

# Milbridge Historical Society

PO Box 194, Milbridge, ME 04658

[milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://milbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Volume 11, #2

Fall 2007

## Appraisals Were Hot in Milbridge

The weather forecast on July 25 was for bright sunshine and temperatures around 90 degrees, but things really got hot around 11 a.m. when Thomaston Place Auction Galleries' Mobile Appraisal Coach rolled into the Milbridge Historical Society museum parking lot. John Bottero, appraiser (pictured), had his work cut out for him as scores of local and not-so-local folks awaited his critique of their antique or collectible items. Some took the opportunity to explore the museum or cool off with a beverage and slice of watermelon, but many braved the intense sun and kept watch as the assembled furniture, tools, glassware, jewelry, toys, and countless other pieces were described and assessed by the expert. By the time the last appraisal was written near 7 p.m. and the coach pulled back onto Route 1, the Historical Society had raised almost \$2000 and some folks were already looking ahead to a return visit from the Appraisal Coach.



Why not read your next newsletter on the Society's web site? We'll let you know via email the minute it's available—no more waiting for the USPS. If you want to eliminate some paper from your life and help the museum pare down its expenses, let us know at [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org) and we'll switch you over to the electronic newsletter.

***Save a tree! Save the Society some money!***

## Meet the Curator: Introducing Judy Sprague

"I am a Milbridge native," said Judy. "I returned to my home town in 2006 after a 44-year absence. My late husband, Ronald Sprague, was a career soldier which provided us the opportunity to travel and live in many delightful places. I am the proud mother of 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. It is wonderful to be home again among family and friends. An additional benefit of living here is the beauty of four seasons. I especially enjoy the winter."

With the help of other board members, Judy started transitioning the artifacts from the workroom in the museum to the new storage building and cataloging the items; it is still a work in progress. Also, they have cleaned, organized, and painted the workroom in the museum. Judy and Ellen Strout, along with representatives from other Washington County historical societies, attended a meeting hosted by Candace Kanes, Curator of Maine Memory Network. The Maine Memory Network is a statewide digital museum that provides unprecedented access to over 12,000 historical items from over 180 museums, historical societies, libraries, and other organizations, and Judy is excited about pursuing this resource.

Judy says, "Thank you to everyone who helped make the storage building possible. I look forward to serving the Milbridge Historical Society as their Curator."

Milbridge Historical Society

## Sprucing Up

After 10 years the museum building was showing its age. Enter our tireless Building and Grounds crew! Thanks to their efforts, our kitchen will have a new refrigerator, the meeting room carpet will soon be history, and smoke detectors and emergency lights are being checked. Did I mention all this is in addition to the finishing work on the storage building, including placing storage racks on the second floor (and helping move artifacts from the main building), and much cleaning and painting. These are the same folks who make sure the oil is delivered, the lights work, the peeling paint is refreshed, the lawn mowed—just about everything the rest of us do to take care of our homes, they do to take care of the museum buildings. We thank you!

**New! Larger format! Color pictures!**  
**The Milbridge Historical Society proudly presents our 2008 calendar: Lobster Fishermen Families.**  
*(Order blank on next page.)*

## Tidbits and Teasers...

- Joyce Nash will be adding some new items to the “Old Days, Old Ways” exhibit this winter and enhancing the Main Street photo display.
- Next summer’s artists’ exhibits will have a new twist or two, according to Joanne Halpin.
- Alice Beal reports the summer yard sale a success, earning over \$1100. Well done and thanks to the many volunteers! Alice also displayed her genealogy expertise when Hollywood filmed her at the museum for the home makeover TV show. We’ll all be watching on January 6 to see how much of the interview and Milbridge in general made it into the final program.

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**Watch for news about an *extremely* interesting house tour in early 2008!**  
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## Sea Captain Lemuel Means

*Special thanks to Reg Means for forwarding this wonderful family history to us at [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org). We are delighted to be able to share it with our members.*

