

# South Bristol Historical Society

Est. 1998

## Newsletter

South Bristol, Maine 04568

Volume 9 Number 2

Fall 2006

### Historical Society News

#### Remembering Yvonne Chapman

Founding trustee, first president and honorary life member **Yvonne Chapman** died on October 20, 2006, a great loss to SBHS and the community. Yvonne worked tirelessly for many years to assure that South Bristol would have a historical society and when it was incorporated in 1998, became its first president. In addition to getting the organization set up - seeing to the adoption of by-laws, writing of policies and all that is involved in getting a new Society running - she gave not just hours, but weeks and months to the task of creating a museum and research center in the old Rutherford Library building, bringing many of her own scrapbooks and genealogical research files to fill the then empty shelves. Her energy and expertise, her commitment to South Bristol's history and her warm welcome to all will not be forgotten.



*Yvonne Chapman (right), SBHS president, presenting a certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Erica Welter, in recognition of her community service in connection with the preservation of the Thompson Ice House, September 1999.*

#### ***A History of the Families and their Houses: South Bristol, Maine***

Treasurer **Cotton Damon** reports that 550 copies of H. Landon Warner's comprehensive survey of our town had been sold as of October 15. Special thanks to **Harborside, Island Grocery** and **Walpole Barn** for selling books for us without taking any percentage for themselves, a major contribution to the sales effort. Harborside alone has sold

close to 200 books, and will have them for sale all through the winter, as will the Walpole Barn. This book, and Ellen Vincent's *Down on the Island, Up on the Main* make wonderful Christmas gifts - see the information and order blank on the last page of this issue.

Please remember, and tell others, that there is a **special tear-out sheet** at the back of the Warner book which can be sent to SBHS with any corrections or significant additions to the text. We will issue an update based on the material we receive, including the sources of the information.

#### **South Bristol Schools - the "S Road" and more**

As those of you who were able to attend the October 2006 meeting know, our summer intern, **August Avantaggio**, has made a great start on the history of the schools that have served the children of South Bristol over the years. A son of Mary and Frank Avantaggio who reside in Damariscotta and spend summers in South Bristol where Mary grew up, August is a history major at Wheaton College and was the recipient of a grant from the Wheaton Fellows program for his work with the Historical Society during the summer months.

August's report included some interesting and little-known facts about education in South Bristol when it was part of Bristol including: in 1850, the average annual expenditure per child in Bristol was \$0.82 while in the county as a whole it was \$1.10; on the other hand, Bristol's teachers (male-female received far less) were paid \$17.66 per month, only 4 of 18 schoolhouses in Bristol were in "good repair"; of 1,213 children of school age, less than half attended school.

Interviews of Sarah Emery who taught in South Bristol schools for 40 years, conducted by Richard Hawkins in 1975, provided August with first-hand stories about the Roosevelt or S Road School. Remembering her days as a student there in 1895, Miss Emery described the school as "...a very barren place...with huge desks and wood benches...you couldn't budge them. I think there was a partition between so that I had my books on one side and [another's] were on the other. The inkwell was in the middle, and there was never any ink in it. We couldn't afford to have ink." Recalling her early years teaching there, she said "The building was always white. It seems...the walls inside were always green." Then in 1914 "electricity [went] in. I went to the [Thompson] hotel down here and they gave me lamps to go around, probably a half dozen maybe." Before

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electricity, “there were no lights. When it was a thunderstorm we couldn’t see to study.”

For more contemporary sources, August personally interviewed **Katherine Poole Norwood, Mona Farrin Taylor, Lance Kelsey, Amy Rice Poole, Betty Alley House** and **Edgar Thompson** to gather their memories of going to school in South Bristol. These interviews enliven his report, which is available at SBHS, and will be an important addition to the archives of the Society.

For a further glimpse of what was going on in the schools of South Bristol in the 1880’s, take a look at the items reprinted from the **Pemaquid Messenger** that appear on the next page.

## Membership

A warm welcome and sincere thanks to three new Life Members! **Christa Elwell** (who found us on the Internet), and long-time members **Ann** and **Don Armiger** and **Ann Wileman**, have expressed their support and confidence in SBHS by becoming life members. The number of sustaining members has increased to 27, a significant and welcome source of extra financial support. Thanks also to the many members who included a contribution with their dues, and to the family of Lloyd Farrin who suggested gifts in his memory to SBHS. As of October 1, there were 162 paid-up memberships: of this total, 54 are individual memberships and most of the remainder are couple/family memberships. Therefore, roughly 250 people are providing ongoing encouragement to our endeavors.

### From the Pemaquid Messenger

*July 14, 1886*

*Under “South Bristol”:*

The Island school has a vacation this week. Our schools are giving universal satisfaction.

*August 4, 1886*

*Under “West Bristol Waves”:*

Abbie Bearce closed a profitable term of school in Dist. No. 3, Friday July 30th. The closing exercises were very pleasant, consisting of reading and speaking by the children. Quite a number of visitors were present.

We hear the pleasing report that we may have one of the Free High schools here this fall. We hope that the report may be verified, for we need one here very much.

