroundings evidences of skill and taste, and men given to parsimony at home grow prodigal here.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A FAD

The Deacon cottage on North street was sold recently and the new owners have begun extensive renovations. During the fall, removal of the back porch revealed an example of wallpaper collage. A sample of this is now in the BHPS collection.

George Allen, who generously donated the striking examples of linoleum displayed in the Community Hall meeting room, also found wallpaper collage as he renovated his Broadway cottage.

However, the first example of this to come to our attention is illustrated on page 301 of *If These Cottages Could Talk*. Although the new owner has added to and changed the original Ayer cottage, she chose to retain this wall as papered!

TWO NORTH STREET *Another Talking Cottage.*

This fall Megan Pinette of the Belfast Historical Society inquired about a cottage on North Street that belonged to the Isaac E. Hill family. A relative from California planned to be in Belfast and wondered about the former Hill's cottage location in Bayside.

Megan's sleuthing at the Registry of Deeds yielded this barebones outline: -

“Deborah C. Hill to William Cammett – 1887;

William Cammett to Charles F. Lennan – 1905;

Charles F. Lennan to Frances W. Sterns – 1912;

Eva & Frances Sterns to George A. Deacon and Hazel Deacon – 1930;

George A. Deacon to Wadsworth S. Thomas

1937, recorded in 1945.”

Deborah C. Hill was the second wife of Isaac Emery Hill who died in 1880.

From the unedited transcriptions of news articles for the new history, it was possible to search the ‘Word’ documents for the above family names.

The following pertinent news items by the campground correspondent flesh out the history of the cottage at 2 North Street:

August 5, 1880. Mr. Hill took his mission school on an excursion to the Camp Ground, in steamer Planet, on Saturday. A large number of children went, and as the day was lovely, they enjoyed it hugely..

The November 29, 1880 obituary for Mr. Isaac Hills, whose descendant began this search, reads in part “He (Isaac) believed in the injunction of Christ when he said, ‘Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me.’ A few years ago Mr. Hills gathered this class of children and established what was known as Hill's Mission School.”

Our campground correspondent reported Mr. Hills' last visit to the campground on August 5, 1880.

August 21, 1890. W. B. Cammett, of Waldo, and Thos. Reynolds, of Knox, with their families, are at their cottage on North Avenue.

July 21, 1892. Mrs. Frank Lennan of Belmont, Mass. is having a neat cottage built at the foot of Merithew Square, which the family will soon occupy. Mr. Cole is doing the work.

The son of the Isaac Hill, who brought the Mission school children to the campground, founded a campmeeting in Washington state.



Collectable China Given to BHPS In Memory of Sandy Vlodek

Ken Vlodek presented to BHPS the collection of Bayside China that he and his wife Sandy had made. Ken is pictured with his grandson Colby at the reception given in August 2008 at the Community Hall.



George Street, looking north. Courtesy of Penobscot Marine Museum.

BHPS RECEIVES BEQUEST FROM SYBIL HEAD

Sybil (Kuhnle) Head began her life-long tenure at Bayside during the late 1920's, traveling as an infant from Massachusetts to her family's summer home at the foot of Bayview Park. Sybil's grandparents first arrived at Bayside during the late 1800's, her grandfather being a sea captain in the China trade. As a young widow, Sybil's grandmother, Loulie Crapon, returned to Bayside every summer without fail. Accompanied by Loulie was her daughter, Dolly, with Dolly's children, Brent and Sybil, in tow. Today, a few individuals from the old Bayside guard affectionately recall the tremendous hospitality and good nature of "Aunt Loulie" her wonderful coffee, and unsurpassed Lobster Newburg.

As an early expression of her independence, Sybil would often spend her time in another small family cottage located at the time to the northwest side of the Community Hall on George St. This cottage previously served as a penny candy store, selling popcorn and snacks to the crowds as they journeyed toward the Community Hall to attend a movie or other performance. During WWII, the cottage was moved to the head of Bayview Park near the corner of Bay St. and has since undergone multiple renovations.

After college, Sybil enlisted in the U.S. Navy where she served for many years as an officer. It was during her early Navy career that Sybil met her husband, John Head, a graduate of Annapolis. Sybil and John lived the majority of their lives in Virginia. Upon her retirement from the Navy, Sybil enjoyed success in the real estate business before her full retirement in the early 1990's. Her husband, John, passed away in 2005.

