

# MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 194  
Milbridge, ME. 04658

Website: [Milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://Milbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Spring 2007

Vol. 11 #1

Compiled by: Laurie Hall

## Nash Island Light Display

By: Alice Beal



It was a win-win situation when the Friends of Nash Island Light asked Milbridge Historical Society to be the temporary repository for historical items relating to the light. We were happy that they saw we were fit to be the caretakers of these precious items. Joyce Nash and the Friends of Nash Island Light did a wonderful job of creating a new museum display that includes a replica of Nash Island and the light which Ray Carbone, of Steuben, sculptured.

The square, brick lighthouse tower, two miles off shore from South Addison, Maine, was built in 1873, replacing a round, wooden tower built in 1838. A lantern, iron deck and parapet were installed in 1874. The light on Nash Island was 4<sup>th</sup> Order Fresnel, fixed red, with its focal plane 57 feet above water level.

In addition to the light tower, the buildings at this site included a 31 foot x 18.5 foot dwelling house, a separate workroom, and a storage house, all connected to the tower by covered walkways. In 1878, a 12 ft. x 20 ft. boathouse was built, and in 1888 a pyramidal bell tower was erected and equipped with a 1000 pound bell. All the buildings except this light tower were demolished in 1958 when the light was automated. A lighted buoy ¼ mile to the west replaced it in 1982.

The Friends of Nash Island Light, a non-profit charitable corporation in Addison, took possession of the lighthouse in 1997 with the express purpose of restoring and maintaining it. Since then, hundreds of man hours and lots of money have gone into restoring and preserving the old building which is in constant need of attention. Jenny Cirone, the daughter of one of the last lighthouse keepers grew up on the island and raised sheep there until very recently. The Friends of the Light and Michel Chalulour have created a wonderful DVD of "Jenny's Island Life" and a poster, both of which are on sale at the Milbridge Historical Society Museum. All proceeds from their sale benefit the preservation and maintenance of the tower.

## Changes on Main Street in Milbridge Will Shock Many Returnees

By: Alice Beal

If you haven't been to Milbridge for a while, you will be astounded at all the changes. A few buildings no longer stand or the ones standing have been renovated or occupied by different businesses. When entering town from Steuben, the first shock you will see is the charred ruins of the old E. W. Wallace store, which went up in flames in May. You will then see the new paint job on the Cinnamon Stick, now owned and operated by Dorothy Clair. The next change is Sawyer Motors (Mobil station) on the right. The old building was removed to make room for a future On the Run station owned by R. H. Foster. Next, on the left, you will see the vast parking lot with the new Bayside Supermarket at the back of the lot. Beside the supermarket was the former Franklin and Elizabeth Beal home, owned by their grandson, which Union Trust Company purchased and tore down to expand their parking lot. NAPA auto parts moved from their original location at the Mobil station to the old Bayside Supermarket location at the corner of Cottage and Main Streets. The former Sawyer's Laundry Mat has been bought and renovated by Nolan Rossi and awaits yet another new occupant. Rumors have it, a new laundry mat will be moving in. The new restaurant, 44 Degrees North, owned by Nolan Rossi and managed by his daughter-in-law Jan Rossi, is now in its third year. Across the street from 44 Degrees North is the Milbridge Gulf which is a small convenience store, and gas station. There is also an eat in food counter or you may order take out. Just past the Gulf station is Tibbett's Seafood, in the old Millett's Market building, owned by Walter Tibbetts. Across from Bar Harbor Banking & Trust, in the former Sea Witch Gift Shop, is Chicamoose Café. Chicamoose Café sells deli style sandwiches, coffee, breakfast items, and gifts. Further out on Route 1A, towards Harrington, is The Ledges, a spacious hall, which can be rented for dances and other social events for people of all ages.

If you haven't planned a trip to Milbridge this summer, you need to do so to see all the progress going on in this little coastal town.

## Coming Attractions

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| July 25 <sup>th</sup>                   | Antique Appraisal Coach 11:00-3:00<br>1 <sup>st</sup> item \$10.00 or 3 for \$20.00<br>Location: Milbridge Historical Society |
| July 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> | Milbridge Days Celebrations   |
| August 11 <sup>th</sup>                 | Annual Yard Sale<br>Location: Milbridge Historical Society  |

# Milbridge Historical Society 2007 Season

All programs will start at 7:00 pm, at the museum, unless otherwise noted.

- July 10 Topic: Maine's Little Ice Age the Year with No Summer  
Speaker: Lee-Lee Schiegal
- August 14 Potluck Supper 6:00 pm at the Milbridge Vet's Club  
Annual Meeting 7:00 pm, following the supper.  
Topic: The Hag Fishing Industry in Milbridge.  
Speaker: Druscilla Ray
- September 11 Topic: A Visit from a Civil War Soldier.  
Speaker: Frank Cassidy, Machias
- October 9 Topic: Demonstration of Fused Glass.  
Speaker: Janis Lesbines
- November 13 Topic: Growing up in Wyman, Moving the School on Beal's Hill.  
Speaker: Avery Chipman
- December No Meeting

## Officers

President: Alice Beal  
Vice President: Dale Schevenieus  
Secretary: Ellen Strout  
Treasurer: Gary Willey  
Asst. Treasurer: Beverly Pinkham  
Curator: Judy Sprague  
Memberships: Laurie Hall  
Advertising: Paula Gillen  
Display Coordinator: Joyce Nash  
Rental Coordinators: Dale Schevenieus, Bill Arnold and Alice Beal  
Electrician: Alton Strout

## Board Members

Bill Arnold	Marilyn Dow
Donna Cirone	Peter Sawyer
Paula Gillen	Alton Strout
Ramona West	

## MUSEUM KEYS

This is just a little reminder to everyone who has a key to the museum. *Please* do not use the lock on the door knob when you leave the building. We are to use the dead bolt only.

