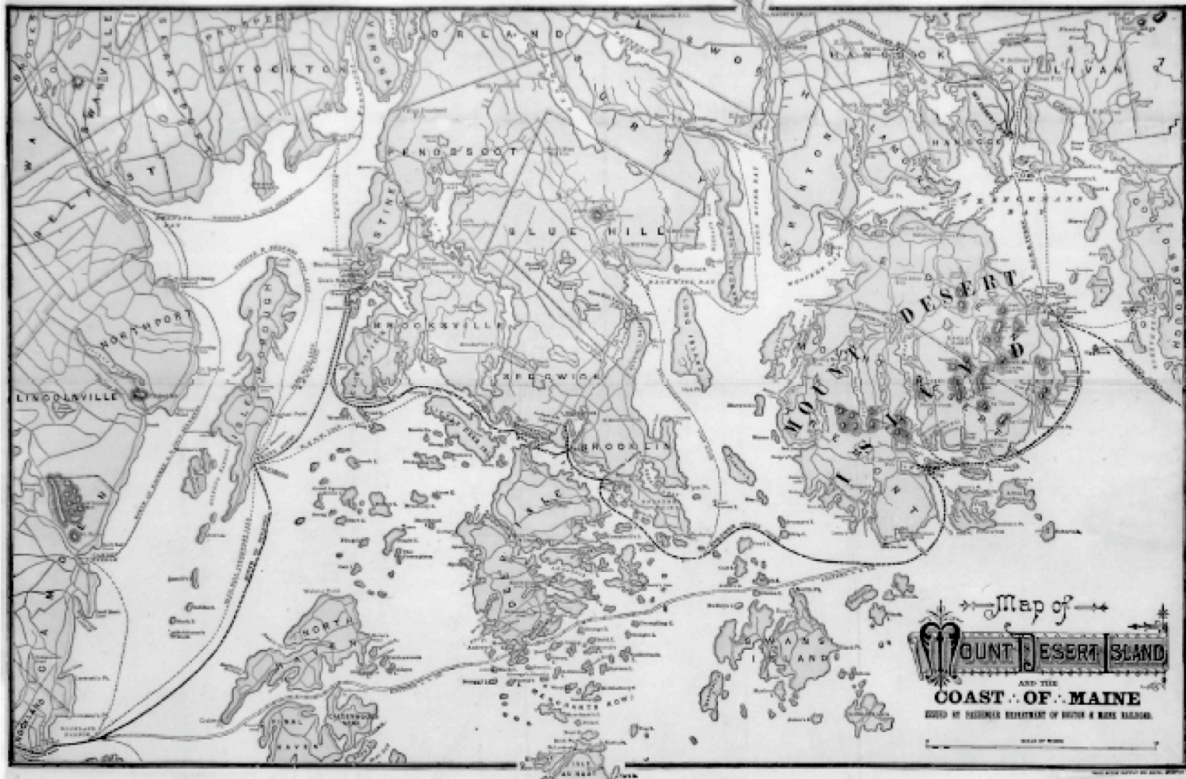


BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

SPRING 2012



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Reilly

Our society had a very busy summer! Our exhibits expanded from our little museum named “Shady Grove” on Pleasant St. to the meeting room in the Community Hall– thanks to the overseers and the curatorial creativity of Beverly Crofoot. We had a very successful Cottage Tour organized by Angela Cassidy that included 7 cottages and a wonderful display of model Bayside cottages and a diorama and cottage interior created by Dick Brockway- be sure to read Rob Sherman’s article about this display in our newsletter. The BHPS also helped the Yacht Club sponsor the annual Lincolnville Town Band concert held in front of the old hotel. We again sponsored the “Dancing Under the Stars” dance lessons held weekly at the Community Hall, taught by Courtney Porter and organized by Maureen O’Keefe. Former BHPS President Rob Sherman “streamlined” our bylaws. His suggestions were approved at our membership meeting held in July. Thanks to Rob for improving our efficiency!

