

# South Bristol Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 20 Number 1

Spring 2017



South Bristol Historical Society  
Est. 1998

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## Secretary

Deb Storch

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Scott Farrin  
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## What's New in the Museum



Todd Lincoln recently donated mementos of Linwood Lounsbury, a World War II veteran who served in Europe during the war. Lincoln donated Lounsbury's tags, unit crest, and marksman badge, as well as a journal, noting various places Lounsbury fought in France and Germany.

## 2017 Summer Program

The Board is happy to announce our 2017 Program. We hope you will be excited about our speakers and planned programs. All events will be held in the Parish Hall of the Union Congregational Church on Rutherford Island unless otherwise noted. Doors will open at 6:30 and the programs will begin at 7:00. We hope you will join us for light refreshments prior to the program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sue Edwards or Donna Plummer.

### **May 17th - Anne Gass**

Anne Gass will speak about the suffrage movement in Maine and how the "woman's vote" remains a major factor in elections. She will share her research and thoughts on how themes of patriotism, war, and woman suffrage in the early 20th century play out today.

### **June 14th - Russ Lane**

Russ Lane will speak about his father, also Russ Lane, a Coast Guard lighthouse keeper who performed an amazing rescue near Whitehead Island in Maine in August 1958. Russ has made a moving video about the rescue in tribute to his father.

### **July 12th - James Nelson**

James Nelson is an award-winning author of maritime fiction and

**2017 Summer Program Announced (cont'd)**  
nonfiction. He will speak on the Popham Colony founded in 1607, the first colony established in what would become New England.

**Aug 16th - Sumner McKane**

Sumner McKane will present and discuss his film "Northeast by Eastern," a film woven together by Eastern Illustrating & Publishing photography that includes interviews and oral histories of stories from Mainers from a "simpler time." *This event will be held at the CCIA.*

**Sept 13th - Trivia Night!**

Join us for what we hope will be a night of great fun exploring how much we all know (and can recall!) about South Bristol history. This is an event we will be especially interested in getting your feedback on to see if this might be the 1st Annual Trivia Night . . .

**Oct 18th - Celebrate the 1930 Ladies Aid**

**Cookbook**

The SBHS has reprinted the 1930 cookbook and will celebrate the women who organized and published it. Our refreshments this night will all come from the cookbook! Come and share your own stories of these women, these recipes, and these times. The cookbook is available for sale for \$10.

**From the Pemaquid Messenger . . .**

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. The Maine Historical Society has a wonderful collection of original issues which SBHS Trustee Nat Hammond has photographed page by page. Nat has then read each issue and carefully transcribed items that pertain to South Bristol, including typos and misspellings as they occurred in the original. Many thanks to Nat for his countless hours of work to make these articles available to us. Here is a sampling.

**Wednesday, January 5, 1887 Volume 1, No 27**

**Witch Island**

If you have ever visited South Bristol and

neglected to call on "Grace Courtland," the famous "Witch of Wall Street" at her summer home on Witch Island you have missed a great treat. The island was bought two years ago by the "Witch" and her husband, Mr. D.G. Chittenden, who make their home here during the summer months. For the past few weeks they have been entertaining a large party of friends from New York and Providence. They have a small cottage very tastefully furnished and two tents also furnished. The island contains about eleven acres and is covered with a heavy growth of oak. It is a beautiful spot for a summer home and a visit to the island will plainly show that its owners are enjoying every moment. Should you ever contemplate a visit to this island, do not anticipate meeting with a veritable witch, for you will be disappointed, but instead will meet a lady of middle age, prepossessing in appearance who will make stay delightful by her interesting conversation and easy manners, and you will take your departure, saying, that indeed it must be some witchery.

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Readers of Downeast Magazine may recall that the June 1999 edition included a piece asking its readers "Where's Walpole?" It turns out that the question was being asked a good bit earlier and by readers of the *Messenger*.

**Wednesday November 17, 1886 Volume I, No. 20**

Will the writer of 'Walpole Wonders' please give the limits of Walpole as I am very anxious about the length of it endwise.

**Wednesday December 1, 1886 Volume I, No. 22**

We have found out the length of Walpole at last. A lady came to us in our dilemma and told us that Dunbar, of ye olden time established the southwestern boundary at a place called The Ledges, in the Damariscotta River.

**Wednesday December 8, 1886 Volume I, No. 23**

Being somewhat interested in the query and answers about the limits of Walpole, yet do not consider it such a momentous question as your Bristol correspondent, but always like to encourage the young in seeking knowledge, even if some of the questions are a little simple, therefore cannot forbear telling what I know of its history. In "ye olden time" Walpole was so called from the fact that old Lord Walpole owned a tract of

a great many hundred acres of land extending from Harrington up to little creek bridge. But the Walpole correspondent should bear in mind that two years ago a new era opened to us, and that the former things have passed away, and all things become new under our new administration. And among other improvements is the march of time, a new P.O. called "Walpole" has been established about two miles below the old Walpole church. Hence Walpole proper, at the present time is that tract of land lying within the limits of Walpole P.O. Therefore I would advise the upper Walpoler to bow with grace and submission to the decree of the government....One of the Oldest.

