

Extremely Successful Fundraiser

Almost 300 people turned out over a sunny weekend in January for a fundraising tour of the Extreme Makeover house. Visitors from as far away as Cutler, Hermon, Alton, Boothbay Harbor, and even Massachusetts made the trip to see first hand what the rest of the country saw fleetingly on national TV. Many photos were taken and lively discussions ensued about the daring décor of this fabulous home. The Historical Society and the Friends of the Milbridge Public Library as cosponsors of the event appreciate the Ray-Smith family offering their home for the fundraiser and are grateful to the many volunteers and visitors who made it such a success.



Who Were Those Lobster Fishermen (and 1958 Graduates)?

Curious about some of the families featured in our 2008 calendar? Our genealogy maven, Alice Beal, has kindly provided the following mini-biographies. *(We still have some calendars for sale. Use the order blank on page 5 or call Alice at 207-546-7046 to reserve your copy.)*

Starting with the cover:

Photo 1: Nick Kennedy, son of Paul Jr. and Grace Kennedy with Paul's Hall, Kennedy, and Strout ancestors having roots in Milbridge. **Joshua Beal**, son of Eric and Kim Beal. Josh is descendant of Ernest and Corris Beal of Wyman District. **Matt Beal** is son of Leland and Lynda Beal and descendant of Stanwoods and Beals in Wyman.

Photo 2: Linden Perry, graduate of Milbridge High School, local lobsterman, served in town offices, and businessman.

Photo 3: Eugene Huckins, local resident with ancestral background in Milbridge, worked on town roads for many years and served in town offices.

Photo 4: Percy Alley, graduated Milbridge High School, lived by the ballpark until he moved to Ellsworth. His mom taught school here.

Photo 5: Lawrence Brooks, formerly of Cherryfield, lived in Milbridge most of his married life and raised his family of 3 sons here.

Photo 6: Gilford Bagley, raised on Ray's Point and educated in Milbridge schools, lived in Harrington for many years before moving back to the Point to be near his elderly mother.

January: Christopher Fickett with son, **Colby**, a student at Narraguagus High School, and daughter, **Amanda**, a college student, ply the water for lobsters. Ficketts were one of our Milbridge founding families.

February: David Jellison married Elsie Beal. Their children were **Jack, Alton, and Ricky**, and grandchildren shown are **David Wayne, Bradley, Danielle and Hali Jellison**. Elsie was from Barney Beal family.

March: George Beal and sons **Robert** and **Kevin** have roots in Wyman area and are descendants of Ernest and Corris Beal who owned the grocery store in Wyman. George's wife, Etta Phinney, was a Wyman girl also.

(Continued on page 4)

Spring Cleaning?

If you're clearing out some items that need a new home, we'd love to help. We'll be happy to take your still good but no longer needed items for our annual summer yard sale. We have storage space and can even provide pickup service! PLEASE, NO COMPUTERS OR PRINTERS OR OTHER OBSOLETE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT! Our board president, Gary Willey, will gladly pick items up starting in May; give him a call after May 1 at 207-546-2040.

Tidbits and Teasers...

- Joyce Nash is looking for a victrola for the "Old Days, Old Ways" exhibit. If you have one the Society could borrow, please let Joyce know at 207-546-2261 or email her at nashmaine@aol.com.
- Judy Sprague, curator, says "organization will continue and I look forward to an exciting year with Milbridge Historical Society." Email Judy at curator@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org with questions about acquisitions.
- If you want to decrease the paper cluttering up your life by reading future newsletters on line, let us know at info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org. We'll let you know via email when the latest edition is available for viewing.
- For up-to-the-minute information about happenings at the Society, check out our web site, milbridgehistoricalsociety.org.

Treasurer's Report

As we begin 2008, we think it's important that members and friends of the Milbridge Historical Society be aware of the overall financial condition of the Society. You know that without your financial support the Society couldn't exist.

