

HARPSWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SOUTH HARPSWELL, MAINE 04079

High Head Farm 2/23
S Harpswell
ME 04079
February 14, 1986

Mrs. Dana Porter Carson
Highland Road,
Brunswick, ME 04011

Dear Mrs. Carson,

On behalf of the Harpswell Historical Society I thank you for the copy sent us of your:
Notes on the History of The Auburn Harpswell Association

It is most interesting to learn the detailed history of one of Harpswell's most important landmarks. Its value will increase with the years as people who remember the early days disappear.

We all hope the Colony will be listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and thank you for your efforts to bring it about.

Sincerely,

Signed

William N. Locke, Clerk

Dear Colony Members and Friends,

I am pleased finally to have a history of the Auburn Harpswell Association completed. It has taken a year and a half to reach this point of thoroughness. Many people have perused it and added their recollections and ideas. I feel that we've touched on most aspects important to the development of the Colony over the years.

The material was initially gathered to assist the Maine Historic Preservation Commission complete an application to the National Register of Historic Places. My work in this area now continues with Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation, Portland, Maine 04101. For those of you who are not familiar with the Register, it is an official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Properties listed include buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects which are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. Listing a property on the Register means that it is recognized as significant; it is considered in planning for federal or federally-assisted projects; it is qualified for federal assistance for historic preservation in certain cases.

The primary benefit to the Association of National Register listing as an historic district is the honor it bestows upon the Colony and the community of South Harpswell. The Colony has been in existence for 109 years and thus provides a link with the past and a sense of identity and stability within the town. It was nominated because of its social history, its architectural value and because it was a planned community. Listing does not interfere with the owner's right to alter, manage or dispose of the property.

I hope that you will find the compilation interesting. I felt that if the information weren't put together in one spot now, it would be even more difficult in years to come. Future generations of AHA members should appreciate knowing the historic origins of the Colony.

Sincerely,

Dana Porter Carson

Notes
on the
History
of
The Auburn Harpswell Association
South Harpswell, Maine

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Dana Porter Carson
January 1985
(Revised December, 1985)

FORWARD

The following materials are taken from those prepared by Dana Porter Carson for use in connection with the nomination of The Auburn-Harpswell Association for entry on the National Register of Historic Places, upon which it became listed in January, 1985. The nomination was by reason of the significance of the Colony in the area of "Community Planning - Social/Humanitarian".

The following are the Statement of Significance and Physical Description of the Colony submitted in connection with the nomination:

"The ten cottages and two halls here nominated in the Auburn Harpswell Association Historic District represent one of the best examples along the Maine Coast of a planned community, conceived by Maine businessmen who wished to establish for their family and friends a permanent resort for relaxed summer vacationing by the sea.

As stated in the preamble to the first set of by-laws for the Colony, several gentlemen of Auburn, desiring a place of summer resort for themselves and their families, conceived the idea of forming a permanent association for the purpose of securing the material advantage of society, health and recreation.

For 109 years, the Association has continued to provide its residents with all the amenities of relaxed and comfortable vacationing with their family and friends. Residents have always been served all their meals in the community Dining Hall; bathing in the saltwater pool has supplanted dips at the Colony beach; the clay tennis court has always been in constant use; and the extensive colony grounds and surroundings continue to provide space for many types of recreation.

This is the second series of cottages, the first series of twenty-two having burned to the ground in 1899. With some changes in ownership, the Colony was reorganized with fewer cottages, but with the same high quality of life and the same goals.

The Colony represents a bygone era of relaxed and comfortable vacationing in the fellowship of friends and family.

Grouped in a sweeping S formation reaching toward tidal cove and the abutting pine grove in the middle of 43 acre seashore property stand ten of the original fourteen cottages of the Auburn-Harpswell Association at South Harpswell. Built between 1901 and 1902, these summer residences represent the kind of affluence which was lavished upon selected enclaves along the Maine coast at the turn the century. All are executed in the then popular Shingle Style. Behind these cottages are two large structures: rambling community dining hall in the Colonial Revival Style and an assembly hall in the Greek Revival Style."

Certain materials of a technical nature included nomination submission have been omitted.

HISTORY OF THE AUBURN HARPSWELL ASSOCIATION

In 1875, a group of businessmen from the Auburn-Lewiston area decided to locate a spot in Harpswell where they could establish a summer colony and retreat for their families. On the evening of August 26, 1876, in the office of E. F. Packard, a meeting was held at which were present E. F. Packard, Ara Cushman, John F. Cobb, Seth P. Miller, John T. Randall, John Pickard, F. M. Jordan, E. S. Paul, William Jordan, A. Greenwood and M. J. Percival.¹

As stated in the preamble to the first by-laws of the Auburn-Harpswell Association:

"Several gentlemen of Auburn desiring a place of summer resort for themselves and families, conceived the idea of forming a permanent association for the purpose of securing the material advantage of society, health and recreation.

Becoming favorably impressed with the healthy situation, beautiful surroundings, ease of access and fine adaptation to their purpose of the place known as Harpswell Neck, it was deemed advisable to form an organization and secure the desired situation.

