

“Somewhere in Bayside”

Bayside Historical Preservation Society

Newsletter Spring 2016

Joe Reilly, President; Heidi Von Bergan, Treasurer; Pam Williams, Secretary;
Beverly Crofoot, Vice- President. Board Members, Sue Fleming,
Harry Rosenblum. Joy Sherman, Carlton Smith,
Jane Strauss, Lisa Webster.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Reilly

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we had 4+ feet of snow in our yard and today I'm looking out over brown grass, a few crocus and 40-degree temperatures. I hope you've all had warm and exciting winters filled with family, friends and terrific experiences.

First and foremost, let me just say that the BHPS and Overseers have combined to purchase 100 new padded chairs for the Community Hall. Gone are the rickety, old, all metal, squeaky chairs of the past! Come to the hall for any event and sit in comfort! Thanks to our deal finder, Harry Rosenblum, for finding these for us!

The BHPS has had another wonderful year. Thank you to all who made the 100th Celebration such a tremendous success. Perhaps the best part of all of the events was friends and neighbors getting together to enjoy presentations and activities. The wide range of activities involved all age groups. The talent show was particularly exciting –thanks to all of the participants and the organizers who were: Blair and Beanie Einstein, Carlton Smith and Bill Cressey with help from Bill Weisenbach. Lisa Webster did a terrific job managing a core of volunteers who helped visitors navigate this year's version of the Bayside House Tour. Coordination of all of the summer's events was shepherded by Denis Wang, John Spritz and the tireless John Woolsey. BHPS sponsored two interesting evening, visual presentations by Earle Shettelworth Jr., Maine State Historian and Kevin Johnson from the Penobscot Marine Museum. Attendance at all of the events this summer was great.

During his slide show, Kevin Johnson opened the floor up for comments, often aimed at identifying images on the screen. Once again, people enjoyed hearing what others had to say about different images. That interaction has led to calls for more time in groups to talk about images and events and to reprise our Oral History Project. Ned Lightner, Gina Cressey and Beverly Crofoot have designed a new format for collecting these all-important oral histories. Please see Ned's notes in this newsletter. Also, the cover photo on this newsletter is an albumen photograph, taken somewhere in Bayside by Tuttle but as yet unidentified. Please help us figure out where the photo was taken.

The success of the summer events gave birth to a new Bayside Arts Program, initiated by John Woolsey and Bill Cressey with help from Joe Reilly and Joy Sherman. You'll be hearing more about this in the future! Rob Sherman and Dick Brockway with the support of the BHPS have begun the task of rehabbing and strengthening the Well House in Merithew Sq. Dick and Rob have volunteered their time and skills for this work. They will make sure that the Well House stays standing for generations to come. Thanks fellas!

This year we are excited to host an evening of early Maine images and music on August 5 in the Community Hall. The program is called, "The Maine Frontier" with vintage photos and film and live music by filmmaker Sumner McKane and Joshua Robbins. This event is sure to be engaging! Rob Sherman reviews a Maine book in this newsletter that revolves around the theme of the independent frontier Mainer.

Coordination between Yacht Club, BHPS and Overseers continues with all three groups supporting educational and entertainment events as well as the Northport Food Pantry.

Thank you to all who continue to make BHPS work- the volunteers who staff our museum on Pleasant St., those who participated in the 100th celebration and events, and those who are on our board- Heidi Von Bergan, Joy Sherman, Carlton Smith, Beverly Crofoot, Jane Strauss, Lisa Webster, Sue Ellen Fleming, Pam Williams and Harry Rosenblum.

A News Flash or two from the Year 1887.

There were no arrests at Northport this season, and little or no intoxication on the grounds – a marked improvement over former years. This is due to the vigilance of the State Constables.

The Sea Breeze says: The water supply here is excellent this year, but in dry seasons is apt to be scarce. Arrangements will probably be made to bring in water from Knowlton's spring by another season. A stock company will be formed and the water brought in by pipes overland and furnished to cottages and takers at reasonable rates for the season.