Sybil is fondly remembered for her charm and wit by her childhood friends who include Adelaide Lincoln, Bob Witherell, and Jo & Zelma Huntoon. She also enjoyed a close friendship with the late Robert Leonard, who also summered on Bayview Park in one of the cottages once owned by Sybil's family. Her brother, Brent Kuhnle, and his family continue visiting Bayside each year.

Sybil traveled to Bayside during most summers of her life, visiting her mother, Dolly, and step-father Dantan Sawyer (1910-1987). When Dolly and Dan became too infirm to travel, the cottage was regrettably sold in the early 1980's. However, Sybil returned to Bayside for several more summers as her schedule would allow. Her eternal affection for Bayside is demonstrated through her generous bequest to the Bayside Historical Preservation Society.

Fred Lincoln

Waldo County Historical Societies Meet

On Saturday, January 31, 2009 your correspondent had the opportunity to attend the first gathering of representatives from all of the historical societies in Waldo County. Hosted by the Penobscot Marine Museum and moderated by George Squibb of the Belfast Historical Society, this meeting was developed by George as a “get acquainted” session to explore what (if any) opportunities exist to cooperate for mutual benefit. It was extremely well attended, with an estimated 45 people representing 17 Historical Societies (mostly by town) and the Belfast Library. A further 5 groups were unable to attend this particular meeting.

Beverly Crofoot ably represented BHPS in the roundtable description of the societies, describing the founding and recent activities of BHPS, Bayside’s listing on the National Historic Register and the recent book publication. Other representatives gave descriptions of their activities and it certainly runs the gamut: from hundreds of members down to handfuls, those with buildings and those without, and the various levels of community support. Bayside is very fortunate to have an enthusiastic membership, committed leadership, a museum building and reasonable funds, compared with many of the organizations.

Most of the discussion revolved around what kind of cooperation might be beneficial. A lot of possibilities were suggested, including a common website for promotion and education, an annual coordinated exhibition along the lines of the “Folk Trail” sponsored by the large Maine museums in 2008. An “open museum” program – on the same or different days in the summer, a brochure with the “Waldo County Museum Trail” for the Chamber of Commerce and other joint publicity possibilities were also mentioned. Some of the smaller, newer societies were looking for assistance with grant writing and collection organization, while others suggested developing a speaker’s roster for the area. It appears that there might be grant money available for collaborative efforts, which was a sure-fired appetite-whetter.

It was agreed that a smaller group would brainstorm some of these ideas in the next few months and convene a second meeting on the first Saturday in May. If you are interested in participating in this session, please contact Beverly Crofoot.

I was struck by the thought that most of the communities represented at the meeting have historic links to Bayside through the participation of their Methodist congregations in the Campmeetings. It might be fun at some future date to “host” a meeting and explore the ties between Bayside and surrounding Waldo County towns. We could also consider an exhibit focused on these links if Coordinated exhibits or open museum days actually materialize. Many possibilities for future work!!

Jane Strauss



BHPS collection.



Cottage on the move along George Street.

Notes from Shady Grove

At the museum, the grounds couldn't be lovelier. Lisa Webster continues to oversee the plantings and grounds. During the off season, Harold Hede, Ed and Pam Williams and Sue Ellen Fleming work to maintain the grounds and keep the cottage looking great. Rob Sherman and Dick Brockway continue to maintain the structure and yes, there's even some talk of repainting parts of the cottage!

After George Allen remodeled his cottage last year on Broadway, he donated some of the linoleum floor coverings to the museum. We were able to salvage some of the nicer pieces and they now cover the floor in the downstairs museum space. There are three beautiful examples of floor coverings hanging in the meeting room at Community Hall along with other displays of historical Bayside information and Dick Brockway's intricate models of the Northport Hotel, the Auditorium, the Eddington Society Cottage and the Community Hall. The meeting room serves as an auxiliary display space for some of the BHPS artifacts. We also have an office with secure storage adjacent to the meeting room.

This summer Peter Simpson will add lighting to the upstairs portion of the museum so that we can continue with its restoration into a period bedroom area. We will also be purchasing some track lighting for the downstairs display area. Those of you who have visited on Sundays know how dark it can be in there even on a sunny day.

BHPS will sponsor a raffle this summer of a beautiful painting of our own Bayside Library by Lincolnville Beach Artist Jim O' Reilly. Proceeds will go to the museum and the library funds. Thanks to Tim Samway for making this happen. Please come by on Sundays from 3 to 5 to visit the museum and talk with neighbors. Contact me with your ideas and thoughts and if you want to donate items for the collection. jjvreilly@aol.com cell 617-875-9149 **Joe Reilly**



Courtesy of Joyce Keats

Gift in Memory of Carl Mattesen, shown here at Hillcrest.

