

# MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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## *This Season at the Museum*

Drawing from Donnie Bayrd's vast collection of undersea artifacts (photo at right), curator Lee-lee Schlegel has created a new exhibit of *Milbridge shipwrecks*.



**Who are we?** Unlabeled or incompletely identified photos cannot be properly sorted and catalogued (see samples below). The curator asks the public's assistance in identifying people, places, and/or dates in scores of unlabeled pictures. Stop in, make yourself comfortable, and browse through the collection. A corner of the museum with seating and baskets of photos awaits. If you recognize the folks below, please call the museum at 546-4471 or email [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org) so these photos can be labeled.



### *Tuesday evening*

**programs** (listed on page 6) feature Downeast experts on cranberries, alpacas, the Pinkham Boys, marine research; a special program highlighting old houses of Milbridge; and the annual Narraguagus High School singers concert and ice cream social.

The **annual yard sale** is an important fundraiser and we again seek your "hidden treasure" donations of good, usable, items. Please

note, no shoes, clothing, TVs, phones, fax machines, copy machines or other electronic equipment can be accepted. Call Gary Willey at 546-2040 to arrange for pick up or drop off.

**Pond Island Heritage**, an abridged republication of Anne Nash's engaging history of life through the years on a small island off the Maine coast, is now available at the gift shop. See page 5 for details.

Last season over 300 people **visited the museum**, representing 23 states, the District of Columbia, Quebec, Montreal, Paris, and Warwickshire, England. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. in June, July, and August, in addition to Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. in July and August.

### *Milbridge Historical Society -- 2010-2011*

#### *Officers*

Brenda Duggan.....President  
Gary Willey.....Vice President  
Sally Leighton.....Secretary  
John Schlegel.....Treasurer  
Ellen Strout.....Asst. Treasurer  
Lee-lee Schlegel.....Curator

#### *Board Members*

Marilyn Dow • Paula Gillen  
Laurie Hall • Peter Sawyer  
Dale Schevenieus • Michael Strout  
Ramona West

***The Narraguagus Times - July 1897***  
***Pencilings In Our Seaport Town***

Dr. Walling has completed extensive repairs on his store.

Mr. Conklin of New York is in town with his family for a few days.

Mr. Lester Strout is enjoying a vacation of two weeks. Rev. Mr. Haskell preaches on the East Side Sunday, July 25, at 2 p.m.

Capt. H. Leighton and A. Small are out on a fishing voyage in their new fishing vessel.

Capt. Edwin Wallace of Rockville Center, L. I. has been in town on business.

Capt. Frank Nash and family, just home, are spending a few days in Gouldsboro.

Mrs. Lewis Brown, who underwent a very critical operation at the Maine General Hospital, Portland, is doing nicely and is expected home in a few weeks.

Mr. Chandler Wyman and family, who have been spending some weeks here, returned to their home in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Monday.

It was announced from the M. E. pulpit that next Sunday, July 25, the pastor would preach to the children in the forenoon and the concert under the management of Mr. B. W. Brown and the officers of the school would be given in the evening. Talent from New York will assist the best home talent to make an interesting concert.

Business is somewhat dull and yet we are doing much, perhaps more than our neighbors. Eastern Maine was the last to feel the hard times and will be the last to recover from them. We hope the "McKinley boom" will hurry up and strike us hard before we give up the ghost, but we are doing something. Sawyer Bros. have a fine vessel on the stocks. Dr. Sawyer's sardine factory and the canning factory of J. & E. A. Wyman furnish employment to a large number of people. The Milbridge steam laundry, under the management of Mr. Joseph Parents, is doing a fine business. Our farmers and semi-farmers are beginning to get in their heavy crops of hay and a few of our citizens are on fishing voyages.

Welcome to the "Narraguagus Times". The name looks good, we know it is an appropriate one and hope it is a staying one. What Washington County wants in general and the Narraguagus valley in particular is a bright, breezy up-to-date paper. We want local and national and world news served up fresh and hot from an experienced editor's griddle in a home paper. We believe Mr. Lewis is that editor, and the "Narraguagus Times" the paper to boom this section and advertise our business interests and give us the news and entertain us with interesting reading. Here is a good thing come to stay. Our businessmen and citizens ought to push it along.

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Milbridge, geographically and in a business sense and in a social sense, holds an important position in this part of the country. The steamer "Frank Jones" connects us with Bar Harbor, Rockland, Portland, and Boston. These hot days old ocean breezes cool us somewhat, while Baldwins Head, Stanleys Point, Rays Point, and other places on the shore serve finely for outing purposes. We have a first-class village in every respect. We have first-class lawyers in Peabody and Gray, first-class doctors in Walling and Googins, first-class ministers in Haskell and Hall, first-class businessmen too numerous to mention, first class women smarter than the men, first class K. of P.'s and Masons. In short, almost everything in Milbridge is first class.