Our capable board members worked very hard with Angela to organize

and finalize the cottages chosen and the protocol to be used for this year's Cottage Tour. The organizing committee consisted of Angela Cassidy, Joy Sherman and Sue Fleming. A special thank you to all of our neighbors who so graciously opened their houses for the tour. The houses were "staffed" by over 25 volunteers who answered questions and enthusiastically showed the varied and interesting interiors of the houses. We even had younger members of the community helping out-Maddie Smit worked on the brochure for the open house and high school student Olivia Tubio served as docent at the Cressey cottage. A final thank you was given to our generous neighbors and Angela, Joy and Sue at an afternoon party on David and Beverly Crofoot's porch. Many people commented on how wonderful the Cottage Tour was and wished they had more time to explore all of the cottages that were open. We've already started talking about the next tour event.

We're excited about a connection with the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport, repository of a huge collection of glassplate negatives from the old Eastern Illustration Co. - producers of images for post cards which was based in Belfast starting at the beginning of the 20th century. This collection shows how people lived and tourism developed all over Maine with the coming of the automobile. Many of the vintage photographs that are available were originally from the Eastern Archives. This summer, the museum is focusing on "Rusticating", that is the art of relaxing in a wonderful place. The museum staff reached out to us (I think because we as a community have excellent "Rusticating" skills!) but also because of our collection of photographs and historical information and artifacts related to the Wesleyan Grove Campground. This is from the letter that was sent to BHPS -

The Penobscot Marine Museum is planning an exhibit on Rusticators on Penobscot Bay for our 2012 season. Our hope is to partner with the Bayside Historical Preservation Society to do further research, perhaps borrow a few objects, but most importantly to direct our visitors to learn more about the history of Bayside. The exhibit will explore the history of tourism in the Penobscot Bay region stretching from the islands of Monhegan to Isle au Haut and the coastal communities from Rockport to Stonington during the time period stretching from the 1890s to the 1960s, with a nod to tourism today.

BHPS is looking for help in providing visuals and enriching the conversation about Bayside and Rusticating with the people from the Penobscot Marine Museum. Please contact Joe Reilly or Beverly Crofoot if you'd like to help on this exciting project. The recently published history of Bayside, "If These Cottages Could Talk," provides a focus for our work with PMM. Put aside August 8 for a talk and display by Earle Shettleworth Jr., Director of the

Maine Historic Preservation Commission and Maine State Historian. He will be speaking on the monuments built to honor the memory of the Maine Civil War Veterans. A display by the BHPS will include many original Civil War Artifacts. Our museum's Civil War exhibit from two years ago continues for another year on display at the Islesboro Historical Society Museum. The Islesboro Society will co-sponsor Mr. Shettleworth's talk. Mr Shettleworth is an accomplished and engaging speaker and has been out to Bayside on numerous occasions to talk and meet with our community. We look forward to this wonderful opportunity!

The Museum on Pleasant St. received a fresh coat of paint this fall. The painters were Ralph Stanley and his son Ryan. It was definitely time for some "sprucing up" and the guys did a great job. The Museum will be open on Sundays again this summer, thanks to those members who volunteer their time. Although our photo project has officially ended, please contact Joe Reilly if you'd still like to be photographed in front of your cottage. This project was started to preserve with digital photographs all those who lived in Bayside in the years 2010 and 2011. At some point, we'd like to have a display of all of the photos.

Thank you all for your continued support of our activities!

Organizing the 2011 Bayside House Tour proved to be a lot of fun as well as a lot of work. As with all Bayside events there were lots of volunteers. Seven Bayside families opened their homes to others in the community – Gail and Jerry Savitz, John and Sue Fleming, Janae Novotny, Bill and Gina Cressey, Ralph Robinson, Joanne and Jim Coughlin, and Ellie and Dick Lagner with Sandy and Art Hall. Twenty-eight others contributed to the success of this 'inside view' of our special community. Thank you!