Lemuel Means went to sea when he was 12 years and became the master of the brig MARTHA WASHINGTON when he was only 19. He commanded a number of clipper ships owned by Vernon H. Brown & Co. of New York, which company was an affiliate of the Cunard Line of Britain. Among the ships he commanded were ALICE BALL, INDUSTRY, and JAMES CHESTERTON. His last ship was the ZOUAVE, which was 1203 tons and 182 feet in water-line length. He sailed to Europe, the Mediterranean and the Far East. He experienced an attack by pirates in the South China Sea and on another occasion a mutiny by some of his crew while sailing with valuable cargo from Hong Kong. His first son, Edgar Leland, (from his first marriage) was lost at sea near the Azores in 1864 at the age of 19. When Captain Means started a second family after marrying the widower Mary Jane Gay Wood, their second child was a boy and he was also named Edgar Leland Means, in memory of the lost offspring, and he and his sister, Jennie Estelle, accompanied their parents to sea even when very small children. (As a youth Lemuel, his siblings and parents lived in Jonesport, Maine. After he became a sea Captain, he lived at Millbridge, Maine, and after his retirement (about 1882 or 1883) he moved to Portland, Maine where he lived with his daughter Jenny (Mrs. George F. West) until his death.)

*The Editor found the following additional information on the Internet:*

In Milbridge, Capt. Means bought a large home on Main St., The Atlantic House, which he ran as an inn for many years, and in 1878 he established the Evergreen Cemetery in Milbridge for the benefit of the town and his family.

***New! Special Membership Offer:  
5 years for the price of 4, pay just \$20—save \$5***

We have the perfect gift for that hard-to-shop-for person—check out our books and maps below. How about a Lobster Fishermen Families Milbridge Historical Society 2008 Calendar? (In color!)

Qty.	Item	Cost	Tax	Shipping	Shipping	Total
	<i>Drops of Spray from Southern Seas</i>	\$20.00	1.00	N/A	\$4.00	
	<i>Cemeteries of Milbridge, Maine</i>	\$30.00	1.50	N/A	\$4.00	
	<i>Caskets Sold by Samuel Wallace, 1894-1906</i>	\$6.00	.30	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>History of Milbridge</i>	\$10.00	.50	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>Making it Downeast</i>	\$6.00	.30	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>Living and Working Downeast</i>	\$6.00	.30	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>Three Years in the Civil War</i>	\$5.00	.25	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>Ships of Milbridge, 1845-1984</i>	\$6.00	.30	N/A	\$2.25	
	<i>Washington County Atlas</i>	\$19.00	.95	\$4.00	\$3.00	
	<i>Hancock County Atlas</i>	\$19.00	.95	\$4.00	\$3.00	
	<i>1794-Milbridge Lathrop Survey</i>	\$8.00	.40	\$4.00	\$4.50	
	<i>Milbridge 1881</i>	\$6.00	.30	\$4.00	\$4.50	
	<i>Milbridge, Cherryfield, and Steuben-1881</i>	\$8.00	.40	\$4.00	\$4.50	
	<b>2008 Lobster Fishermen Families Calendar</b>	\$8.00	.40	N/A	\$2.00	
	<i>Most prior years available (specify year(s))</i>	\$2.50	.13		\$2.00	
					<b>Total:</b>	\$

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are \$5 for the calendar year, or take advantage of our special offer, 5 years for the price of 4 (\$20). To the right of your name and address on your mailing label you will see the year you are paid up to followed by the number of memberships you pay for.

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*This order form may also be printed from our web site at [milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://milbridgehistoricalsociety.org).*

**Please mail with your check to Milbridge Historical Society, P.O. Box 194, Milbridge, ME 04658  
Thank you for your continued support!**

**2008 Milbridge Historical Society  
Speaker Program Schedule**

**March 11:** Narraguagus High School Chorus  
John Cicci, Director  
*An annual tradition with homemade ice cream!*

**April 8:** LifeFlight of Maine

**May 13:** 2,274 Miles on the Appalachian Trail  
by Peter Dustin

**June 10:** My Trip to Russia by Edward Paquette

**July 8:** Lifeline by Terri Swanson

**August 12:** The Ray-Smith Family

**September 9:** Changes on Main Street

**October 14:** Ora Aselton

**November 11:** Petit Manan Wildlife

All programs except the March 11 concert are held at the museum at 7 p.m. Please check our web site for last minute program changes.

**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Milbridge Historical Society is to acquire, preserve, coordinate, and compile all records and material pertaining to the region's inhabitants and to provide facilities for the caretaking, preservation, and dissemination of such data to others.

Please help us fulfill the Society's mission. Could you...

- Volunteer this summer as a museum host?
- Donate items for our gift shop?
- Help prepare grant applications?
- Donate or loan family mementos?
- Provide refreshments at a program?
- Make a memorial donation?

Please email us at [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org) or call 546-3424 to be put in touch with the appropriate contact person.

***Thank you for your continued support!***

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