On the thirty-first day of August, 1876, the gentlemen interested in the Auburn Harpswell Association and their ladies and friends embarked on their cars for the city of Portland. At Portland the party boarded the steamer Henrietta and were soon gliding down the bay among the islands. Arriving at Harpswell Neck, the party landed and after having refreshments in a grove near the landing proceeded to the proposed site of the Colony; here a few hours were spent in enjoying the premises, the beauties of the situation, enjoying the breeze from the ocean and discussing ways and means for the good of the Association."²

The group purchased the Captain Nathaniel Pinkham farm and four acres of land. On September 30, 1876, they once again met in E. F. Packard's office and auctioned off the lots for \$1764, or \$399 above the cost of the real estate and buildings.³ The four acres were to be held in common by the Association, with each member owning the 40 ft. X 25 ft. lot on which the cottage stood.

¹ E. F. Abbott, Sr., AHA correspondence, note, 12 August 1950.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

The Pinkham farmhouse, built in 1789, was enlarged by a shed-like addition and converted into a large dining hall with a kitchen, some office space and a few bedrooms for the hired help. The barn was partitioned to house the horses and coaches owned by the residents. Twenty identical white cottages, each 17 ft. X 30 ft.,⁴ were built in a semicircle in back of the farmhouse. All were constructed of six inch matched board purchased at Jordan & Frost Lumber Co., Lewiston. A three plank boardwalk leading to the Dining Hall was laid in front of the cottages. An Assembly Hall, which would serve as a chapel, music and recreation hall, was also built.⁵

By the Spring of 1877, Charles Greenleaf and Co. of Lewiston, with a group of local carpenters, had completed the construction of the buildings and modifications to the farmhouse.⁶

The original Colony cottages were occupied by the following families:⁷

Cottage no.	Owners
1	William Frank and Nathaniel Jordan of Jordan and Frost Lumber Co., Lewiston;
2	Mrs. Edward Little, whose father-in-law gave the land where the Edward Little High School in Auburn is today;
3	E. S. Paul, proprietor of an exclusive dry goods store in Lewiston;
4	Frank Bartlett, who kept a similar store in Auburn;
5	Ara Cushman, shoe manufacturer;
6	Samuel Pingree, who was in the lumber business;
7	Mr. Small of Ashe, Noyes and Small, shoe manufacturers;
8	John May, lawyer;
9	Mr. Bean of Franklin and Co., which controlled the Lewiston - Auburn waterworks;

4 Frank Connors, "Auburn Colony: A Special Summer Place," ne Times Record, 20 August 1976, p.7.

⁵ Interview with Mary Arnold

⁶ Miriam S. Thomas, notes.

⁷ Interview with Miss Marion Dana, 75 State St., Portland, Maine, Summer, 1984.

- 10 E. F. Packard of Foss and Packard Shoe Co.;
- 11 J. O. Foss of Dillingham and Foss;
- 12 F. I. Day, shoe manufacturers;
- 13 Mr. Holland, who was related to the Days;
- 14 Charles Gay of Gay and Woodman, shoe manufacturers;
- 15 Henry Willis, grain merchant;
- 16 U. S. Senator William P. Frye;
- 17 John E. Cobb, real estate;
- 18 A. E. Frost of Jordan and Frost Lumber Co.;
- 19 Rev. Mitchell of Massachusetts, father of Mrs. Frost;and
- 20 Benjamin Conant of Bradford and Conant Furniture Store.

The Colony members hired most of their help from the local community. Eli Alexander, who lived just across the road from the tennis court, was the carpenter; his daughter, Gracie Alexander, was one of the waitresses; Mr. Charles Noble was the caretaker and his wife, Belinda, the pastry chef. The Nobles lived in the converted farmhouse during the winter and their son, Frank Noble, who was born in the farmhouse December 17, 1883, was the cook's helper until 1895.⁸ Gracie Alexander took the boat to Portland once a week after serving breakfast, ordered groceries for the week and returned to serve the evening meal.

On November 5, 1899,⁹ a fire started in the cottage closest to the road and quickly engulfed all twenty cottages. The only buildings left unscathed were the Assembly Hall, stables and Dining Hall. According to rumor, the fire was started by local residents in reaction to opposition from a Colony member, Mr. R.M. Hubbard, to the town granting a liquor license for an establishment on the Point.¹⁰

During the following year, a few of the original members sold their interest in the Colony, but by 1902, fourteen new cottages had been built; ten of these still remain. The Shingle Style cottages are larger than the original ones and are spaced farther apart. They are situated in a line forming an extended S from the

⁸Miriam S. Thomas, notes.

⁹E. F. Abbott, Sr., ABA correspondence, note, 12 August 1950.