L. H. Leighton has nearly completed a fisherman of 12 tons register, named the "Fannie Ellen."

Fred Dyer of this village enjoys the distinction of having been the first child added to the population of Milbridge following the incorporation in 1848.

Mr. and Mrs. Jotham L. Merritt of Stoneham, Mass., are passing the season in this town at the residence of his son-in-law, A. H. Wallace.

Handy Hinkley, residing near this village, became suddenly insane the first of the week. His condition is such as to necessitate his removal to the insane hospital at Augusta, Friday.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

N. C. Wallace is soon to add to his coasting fleet the schooner Sadie and Lillie, which is being rebuilt at his dock.

Capt. Alonzo Small and H. M. Leighton have recently launched from the yard of L. H. Leighton a schooner yacht built under the supervision of Master Carpenter Leverett Strout.

Frank Gay, who is engaged in raising fowl for Boston and other markets, has two thousands chickens and an equal number of Pekin ducks that are destined to lose their heads as the season advances.

Wednesday of this week was the day of the annual outing and picnic of the Union Sunday School at Jordan's Beach. The party numbered one hundred and fifty picnickers, who enjoyed the occasion until a drizzling rain somewhat dampened their enthusiasm.

In the West, Milbridge is represented in the Civil service by F. M. Hopkins, Land Commissioner at Aberdeen, S. D., and A. B. Foster, who holds a position in the delivery department of the post office at St. Paul, Minn. A Lincoln Wallace of this place has been granted a diploma by the Champion College of Embalming, Springfield, O., certifying that he is competent to perform the operation of embalming by the improved methods. It is reported that "Allie" O'Brien, for many years steward on the Maine Steamship line, of late on the Cottage City, will go to the Frank Jones. Mr. O'Brien is a very faithful and popular official and has a legion of friends among the traveling public.

A lively collision occurred at the steamboat wharf Thursday, caused by a runaway team coming in contact with F. W. Bumham's delivery wagon containing a cooking range. The wagon, as well as the range, was laid up for repairs.

Fishermen fail to date the time when there were such schools of pollock on the coast as now. This, together with the abundance of seals, is the reason given by some for the scarcity of herring, the theory being that the seals and pollock disperse the herring.

The indications are that an unusually large number of visitors will make Milbridge their place of sojourn during the coming month. In addition to those seeking accommodations in private families, landlord Plummer has already engaged rooms to a party often from Massachusetts.

The Milbridge Water Company, consisting of Geo. Sawyer, Jasper Wyman and Warren Sawyer, will, before the close of the season, improve the system by extending it to other parts of the village and increasing the number of hydrants. Following the completion of this improvement the project of organizing a fire department will be considered.

W. M. Greeley, who until his quite recent removal to his native town, Freeport, was a resident of Milbridge, is passing a month at the home of Nathan Hinkley. Mr. Greeley is an old-time ship-carpenter who wielded the axe for Amos Dyer and Barney Strout when these builders were in their palmy days-when the former built the meteor and the latter the new Model and the Pacific. Mr. Greeley's muscle contributed to the construction of these craft.

The discount system of collecting taxes is regarded here an improvement over the old method. The fact that only \$200 of the tax of 1896 remains unsettled adds popularity to the change.

Under the supervision of the chairman of the selectmen, A. C. Leighton, the sixty miles of highways in town have been put in excellent condition meriting the praise of the traveling public. The main thoroughfare of the village is also improved in appearance by a new sidewalk five feet wide.

The draw-bridge, which was built in 1848 by the Salt Water Lumber Company and afterwards sold to the town, has proved an expensive convenience. Since the early fifties the town has incurred an expense of \$30,000 in keeping the bridge in repair. The last legislature granted an appropriation of \$1000 to aid in these repairs, half of which amount will be expended this season. Included in the materials are 125 tons of split stone, quarried by A. F. and Benjamin Fickett, who are also the contractors to do the stone work.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *In Memoriam*

*Albert Curtis*

### *Pond Island Revisited*

“...At noon the dinner bell was rung, bringing everyone to the house. Even those who had their own cottages usually had the big meal of the day at the Pond Island House. The menu might be baked, stuffed haddock with an egg sauce, potatoes and cut up lettuce. Or it might be pot roast, or it could be cod or flounder, freshly caught. Russell cleaned the fish on the grass by the kitchen door, then nailed it to a stump and pulled the skin off. Sometimes Frank Nash would take some men out deep-sea fishing to catch cod and haddock. Other times the kids would go out in the skiff, drop a line over and pull flounder in as fast as they could. In the ‘50s they were able to catch as many pollock as they wanted right at the hauloff...Once in a while there were guests for dinner. The Indians from Pleasant River would come over by canoe to sell their baskets to the Pond Islanders. Twice in 1931 they were there for a meal...”

As the above excerpt from Anne C. Nash’s *Pond Island Heritage - The Families and History of a Maine Island* illustrates so well, “Pond Island...is not only a place, but a state of mind and a way of life that has persisted for more than 100 years. Present day sojourners have the same feelings about the island and its many qualities as did the ancestors who came before us.”

