

# MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 13, #1  
Spring 2009



The Milbridge Historical Society is pleased to host the Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA) program on August 1, 2009. All are welcome to this program which will include exhibits and archive displays, a discussion by Jennifer Stucker on the restoration project of the 19th century burial ground in Indian Harbor, and afternoon cemetery tours. A MHS representative will welcome the attendees with a brief overview entitled "Milbridge, a View and a Vision." A \$3 registration fee payable at the door includes all activities and complimentary morning coffee and snacks. Lunch will be available for an additional fee. Find out more about MOCA at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~memoca/moca.htm>. See more photos of the ongoing Indian Harbor restoration project at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tolofy/IndianHarborCemetery?feat=directlink>.



## \*\*\* 2009 Fundraiser Quilts Raffle \*\*\*

Three heirloom-quality quilts will be raffled off on Labor Day, September 7, 2009. These fabulous, one-of-a-kind quilts were created by Milbridge women past and present including Elberta Allsop, Laura Blomberg, Cathy Chipman, Daisy Clifford, Marilyn Dow, Annie Eldridge, Helen Haroutunian, Maude Kelley, Ruth Kelly, Albina Korcak, Frances Larson, Pauline MacCollom, Penny Rumery, Madeline Sawyer, Harriet Simon, Ruth Stanley, Constance Waits, and Ramona West. You can view "Floral Friendship" (30 squares embroidered by 14 Milbridge crafters), "Winning Hand" (the top meticulously constructed by Cathy Chipman) and "Traditional Crazy" (assembled in time-honored fashion by Ramona West, Marilyn Dow, and Penny Rumery) at [milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://milbridgehistoricalsociety.org) or at the museum this summer. Each raffle ticket gives you 3 chances to win as 1 ticket will be drawn for each quilt. The \$10 donation per ticket will help the Milbridge Historical Society continue its mission "to acquire, preserve, coordinate, and compile all records and material" and "provide facilities" for their caretaking and preservation. The Milbridge Historical Society is grateful for your continued support.

### **Raffle Ticket for 2009 Milbridge Historical Society Quilts Fundraiser**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 donation per ticket. Each ticket enters you in 3 drawings for 1 quilt each drawing. Drawings on Monday, September 7, 2009. Please send donation and ticket to Milbridge Historical Society, PO Box 194, Milbridge, ME 04658. Raffle ticket may be photocopied. Need not be present to win. *Thank you for your support.*

### ***Do You Have the Right Stuff...***

...for our annual summer yard sale?

You do if you have good (or great!) items you no longer use and would like to donate them.

Call Gary Willey at 546-2040 if you need something picked up. We have room for storage.

**PLEASE, NO TV'S, COMPUTERS OR OTHER OBSOLETE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.** *Thank you!*

### ***How to Go Native in Maine***

*[Condensation of an essay by Edmund Ware Smith from Upriver and Down, copyright 1965, appearing in Maine A Literary Chronicle, copyright 1968.]*

The subject of the natives of Maine versus the summer people and tourists is so complicated that it can be approached only by a gymnast or preferably a trapeze artist of eccentric talent.

I almost qualify. I have been teetering on the tight wire of the matter ever since my father and mother dragged me from a comfortable home in Boston to the Spar Hawk Hotel in Ogunquit, where my second cousin Warren played piano in the summer orchestra. At the time of this baptism, I was seven years old. I have never been the same since, and am glad of it.

Most of the rest of my life, and surely the best of it, has been spent in Maine trying to go native. The effort has failed....For unless you were born in the State and can prove it, there is no such thing as total acceptance. If you entered life only ten feet short of the State line while your mother was being rushed by ambulance toward a Maine maternity hospital, you're still "from away." Don't fight it. Just make the best of it.

But while the natives form a fraternity you may never quite join, they offer you – tacitly – a series of steps toward the achievement of their trust and affection.

The first step is marked "Tourist." Here you could remain under scrutiny for years. They like to look a man over carefully. If you keep coming back each season, it proves you must like them, so there must be some good in you. And, therefore, you advance to "Summer Visitor," or "Summer Person." Try to make it the former. It's nearer the native heart.

As a Summer Visitor, you're a known regular. Presently, you buy a house on the seacoast, or on a lake shore, or on a country lane. You plant a mailbox on a cedar post. Comes a year when you install a heating system. You buy storm windows, a snow shovel, a banjo clock and a cat. You sell your house in Jersey and move to Maine. You now classify as a "Year-Round Summer Person." In order to hold this position, it is well to tough out a few winters with no Miami.

