

South Bristol Historical Society

Est. 1998

Newsletter

South Bristol, Maine 04568

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Fall 2005

Historical Society News

S Road (Roosevelt) Schoolhouse:

Planning is getting underway to make a long-time dream come true – restoration of the S Road Schoolhouse and creation of a schoolhouse museum and learning resource for our South Bristol School students. Also known as the Roosevelt School, and earlier simply as the “Main Schoolhouse,” the 1860 building has not been used as a school since 1943. In 1974, the 7th and 8th grade classes, led by then principal Richard Hawkins, raised funds and restored the east side of the school, cleaned up the interior and furnished it with wooden desks. However, since that time, further deterioration has set in and now extensive work will have to be done to make it usable again. Thanks to Les Fossil’s “Restoration Resources,” the building has been examined and a list of the repairs needed and an estimate of the projected cost has been obtained. The Selectmen have indicated an interest in seeing the SBHS take on this project. Pam Sperry, principal of the South Bristol School, is an enthusiastic supporter because of the significant educational opportunity it will provide. You will be hearing more about this in future newsletters and at meetings, but for now, please be on the lookout for any memorabilia connected with the schoolhouse, and share them with SBHS so that we can continue to build our collection and have ample illustrations of why this is an important effort worthy of support. If you would like to get involved with this project in any way, please let us know – 207-644-1234, or P. O. Box 229, South Bristol, ME 04568, and we will be in touch as plans progress.

Annual Meeting:

At the Annual Meeting on July 21, appreciation was expressed to retiring trustee **Ruthie Clark** for her service and we welcomed two new trustees—**Carolyn McKeon**, and **Donna Plummer**. **Nat Hammond**, **Larry Kelsey**, **Bill Kelsey** and **Eugenie Cole** will continue to serve as trustees. **Ellen Wells**, president; **Gordon Claar**, vice president; **David Andrews**, historian; and **Gail Seiders**, secretary were each re-elected to a one-year term. Also at the meeting, the retirement of **Bill Glendinning** from the post of treasurer which he had held since formation of the Historical Society in 1998 was announced. Bill was presented with a framed historical photograph of a South Bristol scene near his home in recognition of his long

and distinguished service. Although at the time of the meeting no successor had yet been found, in August the Board of Trustees was pleased to be able to elect **Cotton Damon** to fill the post.

Thanks to our volunteers, without whom the museum’s doors would not have been open this summer, and meeting attendees would have gone home hungry! Wednesday Open hours were made possible on summer Wednesday afternoons because of **John Rounds** who not only welcomed visitors, but also pried open all the windows which had been painted shut and replaced the old rope pulley systems in them, so now we can open the windows on hot summer days. Then on Sunday afternoons, **Donna Plummer**, **Bob Clark**, **Cotton Damon**, **Thelma House**, **Kay Arsem** and **Muriel Lewis** provided the welcome. Refreshment duties were handled in fine style by **Barbara Hamlin**, **Janet Claar**, **Eugenie Cole**, **Gail Seiders**, **Ruthie Clark**, **Carolyn McKeon** and **Donna Plummer**. With so many volunteers during the last few months, we may have left some names out, for which we apologize, but SBHS is grateful nonetheless.

Winter Thursdays, a great success last year, will start again on November 10 and 17 and December 1 and 8, from 1 to 3 pm at the SBHS building. Anyone with a few

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S Road, or Roosevelt, Schoolhouse at the corner of Route 129 and the S Road.

free hours and an interest in local history will have a chance to help in many ways: organizing and preserving our photo collection (putting photos in archival sleeves, identifying places and people); helping catalogue books and artifacts, indexing the numerous notebooks and other collections; organizing photos and maps for the up-coming Landon Warner publication; cleaning and storing items on display. There will be hot tea and coffee to ward off the chill. Come join us one or more afternoons – no reservations necessary! You can call Ellen Wells (644-1584) or Eugenie Cole (563-8221) for more information about these get-togethers.

A History of the Families and Their Houses, South Bristol, Maine 1730-1915, the manuscript prepared by the late H. Landon Warner, is now in final editing and the tedious process of preparing an index will begin shortly. The goal for publication is June 2006. The feature article

in this newsletter is an excerpt from the first section of the book and serves to suggest how important this work is to the history of our town.

