

# SOUTH BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## 2017 In Review

We had a great summer this year with several of our programs being very popular! Based on the feedback we received, I'd wager our June program in which Russ Lane spoke about the amazing rescue his parents conducted near Whitehead Island in 1958, and our July program which featured awarding-winning author James Nelson's presentation on the Popham Colony were among the favorites.

And our Trivia Night in October was resoundingly requested again for 2018! We had a great crowd turn out at Coveside and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun. It was impressive how much everyone knew from the year the Lincoln High School closed (1962) to the first president of the Historical Society (Yvonne Chapman). The winning team received a \$100 gift certificate from Coveside.

We have already started planning next year's event, making improvements, of course, and we hope you will join us!



Members of the winning team: Betsy Graves, Donna Plummer, Chris Plummer, Tammy Plummer, Bebe Naylor, Mona Knight, Mike Naylor, Lynette McGowan.  
Not pictured: Gordon Farrin

## A Scrap of Wallpaper Gets Us Thinking!

One summer Friday afternoon a visitor to the SBHS museum arrived with a most interesting artifact — the scrap of beautiful wallpaper which appears in the photo below.



Jeanne Christie had found it on a wall of the old Bates Cottage at 109 West Side Road. Then in September she finally had a chance to show it to a designer with Stroheim and Romann, a leader in wall coverings and quality fabric for over 140 years located in NYC. The designer provided Jeanne with the following information:

*The wall paper was from around 1880, the same time frame as the period of the Gamage ownership of the house. Two hand blocks were used to create the pattern and then it was hand painted to provide the color. The first block was the background loop motif and the second block provided the shape of the medallion. It had probably suffered water damage at some point but was in reasonable condition considering*



*its age and where it was found in the wall.*

The designer went on to say that she strongly suspects that it was made in Europe because of the motif. She said if we wanted to go back into historical archives we could probably find the motif and absolutely verify its origin but her guess, having done wall paper documentation for many, many years, was that the wall paper was European made.

This information made Jeanne wonder how the Gamage family got the paper back in the 1880's. Was one of the shipbuilding families in touch with the European market? or the Massachusetts markets? How many other 1820-1880 houses in South Bristol had wall paper? Jeanne says she is “just having a field day thinking about all the possibilities.”

And so are we here at SBHS! Perhaps our readers can help answer these questions – or pose more! We would love to hear from you at [SBHistorica@gmail.com](mailto:SBHistorica@gmail.com). Stay tuned!!

## Which got Jeanne thinking further . . .

Our visitor also got to thinking about the old “Hinck house” on West Side Road (later owns by the Kemps and then the Andersons, and sometimes referred to as the Ghost House) that was built around the same period of the 1820s as the Bates cottage. She remembers seeing wallpaper in the front right room as you faced the house. However, the pattern and quality of the paper was quite different from that which she had found in the Bates cottage. Her guess is that it was probably added in the 1900's when Dr. Claus Hinck bought the place. It was an aqua color with small little curly lines in it. Jeanne recalls that according to Dr. Hinck's daughter, Ingeborg (her husband's mother), the back bedroom on the left side (later Dr. Hinck's library) had been used as a bathroom by the old Captain and under the house in the cellar he had a small stream of water that ran all winter for a water source. She also remembered that he had a

barrel of salted cod down there.

When Jeanne and her husband inherited the house, she went downstairs and found that there was a trough for water running along the wall. There also was nothing under that back left bedroom so it would have been possible to have used the space as a bathroom. Of course, by that time there were two wells (deep and shallow) on the property so they didn't need the more creative source.

— Ellen Wells submitted this report and says “it proves how interesting it can be to volunteer at the SBHS museum.”

### **Can You Help?**

Echoing Ellen's sentiment above, a woman from Sitka, Alaska contacted the SBHS in August, asking when the museum would be open in the fall. She would be in town visiting family and friends and she would like to come to the museum and do some research. She mentioned she had some family photos that she would like to share with us, if we would be interested. If we would be interested? Of course!!

Marian Allen did indeed visit in October and shared a number of wonderful photos. We are featuring one here in the hopes that our members can help us identify the people in the photo. The photo is a



class picture, probably taken in 1923 or 1924, according to Marian. She identifies Alice Gamage being

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the girl on the far right in the second row (blond hair and bangs) and Margaret Farrin (House) as the girl on the far right in the front row, Alice's cousin and close friend.

If you can help us identify any of the other people in the photo, we would be most appreciative. We will record the information — and any additional information you might have about the photo — in our records so we can share its history.

You can send your input to us at [sbhsitorical@gmail.com](mailto:sbhsitorical@gmail.com) or come in and see us! We are at the museum each Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 October through May, weather permitting. Thank you in advance!

**Recommended**

In conversations to discuss next year's program, board member Cynthia Garrels suggested a program featuring Elizabeth Macalaster who has written an article on a doctor in Rockland at the turn of the century who used homing pigeons to communicate with his patients on the islands. Gale force winds or unremitting fog could prevent the doctor from reaching the islands, or if he was on the islands, he might be stranded there for weeks. His solution? A crate of pigeons that patients could use to communicate questions and conditions, enabling the doctor to determine whether or not an actual visit to the island was warranted.

It's a great story. Read the entire article, "Dr. Gould's Flying Nurses" at [maineboats.com](http://maineboats.com). You'll enjoy it.