¹⁰Interview with Robert C. Porter, South Harpswell, Summer 1984.

road down the hill towards the cove. The Assembly Hall, the stables and the Dining Hall were moved behind the row of cottages.¹¹ At this time, a building housing a bowling alley was also erected next to the Assembly Hall, but it fell into disuse and was later torn down.¹²

road down the hill towards the cove. The Assembly Hall, the stables and the Dining Hall were moved behind the row of cottages.¹¹ At this time, a building housing a bowling alley was also erected next to the Assembly Hall, but it fell into disuse and was later torn down.¹²

The kitchen of the present Dining Hall was part of the original converted farmhouse; the front part of the structure which houses the dining room itself, with rooms above, was built between 1901 and 1908. The renovation of the Dining Hall, which was not to exceed \$4200, or \$350 per cottage,¹³ was completed by Mr. Leon Blake Merriman of South Harpswell.¹⁴

The Association was incorporated in September 1916 and one share of stock was issued to each of the 14 Cottage owners. In succeeding years, the Association acquired the land to the east of Route 123, thus preserving the Colony view of Bailey's Island, and has acquired other parcels adjoining the original 4 acres acquired in 1876, resulting in a present land ownership of approximately 20 acres. In addition, various groups of Colony members have acquired the property on either side of the Colony's frontage on Potts Harbor to insure their development in a manner consistent with the interests of the Colony.

The original and the present owners of the second series of cottages are as follows (Cottages 1-4 were subsequently destroyed; original Cottage # 5 now is # 1):

Cottage No	Original Owner	Present Owner
1	The Crow Fishing Club, Boston, Massachusetts	
2	Mr. Henry Hubbard, St. Louis, Missouri	
3	Mr. Frank H. Packard, (brother of E. F. Packard, one of the original founders)	

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¹¹ E. F. Abbott, Jr., AHA correspondence, note, 12 August 1950.

¹² Currier McEwen, notes, Fall, 1984. One of the original bowling balls was recently found and incorporated as the feature of a table lamp presently located in Cottage # 10.

¹³ E. F. Abbott, Sr., AHA correspondence, note, 12 August 1950.

¹⁴ Interview with Ralph N. Merriman, South Harpswell, Summer, 1984.

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| 4 | Col. J. A. Blake, Malden,
Massachusetts | |
| 5(1) | R. M. Hubbard,
St. Louis Missouri | Mrs. Foster Yancey
Dallas, Texas
(Third generation) |
| 6(2) | Edward Little Pickard,
Auburn, Maine, (descendant of Mrs.
Edward Little, of the original Colony) | Miss Henrietta Arnold and Miss Mary
G. Arnold, Ridgewood, New Jersey
(Second generation) |
| 7(3) | Woodbury Kidder Dana,
Westbrook, Maine | Mr. & Mrs. James Nelson,
Mt. Lakes, New Jersey |
| 8(4) | E. S. Paul,

Auburn, Maine (one of the original
founders) | Mrs. E. Farrington Abbott,
Auburn, Maine
(Third generation) |
| 9(5) | E. W. Baxter,
Quincy, Massachusetts | Robert C. Porter, Jr.,
Washington, D.C. and

Dana Porter Carson,
Brunswick, Maine (Fourth generation) |
| 10(6) | Emily DeBacon Page,
Chatham, New Jersey | Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay Laird,
Acton, Massachusetts and
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Williams,
Westfield, New Jersey |
| 11(7) | Oceola Currier,
Newark, New Jersey
(a renter of one of the original
cottages) | Mr. & Mrs. Mayro Kenney
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
(Second generation) |
| 12(8) | Mrs. Gurney
Newark, New Jersey | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Warren,
Mt. Lakes, New Jersey |
| 13(9) | Rev. & Mrs. Henry Rose,
Newark, New Jersey | Mr. & Mrs. Stephen B. Wilson,
Irvington, New York
(Third generation) |
| 14(10) | Dr. William McCandless,
St. Louis, Missouri | Mr. & Mrs. Matthew G. Herold, Jr.,
Mt. Lakes, New Jersey (Second
generation) |

It is interesting to note that in 1901 before there was any transportation other than by train to Portland and boat from there to Harpswell, there were three families from St. Louis, Missouri, four from Northern New Jersey and two from Massachusetts who owned cottages in the Colony. Thus, the original Auburn, Maine influence was severely diluted. The Yancey family is the longest in continuous residence and came from Dallas, Texas in 1917. Mary Frances Yancey, the current owner of the Yancey Cottage, although neither a sailor, swim-per nor tennis player, nevertheless persuaded her parents and her sister both to buy cottages in the 1940s and has been in residence every summer since her husband, Foster Yancey, died some 20 years ago. The Dana family has fourth generation children connected with the Colony, as do the McEwens, McCandless's, Wilsons, Yanceys and Abbotts. The Herold family, although visiting the Colony for the first time in 1960, now have third generation children regularly visiting the Colony. The Warrens and the Nelsons, both residents of Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, were attracted to the Colony through friendship with the current owners of Cottage #10, Joann and Matt Herold, who also reside in that community. Many children of cottage owners have held summer positions in the Dining Hall.