Dick Brockway
David and Beverly Crofoot
Beanie Einstein
Sue Fleming
Debbi Gnutti
Violet Goldblum
Andrea Hede
Wendy Huntoon
Martha Laitin
Dorrie Lloyd-Still
Judy Metcalf

Suzie Reardon
Joe Reilly
Maureen and Keith Robinson
Nancy Scholhamer
Joy and Rob Sherman
Ann-Louise and Maddie Smit
Laura and Olivia Tubio
Pam and Ed Williams
Janet White
Dan Webster
Patti Wright

Angela Cassidy



Eldridge House on the North Shore

Courtesy Penobscot Marine Museum

LB2007.1.108809

I am unsure when the house was built but I believe it was between 1880 & 1890. I believe the original owner was Mr. Beckett. Beckett then sold to a Mr. Thomas Shea. The cottage was called Ferndale and the large sign that was suspended from two maple trees at the end of the driveway is now in the storage space over the old garage. Whether Beckett or Shea named the cottage Ferndale is not known, but an old photo showing the sign might be from a time prior to T. Shea being the owner. I think Shea became the owner in the early teens after renting the cottage for a couple of summers.

Shea was a Shakespearean actor of some repute from Philadelphia, Pa. Shea would invite guests from the theatrical crowd to come for visits at Ferndale. Set designers and set artists would also come and during their stay would paint walls and ceilings with large lavish designs of their own desire. On a wall facing what was the front door was a life size Indian in full war bonnet and regalia. On the ceiling of what was the dining room was an ornate painting that was done on the floor of the church on Bayside road (which has been since converted to a private home). It was painted on canvas which was then stretched and fastened in place on the ceiling. That remained on the ceiling until the house was consumed by fire in 1996.

My mother, Christine Hanson Eldridge, of Belfast, told stories of coming to parties at the Shea cottage when she returned home from college during the summer. She was friendly with Mary Moore and her brother Albert Moore. Mary Moore Wiecha's father, Walter Moore (he was in the advertising business and made theater posters in New York) was a friend of Tom Shea. Moore ended up buying the cottage next door that belonged to Dr. Lombard. That cottage is still owned by the Wiecha family.

The Shea cottage had seventeen rooms including two large storage rooms on the third floor. These rooms had several trunks with Shakespearean costumes packed to the brim. These were put to good use for costume parties and were worn by the Eldridge children for dress up etc. A couple of those still exist and come out for special occasions.

My mother, Christine, purchased the cottage in August 1944 from the heirs of Thomas Shea. Family legend has it that my father brought mortgage paper work to the Waldo County General Hospital for my mother to sign on the day I was born.

My mother and father and their four children summered at the cottage every year. My father, William R. Eldridge, winterized the house in 1958 with a full foundation and well and everything else necessary to make the large cottage into a year round home. It was a wonderful place to grow up as I and my brother and sisters would attest.

Bill and Christine Eldridge spent the rest of their lives at this wonderful house. My father was an artist and made his living from his home studio painting portraits and landscapes as well as painting signs. My parents died in the fire of June 1996 that consumed their home. Most of my father's artwork was lost in the fire along with the wonderful painted ceilings and other ornate decorations of a time gone by.

My wife Trudy and I built a new home on the site in 1998 and have lived here ever since.

As a youngster I recall old Mr. (Walter) Moore swimming and looking up at our house and calling at the top of his voice "Hey, Tom, come in for a swim, the water's wonderful". Mr. Moore would claim that he could see the ghost of Tom Shea on those hot summer days. It's a special place, I see my parents every once in a while on the beach or in the back yard.

Christopher H. Eldridge

COTTAGE TOUR AND BIRDHOUSE MODELS

Robert R. Sherman

Visitors sometimes think of Bayside as Camelot. (Some say Brigadoon.) Without direction from the main road, they may wander toward the ocean shore to find a quaint village of cottages jammed together and people enjoying life with seemingly no care in the world. What is this place all about?

Over the years the Bayside Historical Preservation Society, and other civic and social groups in the village, have explained the community to insiders and outsiders by hosting tours of the cottages and imagining what life has been like for those who have lived there.

The most recent cottage tour was held on Sunday, July 31, 2011 as a fundraiser for BHPS activities. Eight cottages and the village Community Hall were opened to the public to view and talk with owners and helpers about life in the cottages and village. Some of the cottages are small, typical of early cottages that were built on tent sites; other cottages are quite large, especially the “Society” cottages that were built and used by people from a single community. One cottage on the tour was “Shady Grove,” the BHPS museum, which was moved from its original location on Griffin Street to its present site on Pleasant Street.