Last year, for 2007, we had a total income of \$13,906, and total expenditures of \$13,971 – we certainly make every effort to remain fiscally responsible and stay within our budget.

On the Income side, some of the major sources in 2007 included Dues, \$1,222; Donations, \$2,645; Sale of Merchandise, including calendars, \$4,243; Antique Appraisal, \$1,645; and the Yard Sale, \$1,183.

For Expenses in 2007, we had to pay \$2,742 for Heat/Utilities; \$1,119 for Office Supplies; \$2,259 for Buildings & Grounds; \$1,344 for Printing; and \$1,548 for Insurance.

These figures are not all-inclusive but represent just a few of the significant items of Income and Expenditures. In addition, the Society has been able to set aside several Certificates of Deposit amounting to about \$42,610.

It is our hope that we can remain in a balanced and responsible financial condition throughout 2008 and beyond. We're off to a great start for the new year with the Extreme Makeover house tour in January which brought in \$732.50 for the Society. With your financial support, we'll be able to continue to bring the benefits of the Society to the Milbridge area community.

By John Schlegel

The Sawyer Shipyard

In "Assignment Down East" copyright 1938, Henry Buxton shares stories from Mainers he has interviewed during his travels throughout the state. The following is excerpted from his chapter "Shipbuilders."

In Millbridge I found that Roger I. Sawyer, a young University of Maine graduate had re-opened the historic shipyard founded by his famous grandfather, J. W. Sawyer, nearly eighty years ago, and had already built and launched the first genuine pinky schooner to be constructed in Maine for a half century. This pinky, the *Glad Tidings*, was built for Howard I. Chapelle, noted marine architect, and author of "The History of American Sailing Ships."

In the heyday of the old square rigger days, Sawyer-built ships were as well known in Hong Kong, Sidney, Cape Town and Buenos Aires as they were in Boston, New York or San Francisco. They were sturdy Yankee craft, sound of hull, trim of line, and possessed rare qualities of seaworthiness. They were built of oak, spruce, and cedar cut from the forests near Millbridge, and the busy Sawyer yards provided plenty of steady employment for scores of Millbridge, Harrington and Columbia Falls ship's carpenters, smiths, caulkers and riggers...

The yard became decadent after the last schooner, the *Grand Turk*, was launched in 1916 by Alonzo Sawyer, son of the founder, J. W. Sawyer, and father of Roger Sawyer. Roger was a small boy then and had little realization of what it meant to abandon a business that had been steadily prosperous until the sharp decline in sail.

After his graduation from the University of Maine he went to work in the office of a steamship company in Seattle, Washington, but his heart was not in his work because of the shipbuilding urge that was in his blood. Constantly as he wrestled with the dull routine in the Seattle steamship office, his thoughts were of the past glory of the old Sawyer yard back in Millbridge, Maine. He told me that he could almost hear the music of hammers and mauls on fast maturing hulls, and detect the fragrance of freshly cut oak and cedar. He could not erase from his mind the thrills of the launching of stately schooner-rigged vessels when he was a small boy. After a survey of the boat building situation the country over, young Sawyer decided that the final chapter of shipbuilding in Maine had not been written. In fact so convinced was he that this was so, that he left Seattle, returned to Millbridge and began the rejuvenation of the old Sawyer yard.

I met the Sawyers, Alonzo the father, and Roger the son, in their Millbridge home. The son, a good looking young man with frank eyes and a resolute chin, has a flair for business that promises well for the future of the time-honored Sawyer yard. Something of the colorful background of the Sawyer yard was sketched for me by Alonzo Sawyer.

"My father Joseph Sawyer," he said, "founded the yard in about 1858 with his brother William R. Sawyer. The first vessel they built they called the *Free Trade* because they were great democrats. This vessel was a bark, and was burned during the Civil War.

