



Harpswell Historical Society

Newsletter Summer 2015

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The Harpswell Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, identification, collection, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of materials relating to the history of Harpswell and its people..

Clem Dunning's Memories

By Pat Barnes Moody

In 1997, when my 3rd and 4th grade students were involved in a Harpswell History Project, they interviewed Clem Dunning. A group of five students and two adults visited Clem at his farm on Neal's Point Road. We learned that Clem was born at the farm in 1916. He lived there with his parents, William and Mary, his sisters, Nellie and Annie, and his brother, John. Their barn was built in 1831 and the present house 56 years later in 1887.

Clem's ancestors first came to Harpswell in 1734. They lived in what came to be known as the Andrew Dunning

"We had no running water except when our mother sent us running for a pail of water!"

house. That house is still standing and is the oldest house in Harpswell. It is the white house that can be seen on the right just before the Mountain Road Bridge. It has always been of special interest to me because my grandparents, George and Abby Barnes, later owned the house, and my father, Henry Barnes,



Andrew Dunning house 2012

was born and brought up there.

As we talked to Clem, he told us details of the farm as he was growing up. His family had cows, horses, sheep, and pigs, and raised vegetables and hay. The hay fed the stock, and the sheep were raised for wool and the pigs for meat. The family both ate and sold the things that they grew. They also sold milk, and Clem's mother made butter to sell. They had to carry water from their well. Clem noted, "We had no running water except when our mother sent us running for a pail of water!"

Clem told my students that there was work to be done on the farm in every season. In the spring, the ground had to be ready for planting. In the summer, the family had to cut the hay and take care of the garden. Fall brought harvesting and preparations for winter, and throughout the year the livestock needed tending. When Clem was a boy, hay was mowed by a horse-drawn machine. It was sun dried, pitched by hand, and then stored in haymows. During the summer, sheep were often taken to White's or Ragged Island for pasture. The sheep roamed over the islands and ate freely. I remember that Clem's father was still doing this when I was a child as my father helped move the sheep to the islands. When Clem was a boy, the roads weren't plowed in winter. His father used a large snow

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The Growth of a Resort

by Joyce Bibber

Part Two (continued from Part One in Spring 2015 edition of this newsletter)

Indications of the expected growth in South Harpswell soon appeared. Within a few weeks of the first sales of Smith's lots in 1875, teacher Charles B. Knapp and his brother-in-law Paul Durgan of West Harpswell acquired the property immediately south of the causeway and east of the road. On its highest point they erected a restaurant, to open the following summer. Soon after that purchase, another West Harpswell dweller, Theophilus Stover, together with his son-in-law, Sinnett Orr Johnson, bought a piece of land south of the restaurant acreage. In one corner of their property, Stover and Johnson built a bowling alley with an upstairs hall, the latter completed in time to be used for a dance in the evening following the "Harpswell Regatta" in August, 1876. Durgan and Knapp were reported to be planning rental cottages as well, but those failed to materialize for nearly two decades. Even as the newspaper report on the new construction claimed that

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roller pulled by horses to pack the snow down so that it was easier for sleds and sleighs to move along the roads.

Although Clem and his siblings had many chores, they also had time for fun. Clem enjoyed riding horses and playing baseball. He mentioned the fun of hanging May Baskets, which went on throughout the month of May. Groups of children decorated baskets and filled them with candy. When the basket was left at someone's door, the kids would yell, "May basket"! Those receiving the basket then had to find the others. They would chase and catch each person and finally share the candy.

Clem went to the North Harpswell School for his elementary education. That building is now the School House

In those days schools didn't close on stormy days; one teacher who lived on High Head came to school on snowshoes.

Café. School lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At that time, the school had no electricity, and on winter days it was very hard to see by late afternoon. In those days schools didn't close on stormy days; one teacher who lived on High Head came to school on snowshoes. Clem started high school at Brunswick High on Federal Street (now the Hawthorne School). The school was overcrowded, so in 9th grade, he went to school only in the



Snow roller circa 1941 in use in Vermont. The horses had winter calks on their shoes. A calk is a blunt projection that is often forged, welded or brazed on the shoe. The term may also refer to traction devices screwed into the bottom of a horseshoe called shoe studs or screw-in calks

afternoon. The following year he went in the morning. The high school on Spring Street was then built, and Clem finished his junior and senior years there.