### **November 9, 19887 Volume II, No. 19**

We have contemplated sending a letter to the Messenger before, but a letter must be dated from somewhere, certainly, and we have been uncertain as to where we were. We always supposed this northwestern part of the town to be Walpole, and were, we think, like all true Walpolians, born with the idea that Walpole comprised school district No. 1 and possible No. 2, and that it was a little the better part of Bristol, and he who lived not therein was not wise. After a short absence we return to find a post office called Walpole at Mr. Fuller's, way down the "river road," and news items in the Messenger dated at Walpole and containing mention of the old familiar names and places. If that is Walpole, where are we? Consulting the History of Bristol and Bremen," we find it touches very lightly of the dividing the town into townships, saying only that Harrington included the southern part of Bristol, and Walpole the northwestern part and a portion of Nobleboro. Damariscotta was then a part of Bristol. Asking some of the old residents how the name Walpole originated we are told as follows:--That they are told the name was given in honor of one Lord Walpole, and that the territory so named did not run further south than Ephraim McMichael's farm, which farm is now owned by Mr. Elden Oliver. So we feel that while the town's people further south may have a right to the name of Walpole, we certainly have and date our letter in contentment.

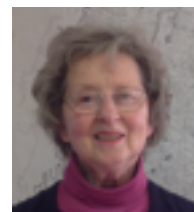
### **Meet Your SBHS Board**

We have been fortunate over the past two decades to have many wonderful people donate their time and effort to make the SBHS a success. These are the people that work year-round to help make the Society all that it is.

**Dave Andrews** - Dave was born and raised in Kennebunkport. He first came to South Bristol in 1974 with then fiancé, Betsy. Her family dates its connection to Rutherford Island in 1905. He is a founding member of the Historical Society and has served as its Historian since 1997. He is particularly interested in the history of boat building in South Bristol, the town's colonial history and early photographs and postcards. He speaks frequently on town history and is currently working with the Penobscot Marine Museum to document two major photographic collection of the Bristol Peninsula.

**Eugenia Kellsa Woodward Cole** - "Genie" was born in Portland, moving to Walpole when she was 5 years old. She attended Gladstone Grammar school, graduating from Lincoln Academy. She met her husband, Wayne, at the University of Maine Orono with whom she had one son. They moved

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## Meet Your SBHS Board (cont'd)

back to Walpole and Wayne got a job teaching at LA. In addition to history, Genie enjoys flower and vegetable gardening.

**Sue Edwards** - Born in northeastern OH, Sue lived in Northern Virginia for 30 years before moving to South Bristol. She raised four children in VA and when she married Don, gained four grandchildren! She retired from the IT industry in 2008, and now loves volunteering at the South Bristol school and the SBHS, and gardening with her husband. They live in the "Whelpley" house on the section of Hill Road that no longer exists.

**Bob Emmons** - Bob was born in MA. He attended college at Boston University and did his graduate work at UNH and, as he puts it, the University of South Vietnam. For 31 years, he was an agriculture professor at the State University of New York. According to Bob, the highlight of his career, however, was serving as the Saturday Postmaster for 7.5 years in South Bristol. He lives with his wife, Holly, on the S Road.

**Wayne Eugley**- Wayne was born and raised in South Bristol, attending LA and the University of Maine. He currently lobsters full-time (May-Feb) and works at Ames Supply and Shaws in the off season. He is a proud father to Branden and Brianna, and grandfather to Jackson. He has always been interested in history, New England sports, and local Maine breweries. Wayne says although he hasn't ventured far, he believes variety is the spice of life and we should experience as much as we can!

**Scott Farrin** - Scott was born and raised in South Bristol. He enlisted in the Navy in 1974 and served 6 years, having served on the USS John F. Kennedy as a CV-67 Electronics Tech. He worked at Bath Iron Works from 1980 until his retirement in 2015. He is currently a member of the SB Fire Department and works part-time as an EMT for Central Lincoln County Ambulance. He is proud to be a member of the Historical Society.

**Cynthia Garrels** - Cynthia was raised throughout New England. Her first school experience was a one-room school in Harpswell. She then finished school in CT and went on to graduate from Middleburg College. Childhood summers were spent in the old house at Christmas Cove that her uncle, Mansfield Hunt, bought from the Thorpe-Wells family, and that Cynthia and her sister are now pleased to own.

**Betsy Graves** - Betsy was born in NY, moving to Newcastle as a young child. She met her husband, Sam, after graduating from the University of Maine. They moved to SB, opened and operated Harborside Grocery & Grill for 28 years. In 2015, they sold the business and moved with their daughter, Haley, to Walpole. In retirement, Betsy is busy driving Haley to her varied activities, volunteering at SBHS, the Union Church Thrift Shop, the Town of SB budget committee, and other civic and charitable organizations.

