

# MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 194, Main Street, Milbridge, ME 04658  
Milbridgehistoricalsociety.org 207 546-4471

Volume 16, #2  
Fall 2012

*"IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND TODAY, YOU HAVE TO SEARCH YESTERDAY" Pearl Buck*

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## A WINDOW MEANT TO BE LOOKED AT, NOT THROUGH

In the summer of 1985 Thomas Stama discovered the window underneath a set of entrance stairs for an Edwardian building at 919 Fulton Street in San Francisco, California. It had a thick layer of dirt on it and he was stunned at its beauty when he wiped off a section. The window was found with the central panel smashed out, with just a few shards of milk glass clinging to the lead work. The glass appeared to have something painted on it but not enough remained for determining what the original image was.

The widow of the previous owner knew nothing about the window or how it got there. Together he and the widow speculated that her husband must have scavenged it from the 1950's demolition of one of the large Victorian mansions located nearby. The window was repaired by Halle Fassett, a restoration professional, and his father-in-law, John Foster, a stained glass expert, gave Mr. Stama information about the origins of the window. The glass was made in Austria, shipped over unassembled and assembled in San Francisco. Mr. Foster thought the piece was distinctly from the 1870's or 1880's.

Mr. Stama brought the window with him when he moved from San Francisco and donated it to the Milbridge Historical Society in memory of Al "Suds" Sudsbury. The window graces the western wall of the multipurpose room, above the patio doors.

## YARD SALE ITEMS

Please remember the Society when cleaning out your attics or basements or have to dispose of an estate. We will gladly pick up any donations to the Yard Sale, excepting electronics, appliances, shoes and clothing, during any season and store them in our barn until our scheduled fund raiser in July. This event is a major source of income for the Museum and we have the space to store your donated items. You may contact Vice President Gary Willey at 546-2040 to arrange a pick-up.



### FROM THE CURATOR'S CORNER

Our summer season went well, but much too quickly. Our monthly programs, the Tall Ships film and the Indian display were appreciated by many. Our visitors numbered over 400, coming from 26 states and 6 countries.

We are still working to help promote the role of history in creating community awareness and identity with our historic building signs project. We now have fifteen signs up on homes/buildings in Milbridge.

With our summer programs the Society seems to be seen as an engaged and interesting organization. Many new faces appear each month which is truly thrilling for those of us who work to try to make history, and all its aspects, important in our lives. We are, however, still striving to make our history more participatory, active and alive.

Again Donnie Bayrd lent us Indian artifacts from his extensive collection. The display focused on Maine's native tribes with a few pieces from the American southwest and South and Central America. The Penobscots lent us an exquisite basket about three feet tall which was a wonderful addition to the stone tools, arrow points and other objects of daily Indian life.

This winter will be spent deciding on a new summer display and, with Ellen Strout, planning the 2013 programs. Thank you very much to all the wonderful volunteers who gave us their time and energy this year. We hope to welcome more new people in the spring.

Lee-Lee Schlegel, Curator

### THINGS WORTH KNOWING

*(From the Thursday Club Cook Book of 1904)*

Pies are improved by brushing over the top crust with cream before baking.

Wash over the undercrust of a pie with the white of an egg, not beaten, to prevent its being soggy.

Anything boiling hot can be poured into glass jars if placed on a wet cloth.

Milk absorbs impurities readily and should always be kept covered.

Salt toughens meat if added before it is done.

Measure flour after sifting.

Wet a narrow strip of cloth and bind it around an apple pie before baking and the juice will not escape.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



It's hard to believe that 2012 is almost over. It seems like it was only yesterday that I was writing the Treasurer's Report input for the Spring Historical Society newsletter. In that report, I noted the apparent negative impact of the national and global economic slowdown on our dues, donations and fundraising income. I'm pleased to report that we seem to have turned the corner and our income is rebounding.

Last year at this time we had received only \$790 in dues compared to this year when we've received \$1,070 so far. And at this time in 2011 we had received only \$595 in donations compared to the \$1,053 we've received so far this year. Our Gift Shop sales this year of almost \$2,000 are also on track with our 2011 sales. In our other fund raising activities, we're doing well. So far this year we've received \$1,079 from the sale of calendar ads and birthday notices for our 2013 Historical Society calendar. We also received \$1,119 from our annual Yard Sale this past summer. Finally, and sadly, we received \$635 in donations in memory of Ruth Stanley, one of the founders of the Historical Society.

On the expense side of the ledger, we've had some interesting developments. We found that we had a significant mold problem in the garage/storage building. We realized that this problem exceeded our own ability to deal with it, so we hired a superb local contractor who was able to completely rid the building of the mold, but also painted all the exterior trim of the garage/storage building and the museum building. The total cost of this painting and mold elimination was \$2,137, but it was certainly worth that expense. On a very positive note, we're seeing a significant savings on our fuel oil costs compared to last year. Last year we spent \$200 to convert our hot water heating system to an on-demand system. It appears that this investment is paying off very nicely as our fuel oil costs are down almost \$500 from last year.