Membership Notes – A hearty welcome and thank-you to new life members **Barbara Welles** and **Polly and Donald Hirsch**. Their confidence in our organization is greatly appreciated. We now have a total of 157 active memberships of which 59 are individuals; most of the remaining 98 are family/couple memberships, including 27 life memberships and 24 sustaining memberships. Therefore, more than 250 people are actively supporting SBHS with their memberships, and we thank each one of you. **And, by the way, if our records indicate you have not yet paid dues for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, your name and address will be circled in red, and you can use the form at the end of the newsletter to send in your renewal dues.**

REMEMBER

SBHS telephone 207-644-1584 email SBHS@tidewater.net

SOUTH BRISTOL CIVIL WAR PARTICIPANTS

By David Andrews, Historian

The first Historical Society meeting of 2005 found a hardy group of us exploring the West Bristol cemetery. We “discovered” the red granite Civil War memorial with twenty-six names but I knew there were more South Bristol residents who were war veterans from reading Nelson Gamage’s “A Short History of South Bristol.” With my curiosity tweaked, I decided to see how comprehensive a list of veterans I could put together, using the sources listed below. In the end, I found 70 men and 1 woman from South Bristol who were active participants in the war. The following paragraph lists those participants, organized by military unit. Those who died during the war are shown in *italics* and those killed or wounded in battle in **bold**. The individual was in the infantry and a private unless otherwise noted. I have more information on many of these people. Please contact me through the Historical Society if you would like to know more or if you have information to share.

1st Maine Cavalry: Edwin Bailey, *Linsdale Burnham*, Cpl. Orville Clark, Zebord Hysom, Cyrus Jones, Nathaniel Wentworth. 1st Maine Artillery: Lewis Gallup, Timothy Goudy. 2nd Maine Artillery: Henry Goudy, Bedford Sproul. 7th Maine Artillery: Stanley Alley, Henry Goudy, Charles Kenny. 4th Maine: Cpl. Harvey Bearce, Isaac Fountain, *Edward McClure*, Charles Thompson. 8th Maine: John Dyer. 10th Maine: Ambrose Foster, *Solomon Lane*. 11th Maine: *Gilbert Brown*. 14th Maine: Ariel Burnham, Nelson Gamage, Edward Gamage, Millard Packard. 15th Maine: Briggs Besse, *Enoch Besse*, John Gamage, *Orrin Gaul* (musician), William Kelsey, Ruben McFarland, *W. McFarland*, *Enoch Richards*, *Sewell Wentworth*. 16th Maine: Atwood Fitch. 19th Maine: William Page. 20th Maine: Timothy Brown, **1st Lieut. Joseph Fitch**, *Samuel Fitch*, Samuel Foster, Thomas Foster, Albert Hatch, *Daniel Little*, **Thomas Little**, Patrick Mann, William McKim, Bradford Thompson. 21st Maine: *Thomas Foster*, John Goudy, Robert Hanley, Nathan Hodgson, *David Hysom*, Robert Hysom, *Cyrus Kelsey*, William Nash, George Prentice, David Sproul, Cpl. Augustus Sproul, Everett Wentworth. 28th Maine: *James Jones*. 32nd Massachusetts: Joshua Gamage, **Cpl. Elliot Pierce**.



The red granite Civil War memorial in the West Bristol Cemetery, Route 129, South Bristol.

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US Navy: Charles Foster, William Lane, *William Thompson*, Thomas Wentworth. Civil War nurse: Amy Bradley. Unknown Units: Leander McFarland, George Hisom, Frank Wentworth.

South Bristol suffered a total of 16 war casualties. The majority of these were the result of illness. The 15th Maine, for example, was stationed in Louisiana where fevers resulted in high losses. Only one South Bristol soldier, Elliot Pierce, was killed in battle.

South Bristol men participated in a number of important Civil War battles; none, probably, more critical to the outcome to the war than the 20th Maine's fight on Little Round Top on the second day of the battle of Gettysburg. Our soldiers, who withstood the Confederate onslaught in that pivotal location and made the final downhill charge, were Timothy Brown, 1st Lieut. Joseph Fitch, Thomas

Little, Patrick Mann, and William McKim. In that fight Lieut. Fitch and Thomas Little were severely wounded. For further reading on this battle, I highly recommend the book *Stand Firm Ye Men From Maine*, by Thomas Desjardin.

The sources used to compile this list were: *A Short History of South Bristol*, Nelson Gamage, circa 1920; *A History of Bristol, Bremen and Pemaquid*, John Johnston, 1873; *West Bristol and Nobleboro, Maine Vital Records*, Vol. I, Christine Dodge, editor, 1951; West Bristol Maine Cemetery Civil War Memorial; Roots Web Maine Civil War Lists <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mecivilw/personnel/>, May 2005; Civil War Soldiers and Sailor System, National Park Service, www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/, May 2005; *The Town Register—Damariscotta, Newcastle, Bristol, Bremen, Moscongus Island 1906*, The Mitchell Publishing Co., 1906; and *Stand Firm Ye Men From Maine*, Thomas Desjardin, 1995.

