

# South Bristol Historical Society

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## Newsletter

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### SBHS and the Centennial

South Bristol's Centennial Celebration was a resounding success thanks to the creativity and hard work of the Centennial Committee and the encouragement and support of the Selectmen. What follows is a re-cap of the events which SBHS contributed to South Bristol's Centennial summer.

#### Honoring South Bristol Veterans

Since a major event planned for the Centennial was the dedication of a new Veterans Memorial, our May 20 program featured brief discussions of their experiences by veterans representing different branches of the military. Bill Peterson spoke about serving on a ship off of the coast of North Vietnam and Lance Kelsey discussed his experience guarding nuclear weapons in South Korea. Bob Emmons described what it was like to be an infantryman in Vietnam, and he also gave an account of Patty Foster's service in the United States Marine Corps in the 1950's. Don Edwards, a retired Major General (U.S. Army) reviewed some of the more interesting events in his distinguished career. Charles Beaudette, an Air Force veteran, gave a synopsis of his service, and William O. Glendinning spoke of the role of the Coast Guard and his duties inspecting ships in New York harbor.

A highlight of the evening was William B. Glendinning's reminiscence about his years in the Navy during World War II. He served on the USS Randolph, an Essex-class aircraft carrier. The ship was struck by a kamikaze and fought in many battles towards the end of the Pacific campaign. Several other World War II veterans attended the program and were recognized.

#### South Bristol's Separation from Bristol

Then on July 15, SBHS provided a historical introduction to the upcoming celebration of South Bristol's 100th birthday with a program telling the story of why and how South Bristol became an independent town. Stan Wells, grandson of Frank Wells, one of the Town's first three selectmen, took his listeners on the long journey of South Bristol residents to their independence from the larger town of Bristol. Few of today's residents realize that the first petition to separate from Bristol was filed in 1824 and that it took three more petitions before the separation became a reality in 1915. Not surprising, though, is the fact that starting in 1911 maintenance (or lack thereof) of the bridge over the Gut was a major factor.



*The new Veterans Memorial at Town Hall.*

#### Veterans' Memorial Dedication

After years of preparation, the new veterans' memorial and honor roll was unveiled at Town Hall on Friday, July 17. Many thanks are due Bob Emmons, Carol Kelsey, Donna Plummer, Mary Jane McLoon and Gary Pitcher for spearheading the effort over several years, and to Plummer Excavation for providing and transporting the stone itself.

Bob Emmons began the ceremony with some background about the Historical Society's work on the memorial and the compilation of veterans' names to serve as an honor roll. A color guard of veterans posted the colors and the Reverend Avery Manchester offered the invocation. Selectman Chester Rice welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers, beginning with Maine first lady Ann LePage. Also speaking were Chris Rector as a representative of Senator Angus King, State Senator Chris Johnson, State Representative Mick Devin and American Legion representative John Hargreaves. A moment of silence followed by playing of 'Taps' by Bob Barkalow concluded the ceremony.

A special feature of the memorial is a handsome white wooden lectern - thanks to Todd Lincoln who designed and built it - which houses the notebook containing the names of South Bristol veterans who have served our country since South Bristol became a town in 1915. There are two groups of veterans listed: those who were residents of South Bristol at the time of their enlistment or discharge, and those with significant connections to South Bristol,

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*The notebook containing the names of South Bristol veterans was placed on top of the lectern made by Todd Lincoln at the dedication of the Memorial on Friday.*

though not resident at the time of enlistment or discharge. This second group includes summer residents. The pages are laminated to protect them from moisture, and there is a sheet in the back on which individuals can add names or make corrections to those already listed. In May of each year, SBHS will update the lists.

### **Down on the Island, Up on the Main**

A special showing of the exhibit “Down on the Island, Up on the Main,” created by the late Ellen Vincent, was open to the public on both on Saturday and Sunday of the Centennial weekend in the South Bristol School gymnasium. The exhibit, shown first in 2003, had its origins in 1995 when Vincent began collecting oral histories from longtime residents and making copy negatives of family photographs, antique postcard collections and other memorabilia. The 55 large panels designed and mounted by Vincent were drawn from 80 hours of interviews from twelve women and eleven men, and from the more than 380 photographs she gathered. The panels were placed on sturdy wooden easels also designed by Vincent. Wayne Eugley handled all the set-up, from hauling the easels and panels from storage, to re-assembling the easels and placing the panels, to taking it all apart again when the exhibit was over. Dave Andrews and members of his family made sure someone was on hand to welcome visitors during the open hours.

### **A Town Is Born**

The video “A Town Is Born,” designed by South Bristol School 5th and 6th graders and Historical Society members as a website in 2013, was being shown while the Ellen Vincent exhibit was on display. Students scanned images they found in the SBHS collection, then grouped them into four slideshows around topics closely related to the reasons for South Bristol’s separation from Bristol; bridges and roads, the working waterfront, ‘summer business’, and schools.