After high school, Clem went to the University of Maine in Orono. He studied agriculture and took subjects such as physics, chemistry, and farm management. When World War II started in 1941, he left college and was in the ser-

"I liked farming very much, and I liked being able to help other farmers in the state do better."

vice. After the war ended in 1945, Clem finished college. He liked to tell people, "It took nine and a half years for me to get through college."

Clem's first job after finishing college was making ice cream. After that he worked for the University of Maine for 38 years helping farmers around the state. He taught them new farming methods and helped in many other ways. During that time, he lived in Aroostook County, Bangor, and later Yarmouth. Clem and his wife Marjory had one daughter, three grandchildren, and several great grandchildren. When he retired, Clem and Marjory moved back to the farm in Harpswell.

In reflecting upon his life of farming, Clem said, "I liked farming very much, and I liked being able to help other farmers in the state do better." He went on to say that in his lifetime farming changed from an animal-driven industry to one of machinery. It was obvious that while Clem embraced those changes, he cherished the memories of his early farming days at the Dunning farm and took pride in his ancestors who first settled in Harpswell.

(Author's note: Clem died a number of years after our interview and the farm was sold. Fortunately, it is still a working farm now known as Two Coves Farm.)

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"Harpswell is one of the best summer resorts on Casco Bay, and affords ample facilities for sailing, fishing, and other sea-shore sports, and no pains will be spared to meet the wants of pleasure-seekers visiting this place," little in the area below the causeway, except for the new buildings, suggested a resort. Only seven or eight private homes, some of which took boarders, the wharves, a fish dealership, and a general store, together with outbuildings, were there. In the mile or so north of the causeway stood Dearborn's newly expanded hotel, more

"Harpswell is one of the best summer resorts on Casco Bay, and affords ample facilities for sailing, fishing, and other sea-shore sports"

homes, some open to boarders, and a few small shops. Potts Point was not, in 1876, an active vacation spot.

The relative inactivity may have appealed to a few families from Auburn who visited that year. Like many other residents of industrial cities, they were beginning to think in terms of a cooler, quieter life in the summer, and, as merchants and owners or managers of the new mills, they could afford to go elsewhere for the "heated season," to own two homes. Even if only the women and children could be away all summer, the advantages in terms of their health and comfort were believed to outweigh problems of separated families. If a summer place was close enough, the men could make use of trains and steamships and visit over the weekends. Otherwise, those who could not leave their businesses for long periods spent only short vacations *en famille*.

The twin cities of Lewiston and Auburn had undergone considerable growth in the mid-nineteenth century and were already places from which to escape to fresher ocean air. Consequently, a group of the cities' residents decided on a cooperative venture, the erection of a small seaside "colony" to which they might repair for relaxation. After investigating other locations, they selected

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South Harpswell. Ease of transportation played an important role in the decision, as trains connected Auburn with either Portland or Brunswick. A drive from the depot at the latter involved a dozen miles of unpaved, but not forbidding, roads. On the other route, getting from Portland's station to the steamship terminal was relatively simple, while the *Henrietta* was carrying passengers and goods among the islands of Casco Bay to the South Harpswell wharf.

Clara and Davis Blanchard were ready to sell the few acres they owned, sited on an elevation about a mile from the steamboat wharf, with watery vistas to the south, east, and west, and including farm buildings which might be converted to communal use. The purchase was made, and the development was underway. Although technically the "Auburn-Harpswell Association," the enterprise



Auburn Colony, South Harpswell, about 1895.

was known as "the Auburn Colony" or just "the Colony" from the first. Most original members were from Auburn or Lewiston, although one was a relative living in Massachusetts.