THE EMILY MEANS HOUSE

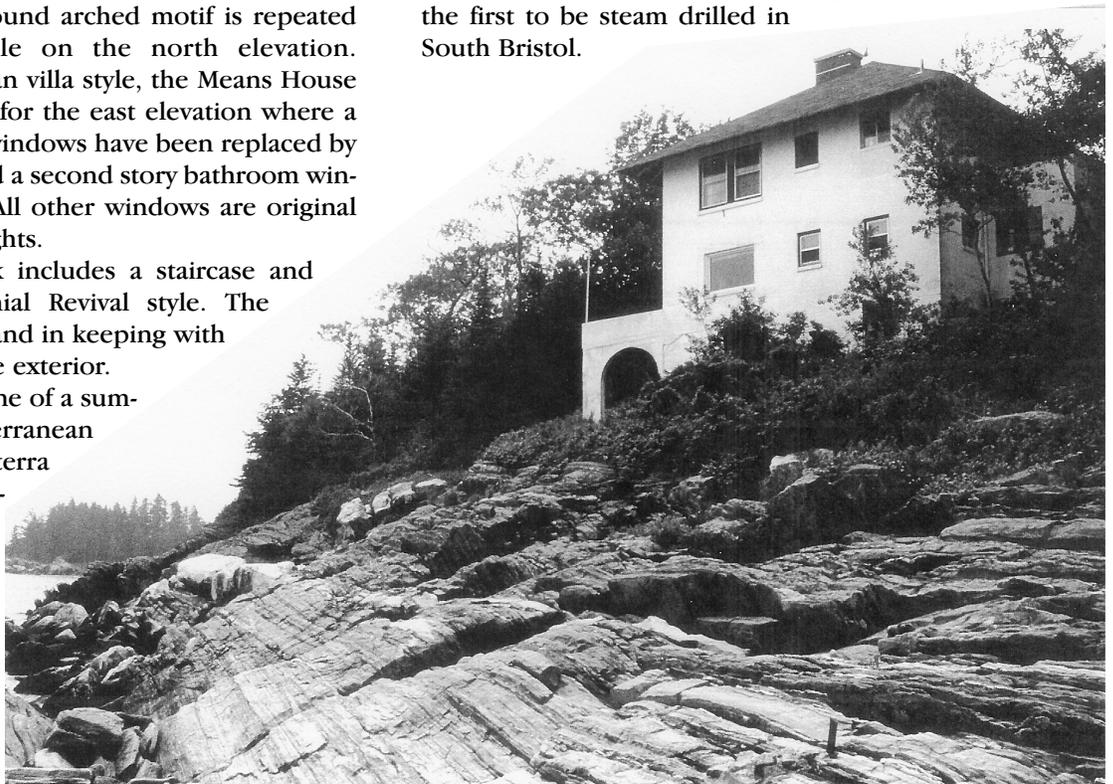
The Emily Means House is one of four South Bristol properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The others are the Thompson Ice House, the Sproul Homestead (see SBHS Newsletter Spring 2005), and the Walpole Meetinghouse. What follows is the "nomination form" submitted in 1985 which was the basis for its inclusion in the Register.

Located on Birch Island, prominently situated overlooking Johns Bay, the Emily Means House is a two-story rectangular building of terra cotta tile construction. The exterior is covered in a smooth stucco and the hipped roof has wide over-hanging eaves supported on exposed rafter ends. Extending across the south façade is an arcaded terrace. This round arched motif is repeated for the entrance vestibule on the north elevation. Designed in a Mediterranean villa style, the Means House is largely unaltered except for the east elevation where a row of three dining room windows have been replaced by a single picture window and a second story bathroom window was reduced in size. All other windows are original and contain small-paned lights.

The interior wood work includes a staircase and mantelpiece in the Colonial Revival style. The moldings are quite simple and in keeping with the austere treatment of the exterior.

This rare example in Maine of a summer cottage in the Mediterranean style using stucco covered terra cotta tile is of further importance as the home of Emily Means who was nationally known as an authority in horticulture and who, on the island, maintained extensive rock gardens containing rare species of plants.

Miss Means purchased the island in 1900 but did not build her summer home there until 1914 although she began developing her gardens some years before. To design her unusual house, she retained the services of Samuel Very, an architect in New York City. Of passing interest is the fact that the well supplying the house was the first to be steam drilled in South Bristol.



Join the South Bristol Historical Society

Date _____

Please print

Name: _____

Winter Address: _____

Town _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Winter phone (_____) _____

Summer Address: _____

Town _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Summer phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____@_____

Membership Categories: Please check one

Annual

Life

Individual \$10.00

Individual \$250.00

Couple/family \$20.00

Couple/family \$350.00

Sustaining (Individual or Couple/family) \$40.00

Contribution \$_____

Please mail form and check to: SBHS, PO Box 229, South Bristol, ME 04568

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