### **Parade, S Road School, SBHS Museum**

The town parade from Westside Road across the bridge to the school featured many ingenious floats and costumes. SBHS joined in the fun with the help of Stan Wells driving his truck which sported one large “South Bristol Historical Society” banner and another with a cheery “Happy Birthday” directed to our Town. In the back of the truck was a miniature S Road School with Carrie Thomas taking the part of well-remembered teacher Sarah Emery, and Morgan Reilly, Brooke Reilly, Skylar Maloney and Rory McCarthy as students sitting at the old-fashioned desk.

Both SBHS buildings were open during the Centennial weekend with the help of Janet Davis, Susan Holman, Joe Follayttar, Cynthia Garrels, Barbara Smith, Carolyn McKeon and Donna Plummer who served as docents welcoming visitors and answering questions. Joe Follayttar kept his camera at hand during all the centennial activities and donated a CD of all his photos to SBHS as a visual record of all the festivities.



*The SBHS float makes its way toward the bridge in the Centennial parade on Saturday.*



*Representing a day at the S Road School were Carrie Thomas as teacher Sarah Emery with her pupils Morgan Reilly, Brooke Reilly, Skylar Maloney and Rory McCarthy.*

# SBHS News Notes

## Trustees and Officers

Our extraordinary co-president, **Cathy Stockwell**, resigned in August to move to Oregon to be closer to her family. Cathy has done so much for SBHS over the last seven years – her creativity, her skill with PowerPoint presentations, her ability to organize, her willingness to undertake boring but necessary tasks like recording the artifacts and documents entrusted to SBHS by so many people, her persistence in making sure everything got done, and most of all her good humor – all these have shaped so many SBHS events and kept us running smoothly year after year. She will be greatly missed!

Two long-serving trustees retired this year. **Larry Kelsey**, a trustee since 2004, brought SBHS genealogy information into the digital era and, utilizing that resource, printed dozens of booklets enlarging and enhancing our South Bristol family genealogies. **Charles Beaudette**, a trustee since 2009, volunteered for a major and critical task: digitizing all our oral history cassette tapes, thereby preserving the treasure of the voices of our town for future generations.

At the Annual Meeting in July, new trustees **Scott Farrin** and **Mike Naylor** were elected and Cynthia Garrels and Carol Kelsey continued as trustees, all to serve for three years. Other trustees continuing to serve are Carolyn McKeon, Donna Plummer, Nathaniel Hammond, Warren Storch, Genie Cole, Larry Reed, Wayne Eugley and Bob Emmons.

At the SBHS Board meeting in September, trustee **Sue Edwards** was elected Vice President, joining the following officers in the second year of a two-year term: **Ellen Wells**, President; **Betsy Graves**, Treasurer; **Deb Storch**, Secretary; **David Andrews**, Historian.

## SBHS Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that Lincoln Academy senior **Cassie Leeman** is the SBHS Scholarship recipient for 2015. Cassie is the daughter of Brian and Michele Leeman. She is attending Eckerd College and plans to major in marine science. We wish her all the best throughout her college years!

## The Pemaquid Messenger at SBHS

The Pemaquid Messenger was a weekly eight-page newspaper 'devoted to the interests of Bristol and vicinity,' published at Pemaquid Falls beginning June 1, 1886 and continuing to at least March 18, 1897. Its first Editor and Publisher was B. T. Cox, followed by W. E. Lewis, 'Editor and Proprietor' beginning with the fourth issue. The Oct. 6, 1886 issue stated 'The Pemaquid Messenger is booming. Not quite three months old, over 500 subscribers, an office of 6 or 8 active workers.' By June 1887 circulation was at 1000 per week, and up to 1350 by 1890.

There were weekly columns from each of the various localities, but over the years the columns on South Bristol, Walpole, Clark's Cove, and West Bristol tended to be somewhat sporadic, as there were not always active correspondents in every locality.

Over the past few years SBHS Trustee **Nat Hammond** has spent many hours at the Maine Historical Society in Portland photographing all of the individual pages of the Pemaquid Messenger. He then downloaded them into his computer at home, and spent many more hours transcribing interesting South Bristol items, and a few others, into MS Word files. Nat finished the project early this summer donated a notebook containing all the printed excerpts to SBHS. He notes, however, that although the Maine Historical Society Library has a wonderful collection it is still missing many issues, some of which may be found at other libraries in the state.

This donation is truly a gold mine, giving us a contemporary look at what was going on in our town more than one hundred years ago. SBHS is grateful to Nat for this monumental accomplishment. Here are just a few tidbits from days gone by:

August 25, 1892

(Some things never change—what follows is an excerpt from an opinion piece published in the Philadelphia Times and reprinted in the Pemaquid Messenger) "It is free trade in the pauper and criminal labor of Europe that is now disturbing the land, and it is the highly protected employers of the country who have invited it here. High taxes on the necessities of life and of business have oppressed American labor, and free trade in pauper labor has infused into our industry the most lawless and dangerous elements." (Change a few words, and this could be a quote from a speech made by more than one candidate this election season!)