Visitors entered, and left, the tour at any cottage along the way, though the original plan was to “finish” the tour at the Community Hall, where a model display of cottages and other community buildings filled the downstairs meeting room. These models have been built and donated to their cottage owners by Dick Brockway, master craftsman and a community historian. The owners loaned them to BPHS for this display. Larger models in the room are of the early hotel, the auditorium where religious-services were held, the Community Hall itself, and, most recently, a diorama showing the architectural development of cottages—from “tent flaps to gingerbread.”

But the focus of this display for this cottage tour was on what have been called “birdhouse” models of cottages, though not all the models were “birdhouses.” The collection included several dollhouses, a “roombox,” and other replicas, as well as the houses that could be used by birds had not the access holes been blocked for the sake of preserving the model. More than twenty of these models were on display, though Dick has built nearly three dozen of them.

Visitors when they first saw this display might have thought that in addition to Camelot they had entered Lilliput, an island of tiny people and places made known in “Gulliver’s Travels.” They also could see the evolution of Dick’s craft ability, from earlier more generalized models to more recent models that are true and accurate in every detail of the cottage being represented.

That is no exaggeration. For example, Dick made a birdhouse model of

my own cottage on Broadway, but before presenting it to my wife and me, he realized that there is a pig weathervane on a lower roof of the cottage, which he had not included on the model. Back to his workroom he went and whittled a pig, painted it copper color, and attached it to the model. Otherwise, he must have been afraid, birds looking for my cottage might take up residence in some alien place.

The idea could work in the opposite direction as well. Sometimes Dick's model would cause owners to change the cottage to conform to the model. Such a tale is told about the Hilty cottage at 23 Broadway. At the time Dick constructed the model, the exterior of their cottage was being painted. The new paint color (gray) was a shade slightly different than the older paint. Running short on paint, the Hiltys had left unpainted the peak in the front of their cottage (which was obviously a part of a cottage expansion in the past), with the intention of finishing the job during the next summer. So for a period of time their cottage was a two-tone gray. Oblivious to all this, Dick caught the cottage in its transition stage and constructed the model with the same two-tone gray color pattern.

When the Hiltys received the model, they decided charitably not to point out the error but rather to maintain the two-tone gray paint scheme on the cottage. And so it is today. See for yourself.

A similar story, about Dick's models and cottage painting, involves Peg and Ed Lovejoy's cottage, on Park Row. Dick had made a model of the cottage in the color that it was painted at the time. But later the Lovejoys had their cottage repainted in another color. Not to be out of style, Peg brought out several artists' brushes and demanded that the painters also should repaint the model before their work was finished.

Dick recounted these and other stories and explanations of model building with visitors at the cottage tour. Whether one ended, or began, or entered the tour somewhere in the middle, the birdhouse model show was both a fine introduction and a summary of how Bayside may indeed be Camelot and Lilliput rolled into one. The models were returned to their owners after the cottage tour, but many of them can be seen at any time attached to the front of the cottages they portray. BHPS will continue to tell the Bayside story in 2012. Visit us at the museum, walk the streets and see the cottages, and talk with community members about this wonderful place.

WHOOOOO KNEW?