The chain of ownership of the second series of cottages¹⁵ is set forth in Appendix I; a copy of the 1901 subdivision plat of the Colony property, filed in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds on September 5, 1901, is contained in Appendix II; copies of photos of the Colony buildings are to be found in Appendix III; an annotated copy of the current tax map of the Colony and surrounding property is included as Appendix IV; and a list of the current associate members of the Colony (who, although not awning Cottages, are entitled to use the Colony facilities) is set forth in Appendix V.

The architectural drawings for five of the fourteen cottages were done by the Auburn firm of Gibbs and Coombs. Cottage #3, built for Frank H. Packard;¹⁶ Cottage #4, built for J. A. Blake;¹⁷ Cottage #7, built for W. K. Dana;¹⁸ Cottage #9, built for E. W. Baxter¹⁹ and Cottage #6, built for E. L. Pickard,²⁰ were all designed by that firm in early 1901. It is likely that the other

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¹⁵ Interviews with Miss Marion Dana, Mrs. S. Winston Brown, Mr. Robert C. Porter; Summer and Fall, 1984. Henrietta Arnold, notes, Fall, 1984. E. F. Abbott, Sr., AHA correspondence and notes.

¹⁶ Architectural Drawings, 1901, Coombs and Gibbs, c426, Maine Historical Society.

¹⁷ Ibid, c45.

¹⁸ Ibid, c131.

¹⁹ Ibid, c35.

²⁰ Ibid, c450.

cottages were professionally designed, but drawings have not yet surfaced. At this time, the only builder of record was Leon Blake Merriman, who built the addition to the Dining Hall as well as the Bridge and Hubbard cottages. Mr. Merriman also built Admiral Peary's house and cottage on Eagle Island.

All of the cottages are large Shingle Style structures, with continuous wood shingles on the two stories. All have extensive porches, although most of them have been partially glassed in to provide more interior space. Most have asymmetrical facades; a number have hip and gambrel roofs with intersecting cross gables and multilevel eaves. There is even a tower, or half tower, in the R. M. Hubbard cottage, present Cottage #1. The window and door surrounds are simple; multiple windows and walls curving into windows are common.

Adjoining the Colony are a number of homes whose history is intertwined with that of the Colony. Members of the Dana Family, (builders of Cottage #7, now #3) have owned the "Cliftdale Cottage", (Lot 22, Appendix IV), since 1911.²¹ Next to it to the South is the "Ensign Cottage" (Lot 21, Appendix IV) built by Florence Page Ensign on property inherited from her sister, Emily DeBacon Page (both owners of Cottage #10, now #6) and currently owned by Thelma Day (a ward of Mrs. Ensign's brother, Harry) and Alan Day, who have been engaged in running battles, both in and out of court, with the Colony and other neighbors for years. The two cottages across the Colony driveway from the tennis court, which, like Cliftdale, are served by the Colony's water system, were originally owned by Maude C. Conant, daughter-in-law of Benjamin Conant of the original Colony. Her son, Roger, and his wife, own one cottage (Lot 25, Appendix IV) . Descendants of Osceola Currier (builder of Cottage III, now #7), the Dorians, own the adjacent cottage (Cottage 26, Appendix IV) . Dr. Currier McEwen, whose home is to the east of the Colony across Route 123 (Lot 3, Appendix IV), is also a descendant of Osceola Currier. He first arrived in South Harpswell in 1904 with his father, who was also a Doctor. Across the Colony field near the swimming pool is the "Juniper Patch" (Lot 24, Appendix IV), built by Professor Means, owner of one of the original Colony cottages before the fire of 1898. In the 1901 reorganization, he was excluded from the new Colony. In defiance, he purchased a lot which was originally part of the Nathaniel Pinkham Farm and built his own cottage. Neither he nor successor owners have ever been associate members of the Colony.

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²¹ Commencing with Mary Little Hale Pickard Dana, and followed by her daughter, Ethel M. Dana, followed by Mary Hall Dana Abbott and her daughter, the current owner, Ruth Abbott Bishop.

Fires again struck the Colony in 1930 and 1948. The Bridge and Henry Hubbard Cottages burned in 1930 due to defective wiring. In August of 1948, the Blake and Packard Cottages were lost when a kerosene water heater in the Packard Cottage overheated.

In the early part of the century, South Harpswell was a bustling summer community. There were several hotels at the Point, including the Merriconeag House and The Gables. Another hotel, the Ocean View, was located across Route 123 to the northeast of the Colony on property where the associate member Charles Yancey family's present home is located; the shell of its former swimming pool now forms a sheltered garden in the rear yard of the home of Colony associate members, the Burkes. Residents and visitors could reach Harpswell by two methods. There was a buckboard that made the trip from Harpswell to Brunswick and back once a week, but the road was so bad (of the "corduroy type" in the wet sections) that it was a very uncomfortable ride and no one made the journey unless absolutely necessary. The easier way to travel was by the steamer that came from Portland four times a day, and, later, twice a day. The steamer was a focal point of life for Harpswell, bringing people, freight and sail to Potts Point. (It also served Bailey's Island and Orr's Island, and sometimes stopped at Chebeague and Cliff Islands.) Thus, the arrival of the "Henrietta" was one of the social highlights of every day and many from the Colony would walk down to the Point to see the boat come in. There was a band that played on the big steamboat wharf to welcome the boat; the music was terrible, but jolly. The band leader was a local character with a hunchback named Bobby Bibber. Frost Bailey ran a horse and buggy and later an auto taxi from the wharf.²² His house and barn are now the Vickerage in West Harpswell. Other steamers were the Aucosisco (whose captain lived on Oar's Island, where he spent the night after the evening trip and began the 7:00 a.m. trip the next morning) the Merriconeag, the Pilgrim, the Forest Queen and the Emita.