*December 8, 1886*

*Under “West Bristol”:*

Miss Minnie Goudy has been confined to the house for some time, by a scald received while turning water from the tea kettle. Her schoolmates wish her a speedy recovery.

## Volunteers

Summer open hours at the SBHS museum helped us reach friends in the community and many summer visitors once again. **John Rounds** manned the desk Wednesday afternoons in July and August, and **Thelma House** took over in September. Also on hand on Sundays were **Donna Plummer, Cotton Damon, Annie Rice, Cynthia Garrels, Dave Andrews** and **Carolyn McKeon**. Cynthia also spent many hours entering information about our collections into the computer database—an important and very time-consuming task. Many folks helped with refreshments and setting up for our meetings this season, and still others indicated their willingness to help but were not needed this year—we hope you will still be ready to lend a hand next year! We greatly appreciate everyone’s time and effort.

We are off to a good start in the transcribing of our oral histories, thanks to **Michele Christensen** who transcribed multiple tapes of interviews with Henry Jones and Martha Steer. We have lots more, and if you can type, you can help—just let Michele know you are interested—email her at [barcotag@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:barcotag@lincoln.midcoast.com).

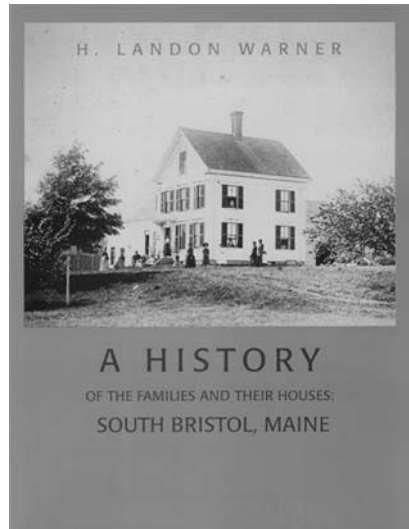
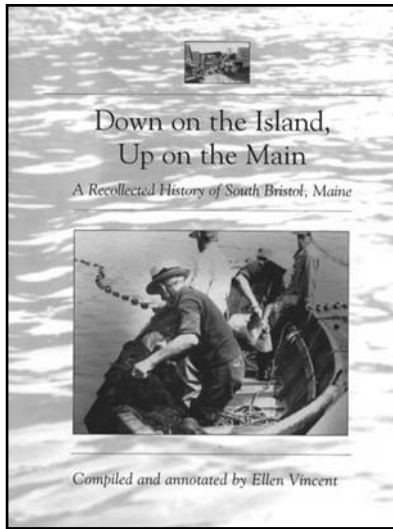
## Winter Thursdays

A long list of interesting and important tasks awaits **Winter Thursdays** participants. Starting October 26 and continuing most Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3 pm through April, the SBHS museum/research center will be open so that numerous projects can go forward. Among the challenges for this year are organizing the contents of two four-drawer file cabinets of records of the Christmas Cove Improvement Association, locating negatives for Ann Hillis photos of which copies have been requested, organizing and copying press clippings about South Bristol, entering data into our collections database, and planning for new displays. Please join us - we will take time off mid-December through the first week in January, so call 644-1234 a few days in advance to confirm that a session is planned for the week you wish to come by.

## Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on July 20, warm appreciation was expressed to **Gordon Claar** who stepped down as vice president after having served since the Society was organized. Officers elected were **Ellen Wells**, president; **Nat Hammond**, vice president; **Michele Christensen**, secretary; **Cotton Damon**, treasurer; and **David Andrews**, historian. Members were pleased to elect **Gordon Claar** and former secretary **Gail Seiders** to the board as trustees; **Carolyn McKeon, Donna Plummer, Larry Kelsey, Bill Kelsey** and **Eugenie Cole** are continuing their terms as trustees.

**Please take note of your address on this mailing**—if your name is circled in red, it means that you have not yet paid dues for the 2006-2007 year. A membership renewal form can be found on the back page for your convenience in renewing your membership.



Here are two great ideas for your  
Christmas giving list

*Down on the Island, Up on the Main*  
by Ellen Vincent

*A History of the Families and their Houses:*  
*South Bristol, Maine*  
by H. Landon Warner



For each gift copy, send your check for \$25.00 (payable to SBHS)  
and the mailing instructions below to

SBHS  
PO Box 229  
South Bristol, Maine 04568

H. Landon Warner book

Ellen Vincent book

Your name for the gift card \_\_\_\_\_

To be mailed to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure your request reaches us  
**BEFORE DECEMBER 10** for Christmas delivery.

# Join the South Bristol Historical Society

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Winter phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Summer phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Categories: Please check one

### Annual

Individual \$10.00

Couple/family \$20.00

Sustaining (Individual or Couple/family) \$40.00

Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Life

Individual \$250.00

Couple/family \$350.00

Please mail form and check to: SBHS, PO Box 229, South Bristol, ME 04568

South Bristol Historical Society  
212½ State Route 129  
PO Box 229  
South Bristol, ME 04568