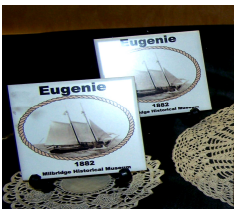


Open House at the Museum

In conjunction with Milbridge's Christmas On Main Street celebration, the Milbridge Historical Society Museum will be hosting an open house on Saturday, December 6, from 2-4 pm. Stop by for hot cocoa, cookies and visit with friends. While you're here, check out the latest museum displays and get going on your Christmas shopping with something for everyone at our gift shop. Gift shop director Laurie Hall has selected Maine-made and Maine-themed gifts such as wind chimes, hand-painted glassware, balsam pillows, and commemorative items of Milbridge-built ships depicting the vessel *Eugenia* (first in the series). We also hope to have a 2009 calendar available paying tribute to our local veterans.



If you aren't able to come to the open house, our complete list of gift shop items is on page 5 and we have pictures of many items at our web site. Send us your shopping list and we'll do the rest. Please call us 207-546-4471 or email info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.com with any questions, to obtain postage costs where not already indicated, or to check on availability and price of the 2009 calendar.

From the Diaries of E. Philip Sawyer of Milbridge, Maine

My father (Elmer) had the ability by just looking at a tree just where it would fit into the ship's hull.

I remember the one trip I took with the teamster with a pair of horses to go to "Catherines" Hill which is west of Cherryfield near Tunk Lake. We started out in the early morning with the front and rear sleds. It was a cold morning but not too bad. The trees were rolled onto the sleds as they were large and long to handle. Only two or three could be hauled at once. The logs were attached to the first sled which was on a rocker and the logs chained to the rear sled. The first part of the trip was easy as it was mostly downhill and necessary to put a chain under the sleds to keep them from running over the horses. After passing Tunk Pond there were a few hills and progress was slow. We stopped at my Grandfather Archers to eat our lunch and food and water the horses, which took about an hour. It began to snow and get colder as we started home. The wind blew hard and we had to walk to keep warm. When we got to Cherryfield the road was blocked and we had to take to the river, which was sometimes used in the winter when the ice was thick enough. We followed the river to the Milbridge/Cherryfield line. There had been some travel on this route so we were able to get to the shipyard in the late afternoon. This was my first and last trip to haul ship timber.

Revisiting the Milbridge Historical Society Endowment Fund

"As the final act of launching the Milbridge Historical Museum, in 1999 the board of directors established an endowment fund. The fund will act as a safety net for the Museum, to see it through lean years or special building needs, beyond the Society's regular operating budget. It is the Board's intention that the principal in this fund will remain intact, with only the interest being used for special needs over the years."

The Endowment Fund is as important today as when Terry Hussey wrote those words almost 10 years ago. Did you know that contributions can be made to the fund as an outright gift as a one-time or annual donation? In the form of cash, stock, real estate, etc.? Or MHS could be made the beneficiary of an insurance policy. A bequest would be given after your death, per instructions in your will. For more information or with questions about contributing to the Endowment Fund, please contact our treasurer, John Schlegel, at 207-546-3764. Donations to the Society are tax deductible.

Membership Renewal Information

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our members for their continued support of the museum. This past year the museum was visited by 327 people spreading across 26 different states and 4 different countries. It is through the generous support of our members that we are able to provide, free of charge, a look into the rich and wonderful history of our town to locals and visitors alike.

We continuously look for ways to reduce costs. One such effort is the reduction of our postal expenses. Beginning in 2009, notification of when it's time to renew your membership will only appear in our newsletter. You will not receive a separate bill. To find your renewal date, check the upper right-hand corner of your address label on the back of your newsletter. For example, a number of 2008-1 indicates that your dues are paid through the end of the year 2008 and you currently have one membership. The example would read 2008 - Life for a lifetime membership.

2008 - 1
Your Name _____
Street or Box # _____
City State Zip Code _____

As of January 1, 2009 membership dues will increase to \$10 per year per membership. Lifetime memberships will stay at a one-time fee of \$100. Please keep your membership current by paying your dues on time so that you may continue to receive the fall and spring newsletters.

To ensure proper updates, please forward your membership dues and any inquiries to the attention of Laurie Hall. You may contact Laurie at lauriejhall@hotmail.com or call her at 207-546-2055.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name _____

Summer Address _____

Other Address _____

Phone number(s) _____ Email Address _____

Please circle one: I DO/DO NOT wish to view future newsletters electronically only and save postage cost.

Dues: \$10 per year, lifetime membership still \$100.

Enclosed is \$_____ for 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 Life (\$100) Extra Donation \$_____

MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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.

Who is It?

