

SOUTH BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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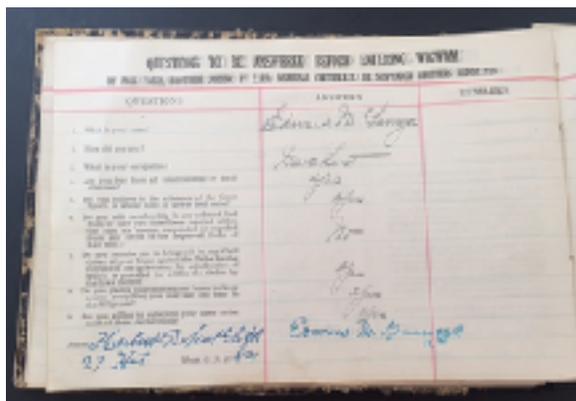
www.southbristolhistoricalsociety.org

What's New in the Museum

Carol Emery gave Vice President Wayne Eugley a Redmen's Log that had been her father's, Ernest Alley. Wayne generously donated the

book to the SBHS.

Not only is it interesting to see the names represented, but it is also interesting to see how they each answered the "QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE ENTERING WIGWAM." Come check it out!



2018 Program

The Board is happy to announce our 2018 Program. 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. If you have any questions, please give the SBHS a call. We look forward to seeing you!

May 16 - SBS Genealogies

A number of students from South Bristol School will present their family story. They have been working on posters which will be on display and several of the students will make presentations. It should be a lot of fun.

June 20 - Kate McCarty

Kate McCarty, a food preservation specialist for University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will give a presentation on rum running and distilling in Maine. Rum running was common during Maine's many years of prohibition and is a fascinating but largely forgotten part of coastal history. Kate has written a book 'Distilling in Maine' and also

2017 Summer Program Announced (cont'd)

blogs about food and drink in Maine (The Blueberry Files).

July 5 - Paul Callahan

Paul Callahan will read from his book Door In Dark Water. Mr. Callahan presented a few years ago at the Rutherford Library to a standing room only crowd. Don't miss him this time!

August 15 - Lobstering

Vice President Wayne Eugley will speak about his experience growing up in South Bristol, making traps with his father. Wayne will explain why the traps are made the way they are and how they work. He will have a trap on-hand so folks can see exactly what he's talking about. He also will take questions from the audience, so come prepared to have an even greater appreciation for that delectable meat that graces our tables.

September 19 - Trivia Night

Join us for what we hope will be another night of great fun exploring how much we all know (and can recall!) about South Bristol history. Folks reportedly had a great time last year, so we hope to see more competitors this year!

October 3 - Panel of Boat Builders in South Bristol

We have asked a number of SB boat builders to share a piece of their stories and to answer questions posed by attendees. Fishing and boat building are such a big part of SB history, and people just can't seem to get enough of the wonderful stories.

SBHS Celebrates its Twentieth Birthday!

The earliest record of a meeting where the founding of a South Bristol Historical Society was discussed took place on October 17, 1997. More informal discussions had taken place some years earlier, centering on the idea of interviewing older residents to preserve the town's history. South Bristol residents Larry Kelsey and South Bristol Librarian

Ellen Shew attended the October meeting. They were joined by Ellen Vincent who was in South Bristol gathering interviews and images for what later became Down on the Island, Up on the Main, and by Pauleena MacDougall who was then associate director of the Maine Folklife Center. Kathy and Ralph Norwood, Nat and Karen Hammond, Lesley Kelly and two South Bristol teachers, Joy Knowlton-Field and Margaret Morton also attended a follow-up session in November.

Then on December 30, Yvonne Chapman, Ellen Vincent, Dave Andrews, Bill Kelsey, Joyce Sykes, Jane Alley, Nat Hammond, Ellen Shew and Betty House met and voted to establish a historical society. Bylaws were drafted and with their adoption on March 24, 1998, the South Bristol Historical Society came into being. The Society's mission then, as now, was: "to collect and preserve local memorabilia and records; to encourage and promote interest in South Bristol history among school children and the general public through exhibits, lectures and special events; and to maintain and operate a historical reference center for the public."