Carl Mattesen was a long time summer resident of Bayside who hailed from Stafford Springs, Connecticut where he spent his life working in the family Dodge dealership in that town. As a youth Carl was an attendee at other Methodist Camp Meeting grounds in New England. He celebrated his birthday at the “Big E” fairground (New England’s Great State Fair) in Massachusetts. His uncle Arthur purchased Hillcrest cottage on Broadway in the 1962 and Carl inherited it in 1979. He was a history buff who specialized in the history of both Stafford Springs and Bayside – he was a member of both historical societies. In Bayside, he was particularly fond of Merithew Square and the old pump where a plaque-bench has been placed nearby in his name.

Carl was a Navy man and as a gunner for the Merchant Marine ships during WWII he traveled around the world. In particular, he participated in the famous early WWII engagement in the Baltic Sea. He was a lifelong honored member of the Mariners’ Association that is comprised of WWII Merchant Mariners. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, fishing in Lubec, and hunting in Canada.

Carl Mattesen’s friends have donated a copy of the book, “If These Cottages Could Talk,” to be kept in the Shady Grove camp, and are now donating the balance of the funds in his name to the Historical Society to use as they see fit.

Judy Rohweder

Preliminary Treasurer's Report for 2008

I am pleased to present to the members a preliminary treasurer's report for calendar year 2008. As usual, at this juncture, I present only summary information and this is subject to change when I conduct a more thorough analysis of the year's activities.

The two most important financial events this year have been the publication of *If These Cottages Could Talk*, edited by Beverly Crofoot, and a \$10,000.00 bequest from Sybil Head.

While the book has yet to break even (as of December 31, 2008), the amount of BHPS financial outlay for the project as of that date, stood at about one-half of what the Society agreed would be a reasonable subsidy for this worthy project. We have printed a second batch of softbound books and more books have been sold since the end of the calendar year. By next summer we should be able to provide a more complete project report combining the results of both print runs.

We look forward to your continued support and to a lively discussion of the best uses of the generous support provided by Sybil head's estate.

Submitted February 8, 2009

William Cressey, Treasurer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – July 11, BHPS Annual Meeting

1. Income and Expenses

INCOME

2008 Dues and Donations	3,210.00
Book sales	13,175.24
Book Sponsorships	12,615.00
Book Wholesale	1,156.00
Donations	10,240.00
Interest Inc	21.22
Raffle Income	426
Photo Sales	35
Postcards Calendars	119
sales tax income	656.76
Shipping & Handling	221.75
Walking Tour Booklets-sales	60.5
TOTAL INCOME	41,936.47

EXPENSES

Book Publishing Expense	37,947.82
Event Sponsorship	210.45
Insurance	500
Marketing	172
Me Corp Filing Fee	35
Misc	39.45
Mission	170
Newsletter	499.86
Postage	132
Shipping Expense	156.59
Utilities	347.79
Sales tax Liability Accrued	656.76
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,867.72

NET

1,068.75

2. Working Capital

ASSETS

<i>Bank Accounts</i>	
Camden Natl Cking	5,879.59
Camden Natl Sav	15,826.58
Camfen Natl C D	0
<i>TOTAL Bank Accounts</i>	<i>21,706.17</i>
Petty Cash	164.80
Total Assets	21,870.97

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Sales tax Liability	656.76
Cottage Restoration Fund	2,027.17
General Fund	19,187.04
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	21,870.97

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – July 11, BHPS Annual Meeting
Slideshow – IMAGES OF BAYSIDE – THEN AND NOW

SHADY GROVE Cottage and Museum
Open Sundays during July and August
Pleasant Street

IDENTIFY BAYSIDE IMAGES
Eastern Illustrating Photos from the early 1900s
Community Hall Meeting Room
May through September
During NVC office hours

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Membership Application/Payment of Annual Dues
2009-2010

Name: _____

Winter Address: _____

Telephone _____

Summer Address: _____

Summer Telephone: _____

Dues and donations – All dues and donations are tax deductible.

First member of Household	\$10.	_____
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Other household members	\$ 5. Each	_____
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Children under 18	Free	_____
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Donation		_____
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TOTAL		_____
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Please make check payable to BHPS and mail with this form to
Bayside Historical Preservation Society, PO Box 304, Belfast, Maine 04915.

Please indicate any area of interest you have or ideas for the directors and officer to consider. How would you like to participate in BHPS?