

# MILBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 18, #1  
Spring, 2014

*"If we are doomed to repeat our past sins, may we also be blessed to repeat our past glories"*

## THIS, OUR TOWN



**THE FOLLOWING IS A POEM ENTITLED "WELCOME TO MILBRIDGE", COMPOSED BY ISABEL W. SAWYER AND FIRST PRINTED IN THE MILBRIDGE CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM OF 1948.**

By the Narragaus River,  
Flowing southward to the sea,  
Milbridge calls to all her children,  
Friends and neighbors, "Join with me

Let us celebrate together –  
Let's review the days long gone;  
For my heart is filled with welcome  
And with pride in work well done."

Years ago, when first the white man  
Settled on our eastern shore,  
He found beauty, peace and plenty  
Rich and full, a generous store.

Natures's bounty still is with us  
Berries spread a carpet blue;  
Sweet and luscious in the summer,  
Changed in fall to scarlet hue.

Sea-food – Ah, those Down East lobsters  
Juicy clams along the shore,  
Fish in ocean's blue depths hiding –  
Epicures could ask no more.

And for years we've shared our treasures,  
Packed in cans with expert care;

Shipped by carloads through the nation,  
Milbridge food's known everywhere.

Ere the days of steam and turbine,  
Ships we built with timbers strong;  
Ships that sailed to every country –  
Ports from Rio to Hong Kong.

Ships that carried Milbridge Captains  
Mates and seamen, fearless crew  
Facing storm and unseen danger  
with a faith serene and true.

When wars' shadow fell upon us  
Milbridge men answered the call,  
Fighting with determination,  
Soldiers, Sailors, Marines – all

To her heroes, dead or living,  
Of old wars or wars still new,  
Milbridge on this first centennial  
Says, "My sons we honor you."

So, again we bid you welcome  
Hoping that this festive day  
May be one that you will remember  
In the years when you are away.



### FROM THE CURATOR'S CORNER

As I write this note, the snowflakes are fluttering outside my window while we eagerly await Spring and the opening of the museum again. This will be the last time I do that as curator. It's time for a change; a new curator with new ideas, creativity and enthusiasm. I have so enjoyed my years as curator and have learned so much about my adopted town and the people in it. I will always treasure that knowledge and be thankful for the opportunity I had to serve the Historical Society.

Our new exhibit this summer is entitled "Hats, Buttons and Bows". Unlike the strength or ruggedness of recent displays (e.g., "Claimed by the Sea" and "Native Americans in Maine"), this new display should be quite sweet and pretty. Just this week I met with the button collector who is lending us part of her huge collection. I learned so much about the art of button collecting as well as the competitiveness. I'm very excited about this part of the exhibit. Too, we will have some wonderful old hats on display along with the "things" that go into making them.

Please continue to support the Society. We still need volunteers for many different roles. Please consider helping out in any way you can.

Lee-Lee Schlegel, Curator

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## 2014 MHS PROGRAMS

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| June 10, 2014   | Larch Hanson, "Rockweed as Community Nutrition"           |
| July 8, 2014    | Eric Beal, "Everything You Want To Know About Lobstering" |
| August 12, 2014 | Brian Beal, "What's in the Water?"                        |
| Sept. 9, 2014   | Linsey Tudor, "Milbridge Shore Birds"                     |

## TREASURER'S REPORT



It's hard to believe that it's the end of the first quarter of 2014 already! The time seems to go more quickly the older we get! It's time, however, to tell you about the financial conditions of the Society now that we can look back at the entire year 2013. We began the year with total assets of \$68,369, but that was the beginning of what has proven to be a very challenging year.

On a positive note, we received \$1,560 in dues in 2013, which represented an increase of \$160 over 2012. From that point, however, our income was mostly negative. Donations to the Society in 2013 amounted to \$1,229, which was \$110 less than we received in 2012. Similarly, income from rental of our meeting room dropped 65%, down to \$307 for the year. Sales from the gift shop also dropped to \$1,770, down from \$2,659 in 2012. Income from our fund raising activities was mixed, with \$1,388 coming from the yard sale (down \$269 from 2012) and \$532 from the Chinese auction.

While our income was down, our expenses for things like utilities either remained fairly constant or actually went up. Our heating costs went up 20%, to \$1,141, while our snow plowing costs went up 38%, to \$450. Even our insurance cost went up 7%, to \$1,239. As I noted in the Autumn Newsletter, the major expense in 2013 was the unanticipated cost of replacing the entire roof of the museum building at a cost of \$9,933. That was on top of the other 'regular' maintenance costs during 2013 of \$1,005, for a total of \$10,938 for the upkeep of our Society facilities.