Cooperative vacation ventures of the sort were not uncommon in the late nineteenth century. For comparison, Ocean Park, begun in 1881 near Old Orchard, comes immediately to mind, although that organization differed in having a church orientation and a much larger membership. Both developments featured private cottages clustered near community halls. Wishing neither to bring along hordes of servants nor to spend time cooking or maintaining their grounds, the members kept the individual quarters small and planned for communal meals and activities. In Harpswell, the old farmhouse became the kitchen and dining space, the barn housed a few carriages, and an assembly hall was soon

constructed. In Ocean Park, an assembly "temple" was an early priority; the first dining room was a tent. In both locations, cooks, waitresses, and managers would be hired by the Association, while each individual family owned and had responsibility for its personal cottage. Somewhat similar combinations of private quarters with communal meals existed in little rental cottages springing up around many summer hotels like the Ottawa House on Cushing Island.

The first cottages of the Colony were identical, planned by a Lewiston architectural firm and erected by a Lewiston-Auburn contractor, using materials from the lumberyard of association members. The seventeen-by-thirteen-foot buildings were all painted white on the exterior and left unfinished inside, "put up cheaply," according to an observer who nevertheless saw them as "conveniently arranged" and "quite attractive." The privately owned cottages did not remain all alike. In following decades, some families installed fireplaces, built small ells, extended their porches, or applied exterior trim.

The addition of twenty families for the summer months may not have affected Harpswell coffers much at first, with the construction crews having been brought in; but like the division of the Sea-Side lots, the Colony spurred further development. Even as the cottages were going up in the summer of 1877, a triangle of land across the road from the Colony was being subdivided into three lots. Two of the purchasers were Lewiston grocers, both of whom would be living in South Harpswell by 1880. One briefly ran a boarding house, the *Bonanza*. The third buyer, Eli Alexander, built his family a house large enough to take in boarders. In the 1890s he would also serve as general handyman and caretaker for the Colony.

In 1883, six years after those land sales, part of the farmstead south of



Merriconeag House, Potts Point, Harpswell—about 1890.

the Colony property was also sold and subdivided. The Massachusetts-based purchasers were rumored to be planning a "colony" for Bostonians, with cottages and a large boarding establishment. Twelve lots were sold in the next two years; but buyers were mostly from the Lewiston area rather than Boston, and nothing other than cottages was built there. Thus, even if it did not contribute much to the economy at once, the Auburn Colony's establishment soon encouraged other Lewiston-Auburn people to take an interest in Harpswell Neck as a place in which to spend the summer. In addition, the idea of summering at Harpswell was being promoted by the Brunswick newspaper editor, who saw the area as cooler in summer and warmer in the fall. At least one Brunswick man bought a cottage lot in the 1870s, soon after other development had begun.

In 1878, facilities for staying in Harpswell increased, as two local families opened new hotels at the Point. The Merriconeag House was built on Joseph Pinkham's property just below the steamboat wharf and south of the Sea-Side lots. Austin Pinkham, Joseph's son, was its first proprietor. The Harpswell House was slightly north of the causeway, to the west of the original Mansion House site. Alcott Merriman had bought the land and was identified as proprietor, although some of his brothers were said to have shares in the business and Frank Randall was named as manager. An old photograph, fly-specked and probably used as an advertising poster, depicts a three-story structure with an observatory on the top. It had a short existence:

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the hotel lot, without buildings, changed hands in the autumn of 1882.

The new establishments had much in common, as they were of similar sizes and shapes, "plainly but neatly constructed," according to the Brunswick Telegraph, with similar black walnut parlor furniture and, "best of all," beds with springs and "new, fully clean mattresses." Clients for the early years included the Portland Yacht Club and various Maine business groups on outings, all of whom patronized the hotel dining rooms, together with guests who came greater distances. (One New Yorker was attracted by descriptions in a New York paper.)

It was a decade after the construction of those summer hotels before any appreciable numbers of cottages were built on the property below the causeway, despite the earlier sale of lots. Litigation tied up some of the former Sea-Side land; but one deterrent during most of the decade after 1878 was the establishment of a lobster cannery on a lot next to Simpson's wharf. After it closed, a



The Harpswell House: Alcot James Merriman, Proprietor. (photo by Conant, Portland, Maine.)

newspaper noted that its removal made all of the lower Neck "vastly more desirable." Nevertheless, despite the odors which were concomitant to any summer-operated concern processing shellfish, a few hardy souls began cottage-building on or near the east shore while the cannery was in operation.