In the early 1900's, the Colony was run like a hotel. The cottages were rented or loaned to friends and relatives for those weeks that they were not occupied by the owners. A couple named Drown served as cook and manager for many years. Later serving as eager was Frank Coffin,²³ whose son became a Congressman and is now judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Alice Bibber managed Dining Hall in the 1930's.²⁴ Walter Stout was the cook and manger in the 1950's. More recently the managers have been Mr. &

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²² Currier McEwen, notes, Fall, 1984.

²³ Judge Coffin still owns and visits his father's cottage on Hurricane Ridge in South Harpswell.

²⁴ Currier McEwen, notes, Fall, 1984.

Mrs. Charles Allcock, Clement Wilson, The McFarlanes and now Anne and Dick Moseley.

Daily activities for Colony residents revolved around the three meals a day served in the Dining Hall. The Hall was open seven days a week, from June 15 to September 15, and all meals were served by waitresses who were students on summer vacation. They had only one day off, Clambake Day, when the Colony paid to send them to Portland for the day. There were twenty tables in the Dining Hall; the owners changed tables every year so that those tables with a view or next to a window would be shared by all.

In the early to mid 1900's, a close association existed between the Colony and the five cottages to the south of the Colony on Route 123; the owners, or renters, some being descendants of early members of the Colony, along with four or five other families from the Point, joined the members daily to take their meals. This practice continues on a smaller scale with about 20 associate members today (see Appendix V).

In August of every year, the Clambake is held to celebrate the founding of the Colony in 1876. It has always been a festive occasion, attended by many friends of the Colony. In the early part of the century, the celebration was held at Lookout Point on the Curtis Farm. Guests walked or went by boat or car; Mrs. McCandless usually hired a horse and buggy. In more recent years, the one hundred or so guests have gathered at the pine grove, on the shore of Potts Harbor below the cottages.

In the 1920's, many of the families had automobiles and seven families had chauffeurs. The fleet of cars outgrew the barn from the old Pinkham farm, so a sixteen stall garage was built behind the Dining Hall. Over the years it gradually fell into disuse and most of it was torn down; three stalls still remain.

Water frequently ran low during the summer months until more wells were dug. Through the middle of the century, water was pumped into a large water tank behind and between the original Subbard and Blake cottages. For many years, the caretaker carried a bucket of artesian well water to each cottage twice a day. The well beside the tennis court was said to have sufficient flow for the Colony and the Point. There is still a faucet on the tennis court fence where anyone who needed water could come and help themselves. During dry summers, farmers came for water for their stock. The Dorian, Conant and Bishop cottages on Rt. 123 (Lots 26, 25 and 23 shown on Appendix III) still get their water from a well at the Colony.

Electricity was brought down Rt. 123 from Brunswick in the late 1920's. Some of the Colony members guaranteed a minimum amount of usage but were never required to pay. Before full commercial

service became available, several members had their awn generators. Prior to that, candles, kerosene lamps and stoves were used, while others continued to use the coal stove in the Dining Hall (the coal bin was under the ice house on the end of the Dining Hall). The overhead lights which are presently in the Dining Hall have been there since the 1930's or 1940's when they were taken out of the Cushman-Hollis Shoe Factory by E. F. Abbott and installed in the Hall.

The Colony was always a center of social activity for both summer and year-round residents. Every Sunday evening, a prayer meeting was held in the chapel of the Assembly Hall and people from all over the Point came to hear Dr. Rose, a Universalist minister. Mrs. McCandless, a trained opera singer, led the community in song.

From 1901 to 1929, on Saturday nights dances were frequently organized in the Assembly Hall. After arriving on the 5 PM boat from Portland and dining at a local hotel, Percival Bodge, who later became a famed violinist, and his accompanist on the piano, played long into the night for the enjoyment of young and old, summer visitors and residents. The Pearys from Eagle Island were sometimes invited to these dances as well as other Colony festivities.²⁵ The Noyes, the Harriman's, Settles and Jones also came over from Haskell Island.

In the evening there was always some sort of entertainment or amusement to be found. Residents strolled on the boardwalk which passed in front of all the cottages, led down to the beach and nearby cabana, and over to the Dining Hall; they could usually find a game of bridge or a party in one of the cottages. Once a summer, each cottage owner furnished refreshments and some sort of entertainment in the Assembly Hall; there were plays, minstrel shows, salmagundi.