**Nat Hammond** - Nat Hammond has been involved with the Historical Society nearly since its inception. He has devoted hours to photographing and transcribing articles from the *Pemaquid Messenger* which we have featured in this newsletter as well as others. He lives with his wife, Karen, on Rutherford Island.

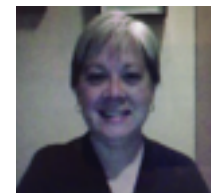
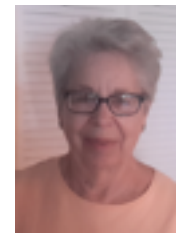
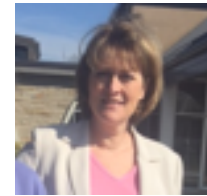


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**Carol Ropes Kelsey, Trustee** - Carol grew up in SB, attending the 2-room Sarah Emery School (now the fire station) in Walpole before the opening of the current SB school. After college she taught in SAD 22 for 32 years before returning permanently to SB. She is married to Lance Kelsey and they have two sons: Samuel, married to Sarah, living with their children Alexander and Norah in MA, and Jonathan who lives with his wife, Jessica, in Kings Cove.

**Carolyn McKeon** - A native of NJ, Carolyn moved to Maine in 2004 after several decades as the education director for a living history museum in Dallas, TX. Soon after moving to SB, she gravitated to the SBHS to meet like-minded history buffs and museum lovers. Thanks to a hearty welcome extended to a person "from away," Carolyn has served on the board for over 10 years.

**Mike Naylor** - Mike is from South Bristol and has deep family roots here. He owns and operates Regional Rubbish, and lives with his wife, Beebee, and their children in Walpole.

**Donna Plummer** - Donna can't imagine living anywhere else than in this "wonder-filled" community. Growing up here meant riding the swing bridge, fishing off her Dad's float at Farrin's Store, and riding her bike "all over town." Her mother took her, her brother, Dennis, and her sister, Kathy, swimming at Elliot's Cove and at the end of the Wilson Trail. Donna has 6 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. She keeps busy being involved at the school, the church, and SBHS. She is a Notary Public and has been fortunate enough to be the wedding officiant for grandchildren and friends.

**Deb Storch** - Deb received her M.A. and Teacher's Certificate in England. She and her husband, Warren, owned and operated several business in Scotland before moving to the Boston area in 1986, and then to Walpole in 2004. Their latest retail venture has been the Walpole Barn. She is the secretary not only to SBHS but to Old Walpole Meetinghouse as well. She serves as webmaster for the two former groups as well as the Bristol Area Lions Club.

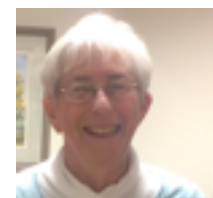
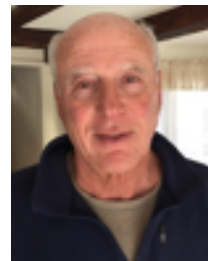
**Warren Storch** - Warren's been all over the map - literally. He taught 6th-grade before buying a one-way ticket to the UK and a Triumph motorcycle with the intention of writing a book. As a 'mature' student, he went back to Art College and met Deb who changed everything. Lived in Scotland for 13 years and then came back to the states to make money. Growing weary of meetings and politics, and interested in promoting their health, Deb and Warren moved to Walpole which, as Warren describes, was the 2nd best decision ever!

**Ellen Wells** - Ellen grew up in NJ and went to college in New England. She first came to SB with her husband, Stan, on their honeymoon 60 years ago, staying in the old house at Christmas Cove where Stan's father grew up. Ellen and Stan and their four children returned every summer for the next 40 years, then moved here year-around 20 years ago, after retirement. Ellen joined SBHS not long after settling down and it remains her favorite community activity: "A wonderful way to get to know our town and its amazing people - and fun, too!"

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## **South Bristol Historical Society**

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### **Check Us Out**

The SBHS has a new website! Thanks to the efforts of Deb Storch, the Historical Society has been able to take ownership of its website. This enables us to have a a more dynamic site because we can make changes easily and readily. We look forward to expanding its content and welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

We also have a YouTube channel! A number of members who have been unable to attend program events have asked if they would be recorded. We are happy to announce that they will (provided our speakers don't object). The first video is a recording of the Stan Wells presentation on Sam Miles, the successful businessman who left his mark on our community. Stan and Ellen Wells conducted extensive research to bring Miles's "rags-to-riches" story to life. To access the video, simply go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search on *SBHS Program on Sam Miles*.

### **We Need You**

The SBHS has enjoyed great success and you are a big part of that success. Your ongoing support is vital to preserving and promoting the history of our wonderful town. You can help in any number of ways. We are always looking for new ideas for programs and exhibits. We need volunteers to host at the museum and S Road schoolhouse in the summer to keep them open every Friday afternoon. If you are here during the winter, join us at the museum on Wednesdays as we work to preserve our history and make it available for all to enjoy.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.