*SBHS Scholarship recipient Cassie Leeman at Lincoln Academy graduation.*

June 13, 1895

Bristol wants all the summer visitors she can get, except tramps and burglars. A fierce specimen of the former class, and perhaps of the latter too, arrived in town this week. Mrs. Percy Huey discovered that two of her chickens were missing. A party of six started out to hunt up this "gentleman of leisure". They found two nicely dressed chickens in his possession and at once proceeded to have him arrested.

April 13, 1887

The price of small lobsters is one dollar per hundred weight (100 lbs.).

September 8, 1892

Our people were startled Wednesday evening by the report that A.J. Dodge's horses attached to his grocery cart had run away in Walpole, and that he had been picked up insensible by the roadside.

# Darling Marine Center - Celebrating 50 years

The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Maine's Ira C. Darling Marine Center for Research, Teaching and Service (the DMC), on Clark's Cove Road in Walpole. Randy Lackovic, Darling Marine Center librarian, has researched the history of the property, known as Wentworth Point, writing twelve "Wentworth Point History Bulletins." The SBHS spring 2014 newsletter included Bulletin No. 3, telling the story of George Woodman and his family, owners of the Wentworth property from 1884 until 1939. This article is based on Randy's research and on information prepared by Linda Healy which appears on the DMC website. It offers an overview of the property's history from the Wentworth family through Ira C. Darling to the University of Maine and the Darling Marine Center as we know it in 2015.

## From Wentworth to Darling

John Wentworth (1706-1746) and his wife Jane had four children, at least three of whom made their way to Bristol sometime in the mid to late 18th century. Son Gershom married in Bristol in 1773 and served in the Revolutionary War before moving to Searsmont. It is not known exactly where in Bristol James and Abigail resided, but they both have descendants buried in the Wentworth Cemetery on the Darling Marine Center property. It was through a Wentworth descendant that Ira C. Darling came to own the property on which the DMC is located.

Abigail Wentworth married William Kelsey, and their son William and his wife Esther are buried in the Wentworth Cemetery. Thomas Kelsey, a son of William and Esther, married his cousin Esther Wentworth. They and two of their

children who died in 1851, Eliza Jane and Warren, are also buried there.

James Wentworth married Elizabeth Williams whose headstone reads "Mrs. Betsy Wentworth." Two of their five children, Jane and John, are buried in the Wentworth Cemetery as is John's wife Martha. Of John and Martha's eleven children, Harriet, Susan, Elizabeth, Mary, Henry, Catherine and Jane are buried there.

John's daughter Catherine married Gilman Merrill. Two of their children, Sarah and John, are buried in the Cemetery. Their daughter Susan married Elijah M. Woodman, who purchased the Wentworth homestead in 1884. Elijah and Susan had two children, George H. Woodman and Harriet. George had no children and Harriet outlived both her brother and her father. At her death in 1938, she left the estate to her friend, Mrs. Gordon Tucker, who subsequently sold the property to a retired Illinois insurance executive, Ira C. Darling.

## Ira C. Darling and the University of Maine

"As you know I spent the best part of twenty years on the farm, and it was as near Paradise as I ever wish to be."

Ira C. Darling, February 1966

Mr. Darling was born January 1, 1884. At the age of 19 he went work in the Union Stock Yards, earning just \$10 per week. Within six years, he had started his own insurance business. He consolidated with a business partner to create the Bartholomay Darling Company in 1916. Darling ran the



*The Wentworth Cemetery holds the keys to much of the story of the early residents of the property that became the Darling Marine Center.*



*Two daughters of John Wentworth and his wife Martha are buried in the Wentworth Cemetery, though their headstones are no longer standing.*

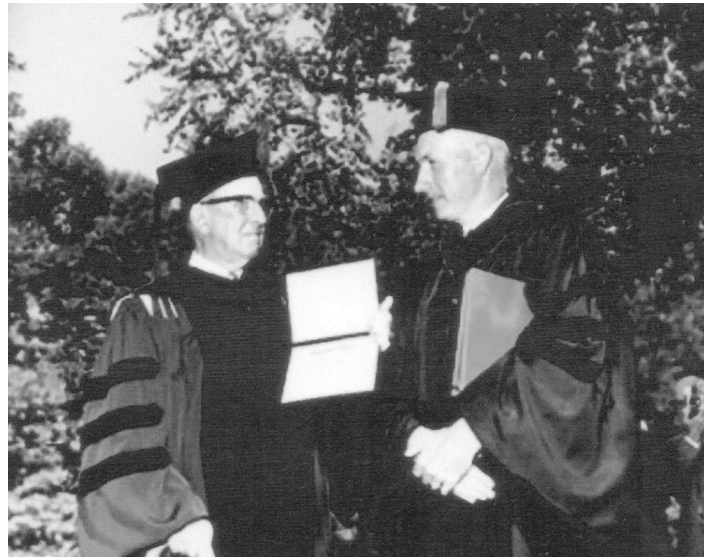
company until his retirement in 1939. He was an astute businessman and successful investor who purchased the 148.6-acre Walpole property in 1939 from Mrs. Tucker for a mere \$12,500 as a place to enjoy his retirement.