## PAST MEMBERS

Our sincerest of sympathies goes out to the families of the members whom passed away last year. Their years of support to the Milbridge Museum, was greatly appreciated.

## **Books Available at Milbridge Historical Society**

*Drops of Spray from Southern Seas* by: Lucy Brown Reynolds. This book was written in 1896, by a girl who grew up in Milbridge and went to sea with her father, who was the ship's captain. There are fascinating details about living aboard ship, life in Milbridge during the 1870's, and the places she visited while sailing. Republication of this book in soft cover by Tom Gillen.

*Cemeteries of Milbridge, Maine* by: Diana Bartlett, Alice Beal and Beverly Pinkham. This is a 2003, hardcover, publication by Picton Press. It lists over 50 cemeteries in Milbridge, giving names and dates of people buried there. There are maps and lot numbers for the larger cemeteries.

*Caskets Sold by Samuel Wallace 1894-1906*

This booklet is a reproduction of the store ledger of Samuel Wallace, who sold caskets in the town of Milbridge. It includes many interesting details.

*History of Milbridge* by Terry Hussey.

First edition published in 1993, second edition published in 2001. It gives a good overall picture of the town's growth and development. Includes pictures, lists of town officers, and much more.

*Making it Downeast*

This booklet compiles talks given at the Milbridge Historical Society's Tuesday night program series over the past years. We have chosen talks that pertain specifically to the unique economy and culture of this area. Including are the lobster, clam, sardine, and sea cucumber industries, lighthouse keeping, salt marsh farming, the base line, and much more.

*Living and Working Downeast*

Volume II of talks given by our speakers. Topics consist of, life on the islands, shell fishing, mail delivery, and many more interesting tales about life in Downeast Maine "as it used to be".

*Three Years in the Civil War* by: George Coffin

George Coffin, from Harrington, was 17 years old when he went off to Virginia to serve in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Civil War. He was enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Heavy Artillery. This regiment lost more men, whom were either killed in action or died from wounds received in battle, than any other regiment in the Union Army. In 1925 he wrote about his experiences for his grandchildren. The society reproduced his journal, just as he wrote it.

*Ships of Milbridge 1845-1984* by: E. Philip Sawyer

Local historian and descendent from the town's greatest shipbuilding family, Phil Sawyer, collected information about the ships of Milbridge and compiled it into this booklet. With permission from his family, we have reproduced his book, just as he wrote it.

*Washington County Atlas*

*Hancock County Atlas*

## **Maps Available**

1794 – Milbridge Lathrop Survey (with settler's names)

Milbridge 1881

Milbridge, Cherryfield, and Steuben – 1881

(You will only need to purchase one shipping tube at \$4.00 if, 2-3 maps are ordered at one time).

## Gift Shop Order Form

Qty.	Books and Maps available	Cost	Tax	Shipping Tube	Shipping In U.S.	Total
	<i>Drops of Spray from Southern Seas</i>	\$20.00	1.00		\$4.00	
	<i>Cemeteries of Milbridge, Maine</i>	\$30.00	1.50		\$4.00	
	<i>Caskets Sold by Samuel Wallace, 1894-1906</i>	\$6.00	.30		\$2.25	
	<i>History of Milbridge</i>	\$10.00	.50		\$2.25	
	<i>Making it Downeast</i>	\$6.00	.30		\$2.25	
	<i>Living and Working Downeast</i>	\$6.00	.30		\$2.25	
	<i>Three Years in the Civil War</i>	\$5.00	.25		\$2.25	
	<i>Ships of Milbridge, 1845-1984</i>	\$6.00	.30		\$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	
	<i>Milbridge Historical Calendar-2007</i> Also available: 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.	\$6.00	.30			
					Total due:	\$

## CLEARANCE ITEMS

Qty.	Items available	Size	Cost	Tax	Shipping In U.S.	Total
	<b>Sweatshirts-</b>					
	Adult- S, M, L, XL		\$15.00	.75	\$2.00	
	Child- 4-6, 10-12, 14-16				\$2.00	
	<b>Long sleeve golf shirts</b>					
	Adult- M, L, XL				\$1.50	
	<b>Short sleeve golf shirts</b>					
	Adult- S, M, L, XL		\$8.00	.40	\$1.50	
	Child-		\$6.00	.30	\$1.50	
	<b>T-Shirts</b>					
	Adult- S, M, L, XL		\$6.00	.30	\$1.50	
	Child- 4-6, 10-12, 14-16		\$5.00	.25	\$1.50	
	<b>Hats</b>					
	Adult size- one size fits all		\$5.00	.25	\$1.00	
					<b>Total due:</b>	<b>\$</b>

If you have any questions on sizes, colors, or quantity please feel free to call president, Alice Beal at 207-546-7046 or email her at [abnna@verizon.net](mailto:abnna@verizon.net).

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yearly memberships run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to pay your dues please complete the form below and return to the address provided. We wish to thank the members who pay in advance. Your membership dues help pay for our heat, electricity, insurance, and all other expenses to operate the museum. Your promptness is greatly appreciated.

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Please mail with your check to Milbridge Historical Society, P.O. Box 194, Milbridge, ME. 04658

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ phone # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is (\$5 per year) \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_2006\_\_\_\_\_2007\_\_\_\_\_2008\_\_\_\_\_2009\_\_\_\_\_2010\_\_\_\_\_

Life (\$100)\_\_\_\_\_Donation

**Milbridge Historical Society  
PO Box 194  
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