Meanwhile, there had been additional changes on the hill near the

Colony. The Bonanza House was sold in 1882. Charles Coburn, of Greene, continued to operate the small hotel, renamed the "Harpswell House" by 1887. Postcards from about the turn of the century show it as a two-story building, with attic, under an overhanging gable roof edged with wooden "gingerbread," the whole surrounded by two levels of encircling verandas.

Like many other hotel owners, Coburn sometimes turned the business over to managers. His 1896 choice, though "well endorsed," proved disastrous, not only leaving town owing money to local fishermen and tradesmen, but having done "a poor summer's business" at the hotel. That he was a few months later being sought in connection with a murder in New Hampshire may, however, have made his local creditors feel lucky. Coburn himself opened the Harpswell House in later years; and in 1901, after his death, it was sold

at auction and renamed the "Happy Thought." In 1912 it became a private guest house, owned by an Auburn Colony member.

The other new hotel of the 1880s was the Lawson House. After more than a decade of taking in boarders, Joseph Lawson and his son determined their old farmhouse to be insufficient and in 1885-6 erected a two-story, six-bay, hotel on their property, across the road and up the hill from the Auburn Colony. It so flourished that just two years later, they doubled the hotel's

length to twelve bays and added dormer windows, permitting the attic space to be utilized and providing sixty-one rooms in the enlarged building. After the elder Lawson died in 1890, the son turned its operation over to the "Harpswell Hotel Co.," which put in modern plumbing and attempted new marketing techniques, including shore dinner/excursion package deals with the Maine Central



The Lawson House: circa 1888 before its expansion. It later became the Oceanview House.

Railroad, the Portland trolley cars, and the steamship company. In 1900 the property was sold to a Portland lawyer and became the Oceanview.



Oceanview House (formerly the Lawson House) after its expansion. It burned down in 1926 and was located on what is now Merriconeag Lane in South Harpswell.

One more establishment grew from a boarding house to a hotel in the 1890s. In the early years of that decade, Leander and Therese Merrow took in boarders and also ran a bakery in his family home, which they called the "Germania." However, in 1895, their one-and-one-half-story house with an ell toward the water was dwarfed by a thirty-by-forty-foot, two-story addition, with more rooms in the cross-gabled attic. That summer the Hotel Germania had as many as forty-five guests at a time. During the next decade, the facility grew considerably, getting longer porches in 1896, an eight-room extension in 1898, a new dining room in 1902, additional porches in 1903, and a "summer house" (gazebo) in 1904. Some of the porches extended over Potts Harbor, prompting a claim that at high tide, "fish can be caught from the piazza."

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The Germania's name honored Mrs. Merrow's homeland. However, in the early summer of 1915, two years before the United States entered World War I, the "Germania" sign came down and a new one, reading "Sea Gables," went up. A newspaper which mentioned the opening of the Germania in June announced the Sea Gables' closing in the fall. Americans were supposed to be neutral at that time, but the Merrows were prudently dissociating themselves from the nation responsible for the



Germania House, —1895. (later the Sea Gables)

sinking of the Lusitania and accused of atrocities in Belgium.

A smaller commercial venture, the Strout House, was built in 1903, perhaps with roomers in mind. Revillo Strout op-



Strout House

erated a seasonal store, selling ice cream, other edibles, and variety goods, but also offering single rooms or housekeeping units for rent. Although Strout at times advertised "Shore dinners served daily," board was not included with the rooms, either by him or by the Smith brothers, who bought the business in 1919.

Probably most of the Point's residents leased their extra rooms in the summer for supplementary income, as did many cottage-owners; but a few individuals made a business of maintaining boarding houses. Among the frequently mentioned concerns in South Harpswell were the Alexander House and the Morse House. Hannah Morse did not often need to advertise, but was taking boarders well before she married one of them and became "Mrs. Morse." Her house, built in the 1860s, was one of the more capacious residences in the area, even prior to the addition of a two-story ell in 1902. As a boarding house, it was listed in various articles about housing possibilities at the Point and word of mouth was generally sufficient to keep her busy.