1. **It's the volunteers** who help carry out the mission of the Milbridge Historical Society by giving their time. We wish to thank all the volunteers who served as hosts and hostesses this past season: Marilyn Dow, Alice Beal, Dale Schevenieus, Linden Perry, Laurie Hall, Mindy Beal, Anne Arnold, Bill Arnold, Fadelma Babcock, Jeanice Levesque, Paula Gillen, Joyce Nash, Ramona West, Ellen Strout, Judy Beals, Cathy Chipman, Marie Lundhal, Nancy Pinkham, Charlotte Stevens, Peter Sawyer, Judy Sprague, Gary Willey, Bobbi Mathews, Barbara J. Seymour, Vera Helen Robertson, Pat Treworgy, Minerva Strout, Ronie Strout; as well as those who made everything else run right and happen on schedule. To **sign up as a museum host/hostess** for next year or to help out with baking, yard work, museum display or elsewhere, please call Marilyn Dow at 207-546-2450 or Ellen Strout at 207-546-2652.
2. **It's the members** who help carry out the mission of the Milbridge Historical Society by **keeping their membership current**, paying ahead, or investing in a lifetime membership. The dues helps keep the museum going during these times of increased energy costs, still with no admission charge to visitors.
3. **It's the donors** who help carry out the mission of the Milbridge Historical Society by remembering a loved one with a **memorial donation**. Contact our treasurer, John Schlegel, at 207-546-3764 for more information. Don't forget, the Society is a private, nonprofit corporation, designated by the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to the Society are tax deductible.
4. **It's the community spirit** that helps carry out the mission of the Milbridge Historical Society by pitching in when asked. Right now we're asking you to let Alice Beal know about **birthdays or anniversaries** you'd like included on the 2009 calendar, still just \$2 each. Drop her a note at the museum with the person's name, date, and payment no later than November 8, 2008. And remember, we're always eager to have your still-good but no longer needed items for our **annual summer yard sale**. Call Gary Willey at 207-546-2040 or Ellen Strout at 207-546-2652 to arrange a time for pickup or delivery if you need to clear these items out before next summer.

Very simply, **WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!** Thank you so very much for your support.

Coming Up

- Ora Aselton, teacher and artist, is wrapping up our speaker program with a presentation on Tuesday, November 11, at 7 p.m.
- Maine Old Cemetery Association (Dedicated to the Preservation of Maine's Neglected Cemeteries) comes to the Milbridge Historical Society on August 1, 2009, with a day-long program to include exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, lunch/snacks, and tour of our local cemeteries. Mark your calendar and watch for the spring newsletter for more information and how to register.

An excerpt from the 1938 "Assignment Down East" by Henry Buxton:

An enthusiastic researcher into the history of early Maine shipbuilding is Everett Wallace of Millbridge whose great, great grandfather, Joseph Wallace, was one of the earliest builders of vessels on the Maine coast. Joseph, who was a coastal trader as well as a storekeeper and tavern proprietor, built a schooner at Millbridge as early as 1765. In 1775 he built the schooner *Friendship* for the West Indies trade, and in 1789 he laid down the keels of the brigs *Lucy* and *Molly*.

Mr. Wallace formerly did a profitable business buying up wrecks. In 1896 word came to him that a vessel loaded with coal had been wrecked on Petit Manan Island. Getting into his dory, Mr. Wallace rowed the ten miles to the island. He bought the wrecked vessel for \$145, and paid one dollar for the coal. This shrewd trader had it doped out that the wind would soon change to the southwest, and push the wreck up on the beach so that the coal could be salvaged. It was a good gamble. The wind switched to the southwest and with the incoming tide shoved the derelict on to the beach. Mr. Wallace sold the coal, for which he had paid a dollar, for fourteen hundred dollars.

Mr. Wallace recently acquired the ledgers of the old Millbridge shipbuilding concern of R. Fickett & Sons, which began business about 1867. He was much excited when in turning over the pages of one of the old books he found a record of the lurching of Fickett & Son's last vessel, the schooner *Eureka* in 1870. As a lad of six he was present among the spectators when this vessel slid from the ways sixty-eight years ago. The *Eureka* was lost with all hands off the coast of Cape Breton Island in August, 1873. Those lost were all Millbridge folks. They included Frederick Foster, the captain; Darius Morrison, mate, and his wife Margaret; John Pineo, John Morse, and Eugene Sawyer, seamen.

News of the wreck came to Millbridge to Mrs. Foster from D. Morrison, a resident of Black Rock Point, Cape Breton. The letter, which carries the date October 13, 1873, follows:

"The schooner *Eureka* was wrecked here on the eventful and disastrous night of August 24th, at what time of night is unknown, but probably past midnight. She was seen bottom up and aground about one-fourth of a mile from the cliff, and her stem and all her fore-rigging, bends, and bulwarks of one side, are thrown up on the beach, a total wreck.