Although his summers were spent in "Paradise" on the shores of the Damariscotta River estuary, Mr. Darling was also a practical man and a visionary. Over the years he became interested in tree farming and planted over 15,000 trees, pine and spruce, on the property. When he and his wife could no longer travel from the Chicago area to their beloved farm he weighed his options. He was approached by a local real estate developer, but that was not the future he envisioned for his piece of paradise. In 1965 he donated the property to the University of Maine with the intent of establishing a marine laboratory on site. To help maintain and improve the property he established the largest trust in the University's history.

A research program was planned for the summer of 1965 designed to begin on a modest scale. The plan included a cataloging and identification of all forms of microscopic and macroscopic marine life in the immediate vicinity. Several staff members were also to use the facilities to maintain experimental material, and several geology projects and several zoology projects were to be transferred to the center.

On February 1, 1966, Dr. David Dean took the helm as the first director of the Center. David was responsible for securing faculty positions, establishing courses, and physically transforming a farm into a marine lab. By 1970, resident faculty included: David Dean, Hugh DeWitt, Ken Fink, Herb Hidu, Mike Mazurkiewicz, Bernie McAlice, and Detmar Schnitker. Keith Leeman, caretaker of the Darling property stayed on with the University and proved invaluable during the transition. Early renovations included the Horse Barn where the old stalls became offices, the hayloft became a conference room, and the basement laboratories were built. In 1971 funding was secured from the Kresge Foundation for a new classroom. The Flowing Seawater Laboratory was built at the waterfront the same year and quickly became the hub oyster aquaculture research under Herb Hidu's auspices. A team of researchers worked on the Maine Yankee Project, monitoring the effect of the nuclear power plant's thermal effluent. During the remainder of the 70's the Center continued to expand. George Willett conveyed his property on McGuire Point to the University of Maine, Vernon Westcott supplied the Center with a scanning electron microscope, and Larry Mayer and Les Watling joined the faculty. Research efforts included Bernie McAlice's thorough study of the Damariscotta River estuary.

Dr. Les Watling was appointed Director of the Center in 1985. At that time, the year round population at the lab included 9 faculty, 20 graduate students, 6 technicians, and 12 staff. Bob Steneck was hired in 1986. With funding and



*In recognition of his generosity, the University of Maine bestowed upon Mr. Darling (left) an honorary doctor of law degree on September 9, 1965. The ceremony took place at the Darling home in Kenilworth, IL. UMaine president Dr. Lloyd Elliott (right) conferred the degree.*

support from the Gulf of Maine Foundation, Les oversaw the expansion of the Flowing Seawater Laboratory.

In 1991, Dr. Kevin Eckelbarger took charge and the following two decades brought much change to the DMC property. With funding from the National Science Foundation's Marine Lab and Field Station program, the DMC facilities grew to include: two more classrooms, a dive building, a vessel operations building, a dormitory/dining hall, a coastal research vessel, a second seawater laboratory, a library expansion, and updated laboratory instrumentation and oceanographic sampling gear.

The number of academic offerings for University of Maine students at the DMC increased over the last two decades. In 1993, the Semester By the Sea was established, initiating a new tradition of undergraduate teaching at the DMC. The School of Marine Sciences was formed in 1996 and now offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in marine biology, oceanography and marine policy.

In 2011, the DMC property was valued at over \$25 million and encompassed 170 acres and 25 buildings. The facility is widely respected in marine circles and well known as a user-friendly laboratory and field station. Annually, the Center welcomes over 2200 visitors — students, researchers, course participants and conference goers.

(The Wentworth History Bulletins and more information can be found at <http://dmc.umaine.edu/welcome/history/>)

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*Undeterred by rainy weather, members of South Bristol Girl Scout troop #1677 planted an apple tree on the S Road School property.*

### **The Girl Scouts Plant a Tree**

One showery day in June, a lively group of girls, members of Girl Scout Troop #1677, arrived at the S Road School with their leaders Annette Farrin and Katie Rodrigue. After visiting the school room, they gathered around a healthy little apple tree, placed it in the ground and carefully surrounded it with soil and mulch. In a few years, there will be an apple for the teacher!