The days were always filled with activity at the Colony. Because it was usually so difficult and generally uncomfortable to travel very far from the Colony and because there were so many young people at the Colony, they and their friends tended to stay on the grounds and amuse themselves with group projects. Croquet and tennis were the two most popular pastimes; baseball on the Common, in the center of which stands the present day flag pole, drew children from all over the Point. A bridge game could usually be found in the Pickard cottage by 9 AM. A ride up the coast with Mr. Arnold or Mr. Dana in their early chauffeur driven autos was an occasional diversion.

Boating, especially sailing, was very popular. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Bridge had large sailboats, as did Miss Annie Packard. Miss

²⁵ Henrietta Arnold, notes, Fall, 1984.

Packard's craft was captained by a Mr. Orm Bibber from Basin Point. Colony members enjoyed invitations to sail on these boats in addition to Mr. Currier's steam launch, "Seminole."²⁶

Until recently, swimming at the Colony was a chilly sport to which neither the mud flats off the Colony's shorefront on Potts Harbor, nor the precipitous cliffs along the Colony frontage on Merriconeag Sound, lent themselves. In an attempt to improve on this situation, in the 1950's a tidal pool was excavated in the mud flat area, but this effort failed in the face of the uncompromising primal ooze. Finally, in 1962 a salt water swimming pool was built at the present location which, along with the tennis court, serves as a favorite gathering spot for the athletic and the not so athletic.

The Colony was initiated as a retreat for the entire summer for families from urban areas; a strong sense of family and community resulted among the members. Many of the cottages are still owned by descendants of those in the original colony, or those of the early years in the second series of cottages. Several associate members are related to some of the early members.²⁷ Despite the current tendency of most of the cottages to be rented for at least a portion of the summer, there still remains a strong sense of community and history among the members. The land - other than the small plots on which the individual cottages are located - is still held in common by the Association; two meals a day continue to be served in the Dining Hall; the Assembly Hall, now commonly referred to as the "Rec Hall," still hosts all kinds of entertainment; the Common continues to be the site of many games.

Associations such as the Auburn Harpswell Association were common along the Maine coast in the early 1900's, but there are very few still in existence. The Association members take pride in the fact that the Colony has been running for over one hundred years in a manner reminiscent of the early days of family vacationing on the coast of Maine.

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²⁶ There were two local residents whose boats were hired by Colony members. Steve Toothacher, who lived at Potts Point, used to take people from the Colony sailing. His father was the lighthouse keeper at Halfway Rock and would row to his house on Potts Point. His daughter married Cliff Moody who sold lobsters to the Colony. Everet Getchell from Ash Point was a lobsterman who took Colony residents on picnics in his lobsterboat. He also built wooden skiffs for the members. His son, Creighton, became a ward of Sydney Ensign, who was an associate member and married to Florence Page, sister of Emily DeBacon Page. Creighton went to Bowdoin, married Guy Gannett's daughter and ran the first TV station in Maine, WGAN. (Interview with Robert C. Porter, South Harpswell, Fall, 1984.)

²⁷ The McEwens and Dorians are descendants of the Curriers; the Bishops, Porters and Mary Rothwell Brown are descendants of W. K. .:an a; the Dunlaps are related to the McCandless family.

Chain of Ownership
Second Series of Cottages

Cottage #1:

The Crow Fishing Club, Isaiah Bridge, Boston,

1. Massachusetts, President. This all-male Club was attracted to Harpswell because of the excellent fishing found in Casco Bay.
2. Isaiah Bridge, Boston, Massachusetts.
3. Robert B. Stoutenburgh, Montclair, New Jersey.

Cottage #1 burned to the ground in 1930 due to defective wiring.

Cottage #2:

1. Mr. Henry Hubbard, St. Louis, Missouri.
2. Mrs. Dorothy Hubbard Sims.

Cottage #2 burned to the ground in 1930 as a result of the spread of the fire from Cottage

Cottage #3:

1. Frank H. Packard, brother of E.F. Packard, an original member.
2. Mrs. Frank H. Packard.
3. Miss Annie E. Packard, Brookline, Massachusetts, the daughter of E.F. Packard of the original Colony. She was Colony Secretary for a great many years.

Cottage #3 burned to the ground in 1948 due to a defective kerosene hot water heater.

Cottage #4:

1. Col. J.A. Blake, Malden, Massachusetts.
2. Brimmer, York, Pennsylvania.
3. Edward Farrington Abbot, Auburn, Maine.
4. Edward F. Cunningham, Waxahachie, Texas, father of
5. Mrs. C. Carlton Reed and Mrs. Foster Yancey.

Cottage #4 burned to the ground in 1948 as a result of the spread of the flames from Cottage #3.

Cottage #5 (now #1):

1. R.M. Hubbard, St. Louis, Missouri.
2. Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Yancey, Dallas, Texas.
3. Mrs. Robert S. Yancey.