Eli Alexander operated differently. Although he had purchased his land only in 1878, the Alexander Boarding House was one of four local hostelries included in that year's Maine Register; and he also had an advertisement in the very first issue of the Casco Bay Breeze. As Eli was often occupied with other pursuits, it must have been Arcelia Alexander who kept the business going for nearly thirty years. Their method of operation was not entirely consistent: sometimes they offered rooms, but not meals, other times they fed non-residents. Not long after expanding the building, the Alexanders bought and moved to a West Harpswell farm, leaving the business in the hands of managers until they sold it to Leander Merrow's brother in 1909. As the Merrow House, it burned in 1910.

Other homeowners at times took roomers, rather than boarders. Georgia and George Riley Johnson's large home, called Grand View, was operated that



Sea Gables (earlier the Germania) after completion of the large two story addition. It was located west of Route 123 just after the causeway in South Harpswell.

way in 1894. In other years, they either placed it in charge of one of the visitors or simply rented the house out to a family, moving themselves into a smaller cottage for the summer. Johnson owned other property, including a cottage just across the road from his house; and when Grand View burned, just as the 1916 season was about to start, the couple had already settled into the adjacent old schoolhouse, by then converted into a residence. That structure was also destroyed.

Threatened by that same fire was the older home to the south, built for Willoughby Pinkham, but then owned by Mrs. Johnson Harmon

Some of the porches extended over Potts Harbor, prompting a claim that at high tide, "fish can be caught from the piazza."

Stover. While Stover lived, he and his family had also at times rented their house to summer people and moved into one of their small cottages. After her husband's death in 1912, Lydia Stover became a summer resident herself, staying in Portland during colder months, but arriving in South

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Stover House

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Harpswell just prior to “the season” and opening her former home, by then known as the Stover House, for guests.

By then, the lower Harpswell Neck was much changed. In 1871, only Dearborn’s small boarding house claimed guests as its raison d’être. Thirty years later, the Merriconeag, Oceanview and Germania hotels were flourishing, along with numerous boarding houses. The Merriconeag claimed to accommodate one hundred twenty-five persons, while the Oceanview, with sixty-one rooms, must have fitted in about as many; and the Hotel Germania held over sixty. All three were still in business in 1920. During 1870s, all hotels and nearly all boarding houses were owned and operated by local people; but the Lawson House was leased to others after its builder’s 1890 death, even before being sold and renamed; and after 1893 the Merriconeag House also was managed by “proprietors” from out of town. Some

Both types of facility tended to introduce people to the area; and for some, the experience led to a desire to come regularly to a place of their own

proprietors stayed the winter; others found seasonal employment elsewhere, sometimes managing winter resort hotels. The Germania remained a family concern. Boarding house owners were more likely to live locally, although the business did attract a few individuals from elsewhere; and some older homeowners began to leave town during the winter, probably with the income from boarding. Both types of facility tended to introduce people to the area; and for some, the experience led to a desire to come regularly to a place of their own.

Thus, by the World War years, the trend for visitors was more toward owning or renting cottages than patronizing the big hotels. The sale of the Merriconeag House in 1914 was probably the result of a decline in its profits; its owners had left the management in the hands

of others for decades. Its new owner immediately had the land south of the hotel divided into lots and began to sell them off. The Oceanview also changed hands again in that period. The era of the summer hotel was waning.

(Full version of article

Notes

Bailey Island owes its name to Dean Timothy Bailey, who purchased it around 1750.

Haskell Island (called New Damariscove Island in the Act of Incorporation of Harpswell) received its present name after it was purchased by a Captain William Haskell of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

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A big thank you to the ~~seventy-eight~~ people who have agreed to receive their newsletter by email.