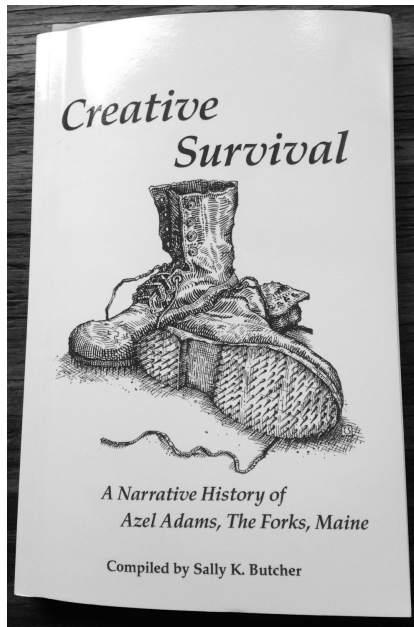
Mr. J. W. Knight, one of the officers who visited the cottagers on the grounds and collected the ten cent fee during campmeeting week, says it was amusing to note the different manner in which people treated him. Some gave the money gingerly which others were liberal. He met one party who had but three or four in the cottage who insisted on paying for the cat, the pig, and the horse, or thirty cents more than was asked!

A gentleman said that while standing upon South Shore one day last week a strange medley of sounds was wafted to his ears. The voice of the preacher could be heard from the grove, which blended with the singing in the cottages. Mingled with this came the notes of the violin the pavilion, the rolling of the ball in the bowling alley, and the shouts of the various vender and proprietors of the catch-penny devices in the grove.

He was a smart young man from the city, graduate from a grocery store, perhaps, and he struck Northport for the first time with an air that plainly said what he didn't know wasn't worth knowing. He rode down from the R. R. station with "Jack" and when asked for his fare grandiloquently flourished out a \$20 bank note as much as if to say "What about that," and an evident intention of bumming his fare. "Jake" quietly took in the bill and counted him out \$19.75 in silver and copper change, and walked away a wise man as well as a heavier one – in his pocket. [Sea Breeze]

This place is a paradise of our great middle class, who desires rest and recreation for two or three weeks in the year. The professions, all the trades and callings, are here represented. No one is better than his neighbors; all are on a level. Here the inland-born vacationist, whose line of vision has been drawn inside a few rods or a mile, at the most, bounded by his neighbor's walls, or the forest a short distance off, can here expand his mind with the breath of a horizon leagues away, the blue sky and bluer sea satisfying him with their novelty, their changeableness and their beauty; the passing sails and steamboats; the groups of bathers with their merry laughter.

Transcribed from the Republican Journal by Beverly Crofoot.



LUMBERING IN MAINE

Rob Sherman

Did you ever think about the meaning of “lumber”—the word as well as the activity? Not about moving heavily and clumsily and noisily (which is one of its derived meanings). I’m a small fellow, and moving that way would be an effort. But when I was a kid, we did “lumber” in the woods. The origin of the word goes to a pawnbroker’s shop or storeroom, and refers to stored articles, or lumber. In our case it was the business of cutting trees to be sawed, stored, and sold—beams, planks, and boards—for building. And pulpwood and firewood, too. I still have a fondness for that work.

Knowing that, my friend Joe Reilly, who keeps a bookshop, a few days ago sent me a book: *Creative Survival: A Narrative History of Azel Adams, The Forks, Maine*. Published in 1991, and with a Foreword by the Richmond Historical Society (a sister to the Bayside Historical Preservation Society), it is the story of a man who was “a blacksmith’s apprentice, a bootlegger, lumber camp cook, river driver, and Maine guide”—anything to make a living in the years between the two World Wars and during and after the Great Depression.

Everything in the book hits my nostalgia button! But of special interest is what it was like to work in the woods. The Forks is in northwestern Maine, in Somerset County, half way between Bingham and Moosehead Lake, where the Kennebec and Dead rivers come together. Among his many memories, Adams has a chapter on lumbering, where he tells about cutting and storing wood, hauling it with horses and trucks, and the implements to do the work. Much of it reminds me of my younger life.