When, with the passing years, you have worn out several sets of snow tires and long underwear, paid many taxes, raised a succession of vegetable gardens, and become a legal resident, you qualify for the highest attainable accolade. You are now "From Away." Strive for nothing beyond this. You've had it.

Here's why: In a typical Maine coast town – call it Far Castle – the natives are outnumbered five to one. This of itself could be disturbing to them. Strangers, with wealth from outside, gave gradually acquired their venerable homes or built new ones on the land of their forefathers. True, the town's economy has improved. Far Castle's master carpenters are at work. So are its boat builders, innkeepers, plumbers, and lobstermen. The picture is rosy, the dependence mutual. So why the reticence and reserve?

The fact is that Far Castle's natives have lived here for six or seven generations. This is true, rock-hard identity. It is non-negotiable. No matter who has taken title to their property, he is still, in a

*(Continued on page 4)*

### *In Memoriam*

*Recently we sadly said goodbye to some MHS members and friends:*

*Pauline MacCollom\*    Lucy Palmer\*    Arlene Parker  
Rose Sharp\*    Ruth (Tommy) Stanley\*    Russell B. Strout*

*\*Indicates Life Member. Please let us know of anyone we inadvertently omitted in this remembrance.*

### **Upcoming Events**

June 6	Working and Living in Russia	by Edward Paquette
July 14	Wreaths Across America	by Karen Worcester
August 1	Maine Old Cemeteries Association Program	
August 11	History of Grindstone in Winter Harbor	by Larry Smith
August 15	Summer Yard Sale	
Sept. 7	Quilt Fundraiser Raffle Drawing	
Sept. 11	Tips on Flower Gardening	by Janet Lesbines

### **Membership Renewal**

We rely on your dues payment to help keep things running and we appreciate your continued support. Please check your address label to make sure your dues are current as you will not receive a separate bill. A number of 2009-1 indicates that your dues are paid through the end of 2009 and you currently have one membership. 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](mailto: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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Behind the Scenes...** Don't you love this new lobster design? It's available now on T-shirts and sweatshirts at the MHS gift shop. Thanks to Laurie Hall for all her hard work!...Be sure to check out the new displays this summer at the museum....If you made a New Year's resolution to get out of the house or be more active locally, we need to talk! We have many volunteer opportunities for all kinds of talents, from museum host to painter to baker, or what have you? Call Ellen Strout at 546-2652....We're still offering email viewing of the newsletter to save printing and postage costs, plus you'll get it a bit earlier than the mailed copy. If you want to switch to electronic viewing send us an email at [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org).



***A page from "The Milbridge Register, 1905"***

The name of this town was in all probability suggested by John Gardner of Boston. Mr. Gardner completed the erection of the bridge across the river, which project had been started by Alexander Foster. The cost of the bridge was estimated at \$100,000. Here a tide mill was built by this Boston firm, and, from this fact, the town was given its name.

The spelling of Milbridge has been a subject of much discussion. Some say that two "L's" should be used because the name is a blending of the two words, "mill and bridge." They further assert that the early incorporators meant it to be such. The one "L" supporters affirm that their spelling should prevail for if the town's namers did not mean it to be such, they would not have used the spelling with one "L" in the Act of Incorporation. They affirm that a mistake could not have been made there, for the word was spelled too many times.

Since its incorporation, the annual town meetings have met in the following places as given in the records: 1848-49, in the school house; 1850-58 in a Hall above the store of J. T. Wallace, Jr. & Co., except in 1856, when it met in a sail loft over the store of M. Fickett & Co.; 1858-1865, in the Union Meeting House Vestry; 1866-67, in Leighton's Hall; 1858, in Dyer's Hall; 1869-87, in Farnsworth's Hall, and from 1888 to the present time in the Opera House, except in 1891, when it was held in Farnsworth's Hall.

*(Continued from page 2)*

sense, a licensed visitor. If this seems odd, ask yourself how you'd feel if a total stranger up and bought your great-great-grandfather's house and moved it, beam by hand-hewn beam, to a new site down the road. There goes your roof and ridgepole. There goes the room where you were born. What is left? The fact that you were born there!

If the tourist bears this in mind, he will have a better time in Maine. He will start with the right attitude. But you should also consider a few simple rules of behavior that should further amicable relations with the natives.

Don't try to imitate the native dialect. It may not sound as peculiar to you as yours does to them. Beware of calling them "characters." You may be one yourself. If you are loaded with money, don't wave it around. Spend it....

**MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM GIFT SHOP**

Qty.	Books	Cost	Tax	S/H in USA	Total
	<i>Cemeteries of Milbridge</i> - hardcover	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	
	<i>Drops of Spray</i> - paperback	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	
	<i>History of Milbridge</i> - paperback	\$10.00	\$0.50	\$3.00	
	<i>1881 Washington County Atlas</i>	\$19.50	\$0.98	\$4.50	
	<i>1881 Hancock County Atlas</i>	\$19.50	\$0.98	\$4.50	
	<i>Civil War</i> - booklet	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$3.00	
	<i>Ships &amp; Shipbuilding</i> - booklet	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$3.00	
	<i>Making It Downeast</i> - booklet	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$3.00	
	<i>Living &amp; Working Downeast</i> - booklet	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$3.00	
	<i>Caskets Sold</i> - booklet	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$3.00	
	<i>Masts &amp; Masters</i> - paperback	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	
	<i>Imagining Maine</i> - paperback	\$14.95	\$0.75	\$4.00	
	<i>History of the Sardine Industry</i> - paperback	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$4.00	
	<b>Note cards &amp; Postcards</b>				
	Milbridge Scenes-Elaine Bigelow (4)	\$3.00	\$0.15	\$2.00	
	Blueberry Harvesting - boxed	\$3.80	\$0.20	\$2.50	
	Old Mill on the Narraguagus River Scene (4)	\$3.00	\$0.15	\$2.00	
	Lg. Milbridge Post Cards	\$1.25	\$0.06	\$1.00	
	Sm. Postcards	\$0.25	\$0.01	\$0.75	
	<b>Wall Maps</b>			1-3 maps	
	Milbridge 1794	\$8.00	\$0.40	\$4.00	
	Milbridge 1881	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.00	
	Milbridge, Cherryfield & Steuben	\$8.50	\$0.43	\$4.00	
	<b>Family Tree Charts</b>			1-3 charts	
	Our Family Tree	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.00	
	Maternal Chart	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.00	
	Paternal Chart	\$6.00	\$0.30	\$4.00	
	<b>New Lobster T's &amp; Sweats</b>				
	<b>Hooded Sweatshirts:</b> Adult - M, L, XL	\$32.00	\$1.60		
	<b>Hooded Sweatshirts:</b> Adult - XXL	\$36.00	\$1.80		
	<b>Sweatshirts:</b> Adult - M, L, XL	\$26.00	\$1.30		
	<b>Sweatshirts:</b> Adult - XXL	\$30.00	\$1.50		
	<b>T-Shirts:</b> Adult - M, L, XL	\$16.00	\$0.80		
	<b>T-Shirts:</b> Adult - XXL	\$19.00	\$0.95		
	<b>Balsam Fir Pillows</b>				
	2x2 Light House & Lobster	\$3.50	\$0.18		
	5x5 Signal Flags, Sailboats, Lobsters & Lighthouses	\$6.00	\$0.30		
	8x8 Compass Point, Sailboat & Light house	\$15.00	\$0.75		
	9x10 Sea Gulls	\$20.00	\$1.00		
	<b>Calendars</b>				
	2009 Milbridge WWII Veterans	\$9.52	\$0.48		
	2010 Milbridge Korean War Veterans (pre-order)	\$9.52	\$0.48		
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Note: If shipping charges are not listed, please email <a href="mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org">info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org</a> or call Laurie at 207-546-2055 for more information.</b>					

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

The launching that stands out in my mind was the launching of the 3 mast "Grand Turk" in 1916. I remember the preparation started in the early morning getting the ways ready and greased. Rogers and Webb of Boston were the commission merchants and Mr. Rogers came to the launching from Boston. He brought with him a goodly portion of Jamaican rum. My father cautioned him not to give any away until the vessel was safely in the water. Schools were closed that day and a large crowd was in attendance. As there wasn't too much space into Sawyer's Creek, it was necessary to slow down the ship after she left the ways. This was done by binding together a large stack of timber for a drag and running a cable to the ship. It was also necessary that the captain drop the anchor when about half-way across the creek. Something went wrong and the "Grand Turk" shot across the creek and brought up on the opposite shore high and dry. Ropes, cables, etc., were attached and an effort made to haul her back into deeper water but to no avail. There was nothing else to do while waiting for the next tide so the celebration began. A banquet was held at the Milbridge House which was on the land now occupied by Frankenstein's. Mr. Rogers was a good host and by the time the dinner was ready so was half the town. Two of the workmen at the yard got into an argument and one of them put the other in a barrel and was getting ready to throw it overboard when another workman stopped him just in the nick of time.

MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 194  
MILBRIDGE, ME 04658

**US Postage Paid**  
**Milbridge, ME**  
**Permit #3**