"On the morning of the 25th a boat was found about four miles inside the entrance of Great Bras d'Or, and it is supposed to be the *Eureka's* boat. And now the lamentable part of the disaster. From the time the vessel was wrecked to the 16th of September, there were six bodies found, one floating in the water, and in the land wash, five men and one woman.

"The first found was supposed to be the captain. He had on a rubber coat and the rest of the men, oil skins, jackets, and pants. The woman was young in appearance and good looking. She was the second one found and was in her nightdress and a waterproof cloak. Articles of clothing supposed to belong to her were found on the beach, marked M. J. Morrison. There was nothing further discovered by which any of the others could be identified.

"Coffins were made and they were all decently buried side by side in the cemetery on Cary's Point, north side of the entrance of Great Bras d'Or. I infer that Captain Foster was your husband, and I sympathize most sincerely in your affliction. Let us with contrite hearts look to Him, who has promised to be the widows' stay and the orphans' father."

"I was a little boy when I saw the *Eureka* slide down the ways in the Fickett yard," said Mr. Wallace, "but I remember how pretty she looked as she struck the water with a spurt of spray. I also recall the great grief in Millbridge when the news of her loss came in."

MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

<u>Books & Booklets</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>S/H in U.S.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cemeteries of Milbridge	\$30.00	\$1.50	\$4.00	\$35.50
Drops of Spray	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$25.00
Masts & Masters	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$25.00
Imagining Maine	\$14.95	\$0.75	\$4.00	\$19.70
History of the Sardine Industry	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	\$25.00
History of Milbridge	\$10.00	\$0.50	\$2.25	\$12.75
Tree Years in the Civil War	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$8.55
Ships & Shipbuilding	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$8.55
Making it Downeast	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$8.55
Living & Working Downeast	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$8.55
Caskets Sold by Samuel Wallace	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$8.55
1881 Washington County Atlas	\$19.50	\$0.98	\$3.00	\$23.48
1881 Hancock County Atlas	\$19.50	\$0.98	\$3.00	\$23.48
<u>Note cards & Post cards</u>				
Milbridge Scenes - by Elaine Bigelow	\$3.00	\$0.15		
Blueberry Harvest	\$3.80	\$0.20		
Mill Scene	\$3.00	\$0.15		
Large postcard - 2 aerial shots of Milbridge	\$1.25	\$0.06		
Small postcard - Milbridge bridges	\$0.25	\$0.01	\$0.42	\$0.68
<u>Wall Maps</u>				
1794-Milbridge Lathrop Survey	\$8.00	\$0.40	\$4.50	\$12.90
1881-Milbridge, Cherryfield & Steuben	\$8.50	\$0.43	\$4.50	\$13.43
1881-Milbridge	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.50	\$10.80
<u>Family Tree Wall Charts</u>				
Our Family Tree	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.50	\$10.80
Maternal Chart	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.50	\$10.80
Paternal Chart	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.50	\$10.80
<u>Balsam Fir Pillows</u>				
2 x 2 Light House or Lobster	\$3.80	\$0.19		
5 x 5 Signal Flags, Sailboats, Lobsters, Lighthouse	\$8.30	\$0.42		
8 x 8 Tapestry - Compass Pt, Sailboat, Lighthouse	\$20.30	\$1.02		
9 x 10 Tapestry - Sea Gulls	\$25.30	\$1.27		
<u>Maine Wind Bell Chimes</u>				
Island Pasture	\$27.00	\$1.35		
Boothbay Harbor	\$30.00	\$1.50		
Beacon Lighthouse	\$31.00	\$1.55		
Prospect Lighthouse	\$32.00	\$1.60		
Cadillac Mountain	\$32.00	\$1.60		
<u>Misc. Items</u>				
Milbridge Aerial Shot - matted and framed	\$30.00	\$1.50		
Ship mug - with gift box	\$10.50	\$0.53		
Ship memory box - with gift box	\$25.00	\$1.25		
Ship ceramic trivet - with easel	\$12.00	\$0.60		

MAJOR ANCESTRY GROUPS REPORTED BY MILBRIDGE RESIDENTS:

English 41%

Irish 15%

French (Except Basque) 9%

Mexican 5%

Scottish 4%

German 3%

Swedish 3%

Italian 3%

Scotch-Irish 2%

Central American 1%

Honduran 1%

French Canadian 1%

Welsh 1%

Norwegian 1%

Dutch 1%

Canadian 1%

Per ePodunk.com

MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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