4. Charles Yancey and Foster Yancey, both of Dallas and sons of Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Yancey.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Foster Yancey, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Yancey served as President of the Association for many years.
6. Mrs. Foster Yancey, Dallas, Texas.

Cottage #6 (now #2):

1. Edward Little Pickard, Auburn, Maine, a descendent of the Edward Littles of the original Colony. He was at one time Mayor of Wellesley, Massachusetts.
2. Thomas J. Arnold, Glenrock, New Jersey. He served as President of the Association and incorporated it in 1916.
3. Miss Henrietta Arnold and Miss Mary G. Arnold, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Cottage #7 (now #3):

1. Woodbury Kidder Dana, Westbrook, Maine, of the Dana Warp Mill in Westbrook. He married Mary Little Hale Pickard, the sister of Edward Little Pickard and a descendent of the Edward Littles of the original Colony. After Mr. Dana's death, his son, Luther Dana, occupied the Cottage for several years.
2. Dr. Samuel A. Brown, New York, New York. Dr. Brown was a friend of long time associate member Dr. Currier McEwen at New York Hospital, where both practiced.
3. Kenneth Rose, son of Reverend Henry Rose, (see Cottage #13) and his wife, Charlotte Brown Rose, daughter of Dr. Brown.
4. Mrs. Charlotte Brown Rose.
5. Estate of Andrew Wilson, son-in-law of Reverend Henry Rose.
6. Robert C. Porter and Mrs. Foster Yancey.
7. Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey.

Cottage #8 (now #4):

1. E.S. Paul, Auburn, Maine, one of the owners in the original Colony.
2. Edward Farrington Abbott, Auburn, Maine. He married Mary Dana, a daughter of Woodbury Kidder Dana. Mr. Abbott was President of the Colony for over 20 years, stepping down in 1952.
3. Mrs. Edward Farrington Abbott.
4. E. Farrington Abbott, Jr. and Luther Dana Abbott, brothers, Auburn, Maine. E. Farrington Abbott, Jr. served as President of the Association.
5. E. Farrington Abbott, Jr. and his wife, Maude.
6. Mrs. E. Farrington Abbott, Jr. Auburn, Maine.

Cottage #9 (now #5):

1. E.W. Baxter, Quincy, Massachusetts. Occupied by Luther Dana (see Cottage #7) for several years.
2. Lyman A. Cousins, Portland, Maine.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Foster Yancey.
4. Mrs. Edward F. Cunningham.
5. Mrs. C. Carlton Reed and Mrs. Foster Yancey, daughters of Mr. Cunningham.
6. Mrs. C. Carlton Reed.
7. Mr. Robert C. Porter and his wife, Elizabeth, formerly of Summit, New Jersey. Mr. Porter is a grandson of Woodbury Kidder Dana. Mr. Porter was President of the Association for several years.
8. Robert C. Porter, Jr. and Dana Porter Carson.

Cottage #10 (now #6):

1. Emily DeBacon Page, Chatham, New Jersey, whose husband owned the Vapo-Cresolene Co. of Chatham, New Jersey.
2. Florence Page Ensign.
3. E. Farrington Abbott, Jr.
4. Mrs. Charles C. Cushman, aunt of Edward Farrington Abbott and daughter-in-law of Ara Cushman, one of the founders.
5. Helen and Margaret Abbott, daughters of Edward Farrington Abbott.
6. Robert D. Brewer, Boston, Massachusetts, son-in-law of Dr. William McCandless (see Cottage #14).
7. Estate of Robert D. Brewer (occupied by his wife, Margareta Brewer).
8. Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Laird, Acton, Massachusetts and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Williams, Westfield, New Jersey. Mr. Laird is the current President of the Association.

Cottage #11 (now #7):

1. Oceola Currier, Newark, New Jersey, who was involved in metal manufacturing. He had rented cottages in the original series in the 1890's.
2. Matilda Currier, Oceola Currier's daughter.
3. Matilda Currier deeded cottage to the Colony.
4. Mr. Leslie Waggener, Dallas, Texas.
5. Mrs. Leslie Waggener, Dallas, Texas.
6. Mrs. Matthew G. Herold, Scarsdale, New York.
7. Mr. and Mrs. Mayro Keeney, Longmeadow, Massachusetts. Mrs. Keeney is the daughter of Mrs. Herold.