"Father then built the bark *Ille* which was captured by cannibals while on a voyage to China. In order to cut down his running time, the skipper of the *Ille*, Captain Brown of Millbridge, decided to take the chance of cutting through some narrow and dangerous straits which were known to be infested by man-eating savages. The bark was in the midst of these straits when a hundred cannibals shot out from a small island in their war canoes and swarmed over the rail of the *Ille*. Overwhelmed by superior numbers Captain Brown and his crew were driven into their small boats and succeeded in getting away. They were picked up by a fishing vessel. The *Ille* was never heard from again. (Editor's note: The complete story of the *Ille* and Captain Brown's travels is contained in the autobiography of his daughter, Lucy Brown Reynolds, in "Drops of Spray from Southern Seas," which is carried by the Milbridge Historical Society; see order blank on page 5.)

"In 1890 father's sons, including Warren, Elmer and myself took over the business. Altogether we built thirty-five vessels up to 1916, when we discontinued business. Our last vessel was the *Grand Turk*, a three-masted schooner constructed for Roger & Webb of Boston, for the West Indies trade. This vessel was designed to carry a half million feet of lumber. When my father started building ships in 1858 there were three yards in Millbridge, the Sawyer yard, the Ezekiel Dyer yard, and the yard of Amos Dyer. Those were busy and prosperous days for Millbridge. The pinky schooner which we have just completed for Mr. Chapelle was a popular type of vessel on the Maine coast fifty and seventy-five years ago. Sharp-sterned vessels called "pinks" were not unknown on the New England coast even in the seventeenth century. It is said that the pinky, *John and Susan* of Salem, sailed to Spain with dry fish in 1678. Pinks were favored by Maine fishermen because of their extraordinary seaworthiness. In the terrific gale of 1851 off the Grand Banks, when a large part of the Gloucester fleet was sunk, two staunch Maine pinkies were among the few vessels that successfully rode out the storm."

(Fishermen continued from page 1)

April: Everett West was raised up on Beal Hill where his mother, Fannie, daughter of Barney and Geneva West Beal lived. His father, **Earland West**, was from the Pigeon Hill Wests. **Ellen West Kennedy** and **Robbie West** followed in their dad's, and forefathers' love of the ocean. Ellen's husband is the grandson of our former state representative and pharmacist, David Kennedy.

May: John Chipman followed in his dad's, Harold's, footsteps as did his sons, **Jason** and **Chris. Maverick** has tall boots to fill as both the Dorrs and Chipmans have salt water in their blood.

June: Ronald F. Sprague, Sr., Rita Bagley Sachs, Harry Tucker, Beverly Leighton Beal, Clyde Flaherty, David Sawyer, Lorna Burgess, and Lottie Burgess graduated from Milbridge High School in the class of 1958, and despite their diverse careers, most are back home to roost. Ronald while living in Texas suffered an untimely death after a military career; Rita is back on the old homestead on Ray's Point; Beverly is a hair dresser and lives in Wyman; Clyde is a retired teacher and sells veggies in his spare time to beat the boredom; the Burgess twins are living in Burgess Ville next door to where they were raised up. I don't know where Harry and David are.

July: Malcolm & Nehemiah Beal descendants. **Owen, Patrick, and Dale Beal** are brothers and sons of Malcolm and Ethelyn Young Beal; **Brandon** is **Dale's** son, and **Rianne** is **Dale's** granddaughter whose mom, Brienne, works in the town office. **Leland** is the son of Nehemiah and Esther Stanwood Beal, our former town clerk. **Matt** and **Mindy** are the children of **Leland** and Lynda Hall Beal. They are all from Wyman District. **Mike Leighton** is a friend.

August: Harvey Beal follows in the steps of his dad, Ernest, who was piloting ships up the coast at age 16. He and wife Beverly, a beautician, raised 2 sons **Eric** and **Aaron**, who live in their neighborhood. **Jenna** and **Joshua** are **Eric's** children and students in good standing and involved in sports at Narraguagus High. **Eric** was recently elected as selectman of Milbridge. This family not only works together but plays together too as **Josh** and **Jenna** are supported by parents, grandparents, and relatives from nearby towns at each game.