As of the end of September, our total income for 2012 was \$7,654.95 while our total expenses were \$8,050.14. This shows that we're still \$395.19 behind the break-even point for the year. That said, our income is improving and, while we had an exceptional expense with the mold/painting, our overall expenses are actually decreasing. These certainly are encouraging signs that our finances are under control. But remember, without your continuing support, this positive condition can't continue. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization your donations/contributions to the Milbridge Historical Society are still tax-deductible.

John Schlegel, Treasurer

## IN MEMORIAM

William Kelley  
Constance Strout  
Ruth Stanley

June 23, 2012  
July 15, 2012  
August 12, 2012

## MHS 2012 PROGRAM RECAP

June 12: Allan Lockyer, "Downeast Country Stores as Economic and Social Institutions"

July 10: Tim Harrison, "Lighthouses and Their Role in American History"

Aug. 14: Rod Harrington, "Downeast Humor"

Sept. 11: Todd Little-Siebold, "The Search for Downeast Heirloom Apples"

Oct. 9: Bob Marshall, "The Art of Bird Carving"

The programs this 2012 season have been very informative and well-attended. Thanks to all the speakers who made them successful. Also, thanks to Bayside for advertising our programs on the outside bulletin board and to Joanne Halpin and Phil Duggan for writing the articles for the Downeast Coastal Press. Please let us know if you have any ideas for the 2013 season.

Lee-Lee Schlegel

Ellen Strout

Program Committee

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## CONSIDER THIS

### *An excerpt from Maine Place Names*

"By 1789, in the period following the Revolutionary War, seventy-one towns had been incorporated in the District of Maine. Only eight of these had been established in the Province of Maine in the seventeenth century. With the remarkable increase of municipal corporations, measures were at once taken to divide Lincoln County for public convenience. The General Court, therefore, by an act of June 25, 1789, established two new counties: Washington and Hancock; names borrowed from two of the most eminent and popular men in the Union. The eastern boundary of Washington County was drawn 'by the river St. Croix', and thence north, so as to include all the lands within the Commonwealth eastward of Hancock. Opposite islands were annexed and the northern boundary was 'the utmost northern limits of the State'. Thus the General Court of Massachusetts complimented the "Father of our Country" by naming its easternmost county in the District of Maine in his honor. On his farewell tour in 1789, Washington sailed across from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Kittery, the only instance recorded of a visit by him to our present state." This report does not mention whether or not Washington slept there.

## GIFT SHOP

The Society gift shop has a new supply of t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps to keep you warm during the cold winter months. The museum is closed for the season, however, call me, Ellen Strout, at 546-2652 and I will be glad to open the shop and help you choose that perfect Christmas gift.

### OFFICERS

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President           | Brenda Duggan    |
| Vice President      | Gary Willey      |
| Secretary           | Sally Leighton   |
| Treasurer           | John Schlegel    |
| Assistant Treasurer | Ellen Strout     |
| Curator             | Lee-Lee Schlegel |

### BOARD MEMBERS

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Brenda Duggan  | Lee-Lee Schlegel |
| Marilyn Dow    | Ellen Strout     |
| Laurie Hall    | Ramona West      |
| Sally Leighton | Gary Willey      |
| Nolan Rossi    | John Schlegel    |
| Merle Fickett  | Bob Stanley      |
| Linden Perry   |                  |

### MAINE LINGO from a collection by John Gould

Croze – The groove on a barrel stave which fits the head. Shook (ready cut material) for casks was shipped knock-down, with “staves croze, hoops shaved and headings ready”. A person who won’t conform may be said to be having a mite of croze trouble.

Pitchpole – A term to describe how a boat tumbles stern and bow in a breaking sea, and now heard ashore for a somersault. A youngster turning head over heels downhill is said to be “going pitchpole down.

Owlin’ Round – Night roving, but not always the kind with dalliance in mind; a gentleman who can’t sleep and gets up to make a glass of warm milk is owlin’ ‘round too.

Mull – The word most often used in Maine for thick o’fog; a fog mull. It suspends all harborfront activity and must be waited out. A simple fog will sometimes scale off, but a fog mull needs a change in weather.

Noonin’ – Taking the noon time dinner break. Anybody who pauses to tackle his dinner before high twelve is said to be “takin’ an early noonin’.”

One Lunger – The first gasoline engines offered for marine and farm use had one cylinder or lung. The term persists for any contrivance whose efficiency might be better.

### MEMBERSHIP

We are now accepting dues for 2013. The board, officers, staff and membership body thank you for supporting MHS and for making possible a look at the history of our town.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address\_\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Thank you for allowing us to email your newsletter.

Annual dues are \$10/year. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for 2012 2013 2014 Extra donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I choose Lifetime Membership and am enclosing \$100.

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Please forward dues, along with the above form, or a facsimile, to Laurie Hall at P. O. Box 194, Milbridge, Me 04658. If there are questions, you may call Laurie at 546-2055, leave a message at 546-4471 or email [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org). Thank you for your continued support.

## A LIGHTHOUSE STORY

From a compilation by Anne C. Nash, July 2004

“What follows is a transcript of the actual radio conversation between a U.S. naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland.

**Canadians:** Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

**Americans:** Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

**Canadians:** Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

**Americans:** This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

**Canadians:** No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

**Americans:** THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN. THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

**Canadians:** This is a lighthouse. Your call.”

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