Once upon a spring, when Maine life were good
Two beautiful owls roamed a Bayside wood.
The male owl was grayish, the female white and brown
Together they hooted and danced above ground.
Gordon pointed them out in the boat cradle yard
Two owls belonging to the group known as “Barred”.
They soared among treetops behind Shady Grove
And perched on high branches, safe from their foes.
Camouflaged on tree limbs they watched with round eyes
As people, like me, became new Barred Owl spies.
I stared and I listened to learn what I could
Of the pair of Barred Owls who now lived in our wood.
In the day and at night I could frequently hear
The calls the owls made that were loud and were clear.
I witnessed their fondness one day just by chance
When I saw the two snuggle up close on a branch.
I saw them at play and I saw them at rest
And at last found the tree where the owls made a nest.
One day I heard peeping and lots of loud squeaks
So quietly I ventured to hide and go seek.
I followed the sounds to some leaves on the ground
And hidden beneath them here’s what I found:
A white ball of feathers with eyes staring at me..
A fat, baby owl at the base of their tree.
I listened and looked at the scared little owl
And wondered aloud “What’s best to do now?”
Above me the mother plunged straight toward to my head
Protecting her offspring, filling me with dread.
As the fate of the owlet became local news
Villagers voiced varied “what-to-do” views.
Then Richard called some folks from the rescuing crew
At the Aviary Center in Freedom that he knew.
Who came and collected the owlet in trouble
And moved it safely to their place on the double.
We learned soon after that the owlet with blue eyes
Had a badly broken wing but a good chance to survive
For in the bird center two Barred Owls could be found
Who would nurture the owlet found hurt on the ground.
I’m happy there are places like Bayside in this land
Where neighbors can be counted on to lend a helping hand.
And WHOOO knows, in the future, maybe we’ll see
Where in our woods 2 Barred Owls lived, maybe there’ll be 3!

By Paula Reilly June 14, 2011



Photo by Paula Reilly

This spring the Drinkwater Elementary Students will have a closer look at their school environment through the support of a Fast Track Grant from the Maine Community Foundation. The Drinkwater School received over \$3000 in support of its innovative Outdoor Learning Centers.

The grant, called "Teacher, Teacher, Look What I See" was written by Phyllis FrkuskaHeeren, Literacy Teacher and Terri Kuzell, Special Education Teacher. They have obtained materials for students to use in the outdoors while exploring their environment. With the support of community members and Drinkwater Staff, the students will learn to use binoculars to identify local birds, water viewing buckets to explore the tidal pools, and microscopes to explore the woods floor and micro-organisms. Centers are set in the garden, in the woods, along the ocean mud flats, tidal pools and along the water stream. These centers are made possible with help from the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition and community members.

If you would like to help, contact Drinkwater Elementary School, 338-3430.

BHPS Officers: Joe Reilly, President; Beverly Crofoot, Vice-President; Heidi von Bergen, Treasurer; Pam Williams, Secretary; *Directors:* Angela Cassidy, Beanie Einstein, Debbie Gnutti, Harold Hede, Harry Rosenblum, and Jane Strauss.

The \$1,539.93 Cottage Fund was depleted to pay for the final bill of \$2,225.00 to prepare the surfaces and paint the museum at the end of summer 2011. Overall, we had more expenses in 2011 but they were offset by our additional income and we ended the year with a slightly larger General Fund. In reviewing the numbers, I noted where we had an additional modest income from the savings account that I had missed since the bank doesn't send any more reports when the account is "inactive". We haven't needed to transfer money from the Savings to the Checking account because we've been able to live on our yearly dues, donations and fundraising activities.

We are very thankful to the generous support of our members. Our Savings account reflects the one time Sunshine Donation made by Doris Buffett, and the bequest from the Sibyl Head Estate.

INCOME

2011 Donations	\$1,890.00
2011 Dues	945.00
Book Sales	661.83
Book Wholesale	282.00
House Tour	1,075.00
Interest Inc	39.83
Misc Income (cards,walking tour, etc)	26.93
Poster Income	58.16
Sales Tax Income	35.01

TOTAL INCOME \$5013.76

EXPENSES

Events (Band Concert assist)	200.00
House Tour Expenses	335.95
Insurance	350.00
Me Corp Filing Fee	35.00
Misc Expenses (painting museum)	848.12
Mission (Dance lessons, museum acquisition)	1834.48
Newsletter	430.74
Rent P.O. Box	140.00
Sales Tax Paid	33.81
Utilities	323.59

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,531.69

NET \$482.07

General Fund Balance 1/1/11 \$23,998.90

Working Capital

ASSETS 12/31/11

Bank Accounts	
Camden National Checking	\$8,440.23
Camden National Savings	\$15,954.46
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$24,394.69
Petty Cash	\$86.28
Total Assets	\$24,480.97

General Fund Balance 12/31/11 \$24,480.97



Bayside Historical Preservation Society
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