September: Lewis Dorr, Jr. is the son of Lewis Dorr, Sr. and Lorena Robinson Dorr who deeded the land to the historical society. He married Cheryl Chipman whose ancestors had Columbia and Milbridge roots. Lewis Sr.'s mother was the daughter of Barney Beal and Geneva. **Chris, Lewis Philip, and Sheldon** are **Lewis Jr.'s** and Cheryl's sons. **Jared, Harmon, Jared, Adrienne, and Justin** are grandchildren. All remain in Milbridge area.

October: Curtis Beal, Jr., a descendant of Barney Beal of Wyman also, and married to a local girl, Gloria Smith, raised up three lobster fishermen and one daughter. **Royce** was the only one who stayed here, but the other two were drawn to their ancestral roots after marrying Beals ladies and moved there, the original home of Barney Beal. **Andrew** and **Abraham** are **Danny's** boys and live in Beals.

November: Kennedy Family. **Paul Kennedy, Sr.** was a Harrington born boy, but his roots are in Milbridge as his great grandfather was Nathan Hall who drew the bridge when the ships went through. He married Shirley Strout, a Back Bay gal, and they lived and raised their family down there where their children are now living also. Sons, **Paul Jr.,** and **Neil** have raised families up on the salt water. **Paul's** son is planning to return to lobstering after graduating from Maritime Academy. **Cole** and **Chase,** sons of **Neil's** work the trade now. **Chase** is a student at Narraguagus High and involved in sports. I'm sure **Paul's** younger children, **Nick** and **Kelley,** will be out there with the others. **Blake Chase** is a friend of the family and a student at Guagus and basketball star.

December: Walter Strout is the patriarch of this family, and as you can see, lobstering runs in the blood for 4 generations. **Everett Strout** and **Annie** lived on the Back Bay Road where she still resides. Her son, **Walter** the second, lives across the street from her, and his sons **Brian** and **Joe** are in the area and fish also. **Lawrence Strout** married Sylvia and lived in Back Bay area where she still lives.

In Memoriam: Willis Hutchins lived on the Kansas Road with his wife, Hortense, and raised 4 sons, **Barry, Terry, Wilbur** and **Roy. Barry, Terry,** and Roy were involved with earning a living from the waters off Milbridge and Steuben. **Roy** lost his life doing so at a very young age of 36. **Jennie** and **Jessica** are daughters of **Terry** and Pat. **Kellen** and Brent are sons of **Barry** and Karen Hutchins.

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.

Qty.	Item	Cost	Tax	Shipping Tube	Shipping in U.S.	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	
	2008 <i>Lobster Fishermen Families Calendar</i>	\$8.00	.40	N/A	\$2.00	
	<i>Most prior years available (specify year(s))</i>	\$2.50	.13		\$2.00	
					Total:	\$

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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Please check one: I wish to view future newsletters electronically only.

I still wish to receive my newsletter in the mail.

Enclosed is \$_____ for 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 Life (\$100) Extra Donation \$_____

This order form may also be printed from our web site at 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

- March 11:** Narraguagus High School Chorus & Ice Cream Social with John Cicci, Director
An annual tradition with homemade ice cream!
- April 8:** LifeFlight of Maine
- May 13:** Hiking the Appalachian Trail by Peter Dustin
- June 10:** Russian Culture by Edward Paquette
- July 8:** Lifeline by Terri Swanson
- August 12:** Story of Extreme Makeover
The Ray-Smith Family
- September 9:** Changes on Main Street
Gordon King and Bill Kelley
- October 14:** Petit Manan Wildlife
- November 11:** Ora Aselton

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

Volunteers make the world go round. We're looking for volunteers to host at the museum this summer. Training provided. Don't miss out on the fun! Call Ellen Strout at 207-546-2652 to sign up!

MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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