The Milbridge Historical Society, with grateful permission from the author, has assembled an abridged 217-page soft-cover version of this island history, including portions from Ms. Nash’s sequel, *Twelve Years Later*, with proceeds from book sales going to the museum. See next page for order form.



*(Continued from page 3)*

Included among the young men of this town who have gone elsewhere and made business venture a success is W. F. Greeley, now a resident of Freeport, Me. For years past he has been profitably engaged in the canning industry at Cape Breton, where he has two factories for packing lobsters, employing sixty hands. In addition to this force one hundred fishermen are furnished work during the canning season. Following the close of the season this month, Mr. Greeley will return to Maine and resume his former position as foreman of one of the corn packing establishments of Bumham and Morrill, Portland.

*(This newspaper was discovered in a house in Wesley where it had been used as insulation - Editor.)*

Thank you for supporting the Milbridge Historical Society with your gift shop purchase.  
Please send order form and check made payable to MHS to PO Box 194, Milbridge, ME 04658.  
Call Paula Gillen at 546-3424 or email [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org) with any questions.

Qty.	Item	Cost	Tax	Total		
	2011 MHS Calendar (last in veterans series)	\$9.52	\$0.48			
	<b>Pond Island Revisited - abridged 2011 - soft cover</b>	\$16.00	\$0.80			
	<i>The History of Milbridge, 2nd Edition</i>	\$10.00	\$0.50			
	<i>Cemeteries of Milbridge</i>	\$10.00	\$0.50			
	<i>1881 Washington County Atlas</i>	\$22.50	\$1.13			
	<i>1881 Hancock County Atlas</i>	\$22.50	\$1.13			
	<i>Civil War - booklet</i>	\$6.00	\$0.30			
	<i>Ships &amp; Shipbuilding - booklet</i>	\$6.00	\$0.30			
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	<i>Living &amp; Working Downeast - booklet</i>	\$6.00	\$0.30			
	<i>Caskets Sold - booklet</i>	\$6.00	\$0.30			
	<i>Imagining Maine - paperback</i>	\$14.95	\$0.75		<b>Shipping/Handling:</b>	
	<i>Drops of Spray from Southern Seas - paperback</i>	\$20.00	\$1.00		\$20 or less:	4.99
					\$20.01-\$35	6.99
					\$35.01-\$50	8.99
	<b>Wall Maps</b> (requires purchase of one \$4 mailing tube)				\$50.01-\$65	10.99
	Lewis Lathrop, Milbridge 1794 - 36" x 20"	\$6.00	\$0.30		\$65.01+	12.99
	Milbridge 1850 with Business Directory - 16" x 20"	\$6.00	\$0.30			
	Colby Atlas, Milbridge 1881 - 14" x 12"	\$6.00	\$0.30			
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	<b>Family Tree Charts</b> (requires purchase of one \$4 mailing tube)					
	Our Family Tree or Maternal Chart or Paternal chart	\$6.00	\$0.30			
	Ball Cap with Lobster Boat & MHS insignia	\$12.00	\$0.60			
	<b>Mailing Tube (if applicable)</b>	\$4.00	\$0.20			
	<b>Shipping (see chart)</b>					
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>		

### Membership Renewal

Your dues help keep the museum running and the programs ongoing. If your address label or email doesn't say 2011 or Life, please catch up and send in your dues. And don't forget to let us know if you move!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address\* \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Thank you for allowing us to email your newsletter. You will receive notification when it is available for viewing.*

Annual dues is \$10/year. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for 2010 2011 2012 2013 Extra Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I choose Lifetime Membership and am enclosing \$100.

Please forward dues to Laurie Hall at PO Box 194, Milbridge, ME 04658. If there are questions, you may call Laurie at 546-2055, leave a message at 546-4471, or email [info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@milbridgehistoricalsociety.org). **Thank you for your continued support!**

### *2011 Milbridge Historical Society Programs*

April 5 at 7 p.m.:	Narraguagus High School Chorus and Ice Cream Social at the Milbridge Congregational Church on Bridge Street
June 14 at 7 p.m.:	“Cranberries” presented by Bobby Hammond at the museum
July 12 at 7 p.m.:	“Alpacas Downeast” presented by Gail Moorhouse at the museum
August 9 at 6 p.m.:	“The Pinkham Boys and Other Downeast Stories” presented by Rodney Harrington, annual meeting and potluck supper (location TBD)
Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.:	“Creating the Easternmost Marine Research Laboratory and Education Center in the U.S.” presented by Dr. Brian Beal at the museum
Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.:	“Old Houses of Milbridge” presented by Tom Gillen and Lee-lee Schlegel at the museum

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 PO BOX 194  
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Your Historical Society dues are payable  
 upon receipt of this newsletter.  
 Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope  
 for your convenience. Thank you!



Who am I? See page 1.