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Board Members

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Meeting House Reverts To Original Use

For more than 200 years the Old Meeting House in Harpswell Center was the central focus of the town as well as an important place of contact and connections for the people of Harpswell. Work on the Harpswell Meeting House (the oldest extant in Maine) was begun in 1758 and completed in 1759. The Old Meeting House was also the original gathering place of the first church in Harpswell. Its square pews, high pulpit and old galleries are still preserved today. The Congregationalists met there until the Elijah Kellogg Church, now located across the street from the Old Meeting House, was dedicated in 1843. To recognize the church’s heritage, its members today meet once a year in the Old Meeting House, just as they first did in 1759. The photo above, shows descendants of Harpswell’s original settlers (and others) meeting in the Old Meeting House on June 14, 2015 to celebrate the church’s long association with the 264 year old building. (Adapted from The Elijah Kellogg Church Bulletin June 14, 2015)

Patricia Barnes Moody

- Teacher Par Excellence and Descendant of Seafaring Men

by Louise Huntington

North Harpswell's Patricia Barnes Moody's family traces its roots in Harpswell back to the 1730's when Nathaniel Barnes settled in Harpswell. At one time he owned land on Lookout Point, High Head, and a quarter of Bailey Island. Pat's grandfather, George A. Barnes, went to sea as a young man, sailing twice to India on the trading ship Sam Skolfield. His wife, Pat's grandmother, was Abby Alexander.

Pat's father, Henry Barnes, sailed on a yacht as a crew member at the age of 18. He went to navigation school, and by the time he was 21 he had his master's papers and was the captain of an 80-foot yacht with a seven-man crew. The yachts he captained belonged to wealthy families from New York City, Marblehead and

... sometimes I would lie on the floor under the skiffs to hold the clinching irons while the men put nails in. I can still feel my arm aching, but I didn't tell my father. I guess I didn't want to be a wimp!"

Hyannis Port. Henry worked for a while at his father-in-law's boatyard in Lynn, Massachusetts, where his son George was born. After a time living in Camden, Maine, Henry moved back to Harpswell with his family. Shortly after that Pat was born in the house where she was raised in North Harpswell. When Pat was 7, her father worked until 1943 at Bath Iron Works and then began lobstering in the summer. Around that time he started building boats with Herman Morse. At times Linwood Bibber, Bill Bibber, Charlie Bibber and Sheldon Morse worked with them. Pat says, "I never helped with any of the large boats, but sometimes I would lie on the floor under the skiffs to hold the clinching irons while the men put nails in. I can still feel my arm aching, but I didn't tell my father. I guess I didn't want to be a wimp!"

Pat's mother Louise Britt grew up in Lynn. Louise's mother was Lizzie

Belle Toothaker from Great Island, and her father was Chester Britt from High Head. The Britts moved to Lynn before Louise was born. Louise lived there until she was visiting one summer with Pat's Barnes grandparents in Harpswell, where she met Henry Barnes.

A combination of Pat's inborn love of reading, writing and learning and her happy elementary school years at the Harpswell Center School helped make her the legendary teacher she became. The school was for children in sub-primary through grade eight. Some of Pat's classmates were Anne Allen Anderson, Merwin Chipman, Philip Bibber, and Joyce Bibber. Her good friends at school included Cynthia and Hermia Morse. Some of the older kids were Laddie Whidden, Hannah Norton Dring, Andrew Norton, George Barnes, and Georgia and Mary Merriman. The children loved skating in the winter on the nearby pond, playing ball and other games at recess in the good weather, and exploring the nearby woods.

The Harpswell Center School and the West Harpswell School were combined the year Pat was in 4th grade. Recess wasn't as much fun there, and Pat was only too happy when the Center School reopened the next year and Anne Anderson's mother Betty Allen was the teacher. It was in 5th grade that Pat, completely devoted to her teacher, decided to become a teacher herself. She would sit in school and read the Grade Teacher magazine when her lessons were done. Furthermore, she would draw up lesson plans for the future students she dreamed about. In Pat's 8th grade year, her teacher was Ruth Gaudet. Ruth fell ill during the winter, and Pat, along with several others in her class, transferred to Brunswick for the rest of the year. In those days the Junior High was in the Brunswick High School building on McKeen Street. It made for an easy transition to Brunswick High School the following year. Pat attended Gorham State Teachers College that later became part of the University of Southern Maine. While teaching and raising her family, she earned a Master's degree in Education at USM.