We used horses in the early days. Like Adams, we had a horse who would pull logs to a clearing, where it would be unhooked and turned around and headed back into the woods for another pull—all without our supervision. A smart horse! Then trucks were used, but at first they were not powerful enough to get to the top of hills, so Adams would rent his horses—for one dollar—to pull them to the top; then they would race down the other side and to the mill. Adams also remembers the ice roads, or “rutters,”

made so that sleds would not slip off, or out of, the road. A channel was made the width of the sled and would be watered at night to freeze and guide the sled. Then we would have Mr. Toad's wild ride! Work in the Maine woods in the winter was not always drudgery. Later the Lombard gas-log hauler came into use and made quick work of hauling all that wood. One of them can be seen today at the Coles Museum in Bangor.

A million and a half board feet of white birch logs were stored in front of Adams' family home, where they were built into rafts and run down the river, with "drivers" riding and guiding them on top. "It took about three hours to go the twenty-three miles with the raft." Today we pay good money just to use a water slide! A good worker could cut seven cords of pulpwood a day—"for seventy-five cents a cord and a carton of cigarettes." That would be a pile four feet wide, four feet high, and fifty-six feet long—think about it! With a person-powered bucksaw! "The chain saw came in[to] the woods in about 1934, 35." I didn't know it was this early, since I had never seen a chain saw when I stopped my own work in the woods in 1951. (Have you ever seen an old chain saw? It was huge—and heavy; compare it with the compact little saws we have today.) To be this productive, tools had to be kept in shape. Good workers would file their saws every night and take several spare blades into the woods with them. While he turned the grindstone, Adams was taught to keep his axe sharp, his teacher saying, "If I couldn't skin a mouse without waking him up, I wouldn't use it."

It is gratifying, also, to see that Adams is aware of the environmental effects of lumbering. Loggers would peel trees in the woods and the bark would decay into the earth rather than pile in a heap at the mill. (Peeled trees were worth more and would float easier) "When they made machines that would peel the logs down at the mill it really hurt the environment. . . . There was nothing left to make new soil and it hurt the streams, all that bark falling off in the river. Lumber was one of the worst things, with the tannic acid from the bark, . . . and it did affect the spawning of the fish."

Adams also has a wise observation about the fate of animals and fishing in the woods and streams. "The predator of [animals] is man." Not so much that he kills them outright, but he opens the country for "tremendous pressure" on them. "Hunting, fishing, our fishing is gone. Back when I was a young fellow very seldom would you see anybody go fish those streams around the Forks. . . . [They] were feeder brooks. They were the fish hatchery for those areas. But today they're cleaned out."

All of that is just a taste from Adams' book. Now a segue. Adams says, "If a person had movies today of what the old timers had to do to get wood off those mountains it would be quite a movie."

Well, there is a movie—or, to be accurate, a multimedia presentation of rare and historic photography, archived films, oral histories, and live music about “family, work, community, and culture in northern Maine at the turn-of-the-[20th]-century.” **Titled “The Maine Frontier: Through the Lens of Isaac Walton Simpson,” it will be the feature at the annual meeting of the Bayside Historical Preservation Society, on August 5 in the Community Hall.** Isaac Walton Simpson was a “photographer, blacksmith, barber, musician, woodsman, [and] mechanic” (another Azel Adams!) who travelled to farms and logging camps and the woods of Aroostook County to record “the character and lifestyle of the people.” The program is created by filmmaker Summer McKane, with music by himself and Joshua Robbins.

Come see the show—and bring friends! Put it on your calendar now—August 5. There will be an opportunity to interact with the presenters, and snacks will be provided if you have to miss supper.

SHADY GROVE Cottage and Museum
Pleasant Street
Open Sundays during July and August

Everybody has a story to tell!

The BHPS is organizing two days - one in July, one in August - devoted to recording lots of memories for all to hear, and to help preserve our history. We'll interview a cross-section of Baysiders including old-timers, young people, year-rounders, and renters. Some will come from families who have been in the village for generations, and others for a few years. No two tales will be alike.

Ned Lightner plans a film compilation from these two days, and hopes to do a showing at summer's end. We will need volunteer interviewers, so if you'd like to fill that role on one or both days, get in touch with Gina Cressey at gczessey@aol.com. She'll provide suggestions on questions for you to ask, and offer a training session for those doing interviews for the first time.

We hope this event will be popular enough to continue each summer so everyone has had a chance to tell stories of how families came to Bayside, share memories of childhood friends and pastimes. A picture will emerge of what aspects of Bayside living have changed over time, and what always stays the same.



NORTHPORT GOLF CLUB CELEBRATES IT'S CENTENNIAL

In 2016 the Northport Golf Club will be one hundred years old. In 1915 the Northport Country Club was formed and a year later they began building a golf course. The club was started by prominent members of the Bayside summer community led by Ira Cobe. The course was located on the old Oscar Hills farm and was designed by it's first professional, George Jennings. Play started with a grand celebration on the 4th of July and has continued to this day.

This summer, to mark the event, a special tournament and celebration will be held on July 2. In attendance will be guests who have a special connection to the history of the club. Flags with the centennial logo will be on the course for the 2016 season. The celebration will also mark the release of a book following the history of the Golf Club.

Visit the club this summer for a round of golf and visit the Club's web site or Facebook page for information about summer events. During the season they will feature special video clips of aural history presented by long time members. Copies of the book, specially struck commemorative coins, and items featuring the centennial logo will be for sale in the pro shop.

Join us this summer for the celebration.

Treasurer's Report 1/1/2015-12/31/2015

2015 saw a noted decrease in the number of members from 141 the previous year to 111 in year 2015. Our overall 2015 dues and donations were down from the previous year by \$706 as a result of fewer members and perhaps the additional centennial expenses for home owners. However, we actually generated more income than the previous year with the House Tour and an increase in book and poster sales.

We received donations in memory of Priscilla Bryant Kelly and Ellen Hatcher.

We continued to support the Band Concert, Northport Food Bank and Centennial Celebration (increase in honorariums). Our expenses were considerably greater, as we had increased newsletter costs, House Tour Expenses, increased maintenance expenses for the museum including a dehumidifier to manage the mold. Additionally, with Harry Rosenblum's careful eye for a bargain, we donated 50 more comfortable chairs to the Community Hall.

To keep our savings account active I transferred \$20.00 from petty cash.

Respectfully submitted, Heidi von Bergen, Treasurer.

Preliminary TREASURER'S REPORT 1/1/15-12/31/15

General Fund Balance 1/1/15 \$21,202.51

Income

2015 Donations 1564.00
2015 Dues 830.00
Book Sales/Posters 1,430.00
House Tour 1915.00
Interest Income 8.01
Misc. Income 241.00
Sales Tax Income 52.58
Shipping Income 25.00

Total Income \$6065.59

Expenses

Book printing/postage 100 copies 3,520.00
Centennial Celebration 40.00
Community Hall Chairs 649.50
House Tour Expenses 606.92
Honorariums 200.00
Insurance 500.00
Maine Filing Fee 35.00
Maintenance/landscape museum 802.06
Membership Maine Archives & Museums 25.00
Misc. Expenses 318.90
Mission 120.00
Newsletter (printing, postage, labels) 707.90
Northport Food Pantry 300.00
NYC Band Concert 1/3 250.00
Rent PO Box 66.00
Sales Tax Paid 20.95
Shipping Expenses 23.20
Utilities 459.73

Total Expenses \$8645.16

Dif. 2579.57

WORKING CAPITAL

Assets 12/31/15

Bank Accounts
Camden National Checking \$2,674.26 (Bank shows +\$100 from outstanding check)
Camden National Savings \$16,017.88

Total Bank Accounts \$ 18,692.14

Petty Cash 84.70
Total Assets **\$ 18,776.84**

General Fund Balance 12/31/15 \$ 18,776.84



**1870's Albumen photograph on a cabinet card, down at the dock.
Notice the gate is in place to collect those dimes!**

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Membership Application/Payment of Annual Dues
2016-2017

Name: _____
Winter Address: _____
Telephone _____
E-mail address: _____
Summer Address: _____
Summer Telephone: _____

Dues and donations – All dues and donations are tax deductible.

First member of Household	\$10. _____
Other household members	\$ 5. Each _____
Children under 18	Free
Donation	_____

TOTAL _____

Please make check payable to BHPS and mail with this form to:

NOTE NEW ADDRESS

Bayside Historical Preservation Society, PO Box 273, Northport, ME 04849.

Please indicate any area of interest you have or ideas for the directors and officers to consider. How would you like to participate in BHPS?



Bayside Historical Preservation Society
PO Box 273
Northport, Maine 04849