At the end of 2013, we had total financial assets of \$58,116. As you can see from the above, that's a drop of \$10,253, or 15%, for the year 2013. As we move into the more active time of the year for the Society, we hope that, with your continued support, we can begin to overcome this drop in revenue. Your donations to the Milbridge Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, are still tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

John Schlegel, Treasurer



## COMMENTS from the PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT

I became a member of the Society about two years ago and have been a resident of Milbridge all my life, including being born in this very town. The Society has a volunteer Board of Directors and one can become a member of the Society by paying a small annual fee or a lifetime member for a one-time fee of \$100. All the membership funds go to the daily operating costs of the Society. The Board of Directors is an active board and is involved in all facets of the operation. During the summer season we host a monthly presentation that depicts hobbies, history or work related topics geared toward the “Downeast way of life”. The public is welcome and encouraged to come. There is no charge and light snacks and refreshments are offered for everyone to enjoy. Without the support of the surrounding communities, this type of organization cannot survive.

*Nolan Rossi, President and Director*

With summer not far away I would like to take this opportunity to remind folks of our Yard Sale fund raiser. Please scour your attics, basements, closets and storage rooms for all those wonderful items you no longer need or use and donate them to the Historical Society so we can present them at our Yard Sale as “needful things”. Regretfully we cannot accept clothes, shoes, TV’s, computers, printers or other electronic devices. At any time, you can call me at 546-2040 and I will pick up your donation for storage in our barn until the Yard Sale held sometime in July. It’s never too soon to start that spring cleanout. Thank you for your attention and have a wonderful summer here in Milbridge, or wherever you may be.

*Gary Willey, Vice President and Director*

## A BIT OF EARLY HISTORY

The earliest known Europeans to visit the Maine Coast were adventurers seeking a water route to China and the East Indies. Many of these seamen surveyed the land from their ships but made no attempt at landing or establishing colonies, because the rocky coast, with few harbors, seemed far too rugged and unforgiving. Sebastian Cabot (1499), Estaban Gomez (1525), Mathew Gosnold (1602) and Martin Pring (1603) all surveyed the coast, and Pring left a remarkably detailed map of the harbors and rivers. Reporting their travels back in England resulted in the arrival of fishermen from Europe and from Virginia’s early colonies who came to summer on the islands and work the fertile fishing grounds they found here. The winters were considered far too harsh for year round settlements, so in early Fall they headed back home.



## Gift Shop

Spring may have sprung but there are still cool days and nights when a cozy sweatshirt or hoodie is needed, or how about a ball cap for when you attend your favorite game. We also have t-shirts in all sizes, note cards for inviting or thanking or just saying “hello”, maps to tell you where you are and many other items addressing the history of our town. You can call Ellen Strout at 546-2652 to arrange a time to visit the Gift Shop. We also have a new supply of Strout Genealogy CDs for the summer season. In the meantime check out the complete list with pricing at [www.milbridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.milbridgehistoricalsociety.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

The Museum staff wishes to thank you for your support. Your continued membership allows us to delve more deeply into the history of Milbridge. Dues cover a calendar year, January 1 through December 31. The year through which you have paid can be seen on the address label for those receiving the Newsletter through the post office or in the cover note to email addresses.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

\*Thank you for allowing us to email your newsletter.

Annual dues are \$10/year. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2014 2015 2016 Extra donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I choose Lifetime Membership and am enclosing \$100.

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Please forward dues, along with the above form, or a facsimile, to Laurie Hall at P. O. 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.

# VOLUNTEERS STILL WANTED

We need your help. Below is a list of departments which require your assistance, perhaps once, perhaps more than once, whatever time you have available. Just call me at 207-546-3764 and I will be happy to explain each area. Be a part of the preservation of Milbridge's heritage. Thank you.

Lee-Lee Schlegel

- |                        |                            |                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| _____ Programs         | _____ Volunteer Scheduling | _____ Fund Raising |
| _____ House Research   | _____ Summer Docent        | _____ Gift Shop    |
| _____ Building/Grounds | _____ Displays             | _____ Refreshments |

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## OFFICERS

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President           | Nolan Rossi      |
| Vice President      | Gary Willey      |
| Secretary           | Sally Leighton   |
| Treasurer           | John Schlegel    |
| Assistant Treasurer | Ellen Strout     |
| Curator             | Lee-Lee Schlegel |

## BOARD MEMBERS

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Brenda Duggan  | Lee-Lee Schlegel |
| Marilyn Dow    | Ellen Strout     |
| Wayne Willey   | Ramona West      |
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