Cottage #12 (now #8):

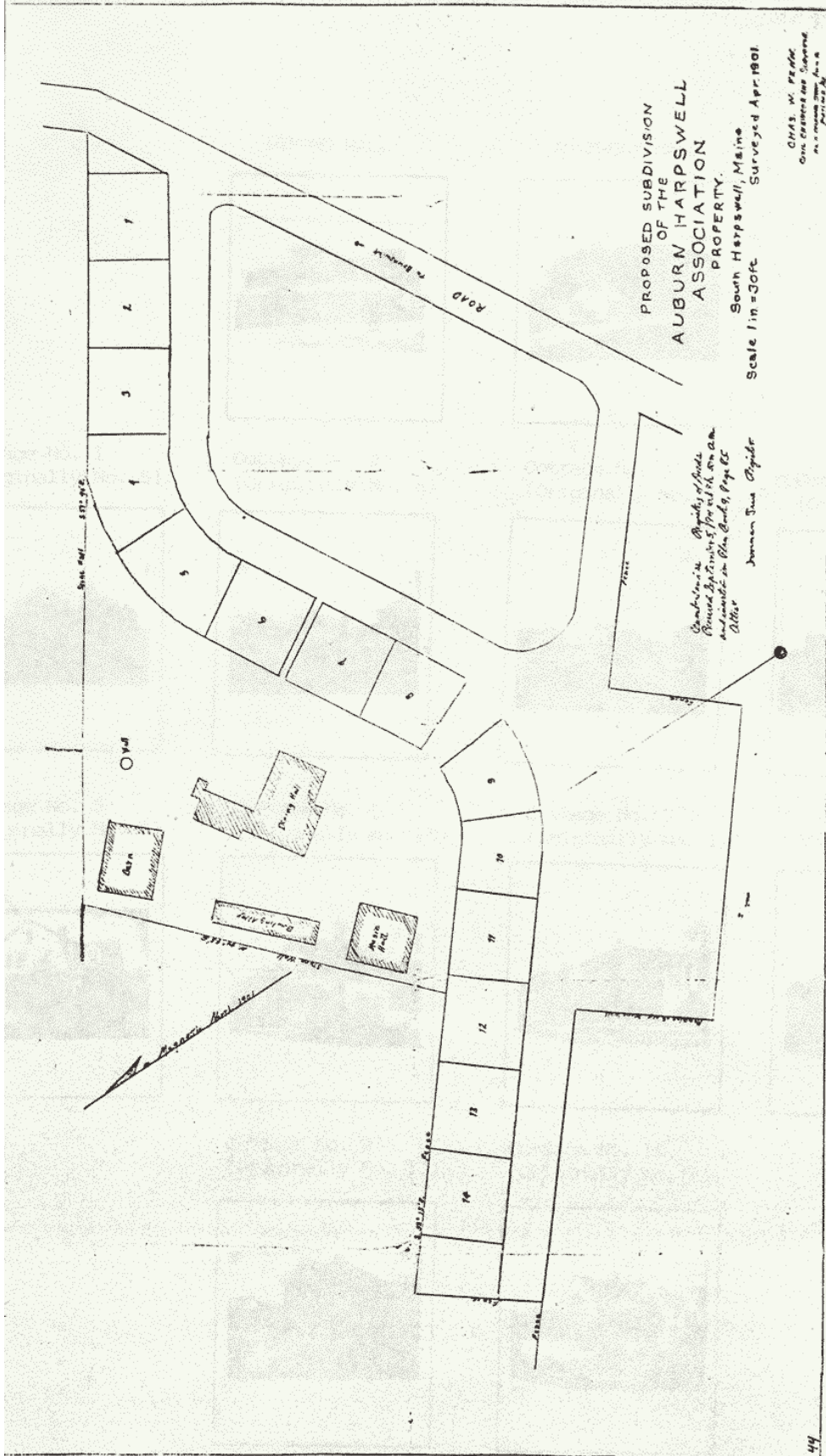
1. Mrs. Gurney/ Newark, New Jersey.
2. Mrs. Henrietta Gurney Lord, Newark, New Jersey, the daughter of Mrs. Gurney.
3. Steele, Orange, New Jersey.
4. Mrs. Alberta Brown Pierson, Pittsford, New York, who was Dr. Samuel A. Brown's (See Cottage #7) daughter.
5. Wilson McClure, Dallas, Texas.
6. Mr. and Mrs. W. Lentz Rothwell, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Rothwell is a granddaughter of Woodbury Kidder Dana and the sister of Robert C. Porter (See Cottage #9). Mr. Rothwell was President of the Association for many years.
7. Dr. and Mrs. Philip Archambault, Lewiston, Maine.
8. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey.

Cottage #13 (now #9):

1. Reverend Henry Rose and his wife, Ida Louise Rose, Newark, New Jersey. Reverend Rose was a Universalist Minister.
2. Edith Rose Wilson, daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Rose.
3. Mr. Stephen B. Wilson and his wife, Delsa, Irvington, New York. Mr. Wilson is grandson of Reverend and Mrs. Rose. Mr. Wilson was President of the Association for several years.

Cottage #14: (now #10):

1. Dr. William McCandless, St. Louis, Missouri, who had purchased a cottage in the original series before the fire of 1899.
2. Mrs. William McCandless.
3. Miss Ruth Elizabeth McCandless, Cushing House, Hingham, Massachusetts, daughter of Dr. McCandless, sister of Margareta Brewer (See Cottage #10).
4. Mrs. Ursula Herold Rountree, sister of Mr. Matthew G. Herold (See Cottage #11).
5. Mrs. Matthew G. Herold.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Matthew G. Herold, Jr., Mountain Lakes, New Jersey.



POTTS HARBOR