The first newsletter, published in the spring of 1998, gives special thanks to Ellen Vincent and Pauleena MacDougall, and to George Dow of the Nobleboro Historical Society, Stuart Gillespie, and Barbara Rumsey of the Boothbay Region Historical Society for their help in getting the South Bristol organization started. The first formal meeting, at which guest speaker Jim Acheson of the University of Maine detailed the history of lobster regulation, was held on May 7, 1998.

The second newsletter, published in the fall of 1998, reports on the first Annual Meeting of the SBHS on July 22, 1998. The twenty members

SBHS Celebrates its Twentieth Birthday! continued

present elected Yvonne Chapman, President; Dave Andrews, Vice President; Bill Glendinning, Treasurer; Dan and Kay Arsem, Secretary; Joyce Sykes, Historian. Bill Kelsey, Nat Hammond and Norm Hamlin were elected Trustees.

By the end of 1998, the final steps to make the South Bristol Historical Society official had been completed. On Oct. 20, 1998 the organization was incorporated as a non-profit, having been granted tax-exempt status from the IRS. Ellen Vincent's first showing of *Down on the Island Up on the Main* took place at Round Top in Damariscotta. SBHS began the move into the old library building under a lease agreement with the town; a \$500 grant from Maine Community Foundation through the South Bristol School enabled the purchase of much-needed office equipment and supplies. By year-end, the Society had grown to more than 75 members. The rest is history!

— Ellen Wells

Ellen Vincent and SBHS

Ellen was the catalyst for a group of townspeople interested in local history to carry out the idea of a historical society, leading to the formation of SBHS in 1998. She took great pride in the success of the Society from its very beginning, contributing photographs, stories, ideas and expertise - but most of all she gave inspiration. The story of how Ellen came to South Bristol and of how her visits to flea markets and the random family photos found there turned into a major art-and-oral history project is well known to South Bristol. The showing of "Down on the Island, Up on the Main" in South Bristol in August 2003 reminded many people of old times, places and faces, while others read about them for the first time. Everyone left with pride and a renewed sense of what this town of South Bristol is all about. At the reception following the show, the Selectmen presented Ellen with a plaque naming her an honorary citizen of South Bristol, "in recognition of her work gathering and preserving the history of our Town." Her untimely death from breast cancer in 2007 deeply saddened her many South Bristol friends and admirers.

— Ellen Wells

**From the *Pemaquid Messenger*
Wednesday, July 14, 1886 Volume I, No. 3**

compliments of Nat Hammond

Under 'Pemquid Locals'

Capt. C.A. Farrin's team containing four ladies collided with Mr. G.R. Fossett's team near Augustus Fossett's Sunday afternoon. As the road at that point was quite descending Mr. Fossett's horse was struck with considerable force, nearly knocking him down, and tearing a large piece of flesh out of his fore shoulder. The wagon was knocked around and very nearly upset, but Mr. and Mrs. Fossett very

South Bristol Historical Society

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From the *Pemaquid Messenger (cont'd)*

compliments of Nat Hammond

miraculously escaped being thrown out, which had they been at that point, the accident must have resulted very seriously.

Under 'West Bristol'

The people of this vicinity are much pleased to see a good looking stage on this line, and now hope to get the much needed post office here. The matter has been talked about for a long time but has never been pushed away. Now would be a good time to start one.

The stage down Tuesday night was so full of passengers (summer boarders) that the driver was obliged to sit in the bottom of the stage. Mr. Justin Foster is driver.

Under 'Over Town'

WANTED - A young man of good moral habits, temperate (when he can't get anything to drink), good looking (in the dark) with a small amount of pocket money and a yoke of steers, wishes to correspond with a good looking young lady, with a view to matrimony. No objections to one with "store teeth."

Daniel Coats, Round Pond, Maine