Pat began teaching for two years as a 3rd grade teacher in Lisbon Falls. It was during those years, when she was pregnant with Vicki, that she first fell ill with lupus, years before the disease was at last diagnosed. Undaunted, Pat began her 38-year-long teaching career on Harpswell Neck. In the fall of 1962, Barbara Barton found herself with 38 students in sub-primary and grades one and two in the North Harpswell School (now the Schoolhouse Cafe). To ease the load, Pat was hired to teach the 18 kindergarteners across the road at the Grange Hall for two years. Esther Murphy, who lived in the house where the Daniel family now lives, was the custodian. Esther would also come over to help with

It was in 5th grade that Pat, completely devoted to her teacher, decided to become a teacher herself. She would sit in school and read the Grade Teacher magazine when her lessons were done.

the jackets and boots in the winter. Some of the Kindergarten children at the Grange were Vicki Moody, Dana McIntire, Alice Moody, Gayle Bibber, Tommy Vroom., Buster Koppenhaver and Kris Frost. Everyone was happy to move into the new West Harpswell School in the fall of 1964.

It wasn't until 1964 that Pat's lupus was diagnosed. One Sunday morning several years later, as luck would have it, Dr. Currier McEwen, the father of Ann Standridge and Kathy Goodrich, was sitting in the Kellogg Church behind Pat. A highly-respected physician who specialized in autoimmune diseases, Dr. McEwen had treated many lupus patients. Based on his experience, Dr. McEwen suspected Pat might have lupus, and he asked the minister if it would be all right to talk with Pat about her condition. Eventually, Dr. McEwen arranged for Pat to be part of a lupus study at the National Institutes of Health in 1971. While Pat was away, her children stayed at home in Harpswell. Vicki stayed with

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David and Sydney Sparks, David went to Sheldon and Anita Morse's, and Ricky was at Bill and Evangeline Sparks'. After the treatment at NIH, Pat became much better and later had no symptoms for years. Dr. McEwen referred to her as "a walking miracle."

As various teachers came and went, Pat Moody was a calm dependable presence at the West Harpswell School. She was an elementary school teacher for 40 years. When you mention "Mrs. Moody" to her former students, their eyes light up and the stories start to flow. At her retirement party, the West Harpswell School gym was humming with fond reminiscences. By now she is a great grandmother, and she continues to live in Harpswell among her family and friends, a calm dependable presence for us all.

What Harpswell Means to Me

by Sam Allen

Harpswell: There has been an Allen living in Harpswell since time began, and there will be an Allen living in Harpswell when the universe eventually implodes. At least, that's the impression you get when you drive down my road. I'm an Allen, my neighbors are Allens, and the major business on my road is named Allen's Seafood. I've been told that in Harpswell's early days, these familial clans made up most, if not all, of the town. But that isn't the case nowadays. There are so many vacationers in Harpswell that the population nearly doubles in the summer. You would think that that would cause a lot of conflict, but it doesn't. For many years, the Harpswell Festival was a perfect example of this to me. Every year, I would go down to Mitchell Field to see all those people eating and laughing and playing. For a kid who was in the process of growing

up and realizing all the problems of the world, it was nice to see that everyone there was getting along just fine. Even though the Festival hasn't run for years, that memory sticks with me, and reminds me that even though there's a lot of bad in the world, there's a lot of good in it, too.

(Sam Allen is a member of the Class of 2015 at Mt Ararat High School and will attend the University of Southern Maine in the fall.)

Notes

Visit the Harpswell History Museum this summer. Open every Sunday from 2-4 pm from Memorial Day to Columbus Day.

Docents Wanted: Volunteers to serve as Museum Docents for two hours on a Sunday afternoon this summer. Contact June Phinney 725-2438.

Carpenter needed to assist in converting the second floor of the Museum to a library and reading room for the Museum's collection of Harpswell-related books. Bookcases also needed.

http://www.harpswellhistorical.org/
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HARPSWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY