

South Bristol Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

South Bristol, Maine 04568

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South Bristol's New Veterans Memorial Roll of Honor Dedication Ceremony

South Bristol's new veterans memorial was officially dedicated in a ceremony held Sunday, May 26, 2019 at the West Bristol Cemetery in Walpole. After almost four years of planning, designing, and name-gathering the new memorial replaces a 1944 Roll of Honor that had been located in front of the Rutherford Library on the island, now the home of the SB Historical Society.

Selectman Chester Rice opened the dedication with thanks to all SB veterans for their service to our country and to all those involved in the painstaking effort to create the impressive monument. Union Church pastor Rev. Elizabeth Hood gave a blessing.

One of the those attending the dedication was 96 year-old William Rice, South Bristol native and WWII Navy veteran. William had been listed on the 1944 World War II Roll of Honor and his name is now also on the center monument of the new memorial.

The memorial has 3 large granite stones, with veterans names carved for the following US conflicts: WWI, Korea, WWII, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf. The names on the stones are those who were residents of South Bristol when they enlisted. A complete list of veterans (full-time and summer residents) compiled by the historical society can be viewed at the SBHS museum, the Rutherford Library, and the town office. The list will continue to be updated and the public is encouraged to add names and corrections.

Special gratitude goes to SBHS trustee and Navy veteran Scott Farrin who proposed this project in 2015 and saw it all the way through to the creation of this outstanding new memorial. Also, special thanks to SBHS trustee Carol Kelsey and Lance Kelsey, and other SBHS members for their efforts in compiling the list of names.

A complete history of the new memorial's creation can be found in the pages of previous SBHS newsletters and the Lincoln County News. The SBHS keeps newsletter copies and newspaper clippings for those who might want to stop by the museum.



The Color Guard in front of the new So. Bristol Veterans Memorial, May 26th. From left: Ralph Eugley Jr, Gary Pitcher, Floyd Seiders, Scott Dodge II. Photo by Kay Sproul Flanagan



The 1944 dedication of South Bristol's World War II Roll of Honor at the original Rutherford Library. Identified in the photo are (L to R) Maxwell House, Earle Haley, Bradford Redonnet, Albert Drummond Farrin Jr, Ralph W. Brown, unknown, Ashley Adams. Photo courtesy of Scott Farrin

SBHS BOARD MEMBERS

Co-Presidents – Larry Kelsey & Dave Andrews; Vice President – Wayne Eugley; Historian – Scott Farrin;

Secretary – Deb Storch; Treasurer – Betsy Graves;

Trustees – Mary Avantaggio, Jason Bigonia, Scott Farrin, Carol Kelsey

Carolyn McKeon, Mike Naylor, Donna Plummer, Warren Storch, Ellen Wells, Nancy Adams

News and Notes



New SBHS Board Members Larry Kelsey & Nancy Adams

2019 Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on July 19, 2019, SBHS members elected Scott Farrin Historian for a two-year term. Vice President Wayne Eugley, Treasurer Betsy Graves, and Secretary Deb Storch are in the second year of their two-year terms. Nancy Adams and Dave Andrews were elected trustees to serve three-year terms.

At a later date, the Board of Trustees appointed Dave Andrews and Larry Kelsey to be co-Presidents.

Continuing as Trustees for two years are Jason Bigonia, Priscilla House, Mary Avantaggio, Carol Kelsey and Mike Naylor. With one year remaining are Trustees Carolyn McKeon, Donna Plummer, Warren Storch and Ellen Wells.

Since Dave Andrews has become an officer, and Priscilla House has resigned in August, SBHS has two vacancies for Trustees. If you are willing to volunteer, or know someone who would be interested in serving, please contact a board member.

SBHS 3rd Annual Trivia Night at Coveside

SBHS held an entertaining night of South Bristol themed trivia at Coveside Restaurant on Sept. 19th. Over six teams competed for a \$100 Coveside gift certificate. Top place went to the team who prophetically named themselves “Winners”, comprised of Bill Kelsey, Priscilla House, and Nat & Karen Hammond. A close second place was Team Donna, comprised of Donna Farrin Plummer, Wayne Eugley, Mike Naylor, Mona Knight, Alden & Ann Cable McFarland, Sam & Betsy Cable Graves, Tammy & Chris Plummer. Team Donna reports that they will plan a study night so that they can win next year! SBHS gives special thanks to Coveside for hosting our night of fun, also thanks to Larry Kelsey for providing a challenging list of questions, as well as to master of ceremony Warren Storch. Test your knowledge! Questions are listed below, answers are on the next page.

1. Name of the annual yearbook published by South Bristol High School From 1948 thru 1962.
2. Name the last boat built by Harvey F. Gamage, a Friendship Sloop named for his dog.
3. Henry Jones could be seen daily on his way to Witch Island with his faithful German Shepard named?
4. Four buildings in South Bristol are on the National Historical Register, name two.
5. What undefeated world heavyweight boxing champion could be seen in South Bristol during the summers of 1940's and 1950's?
6. The old town office in Walpole was formerly known as?
7. The S Road School is also known as?
8. Nov. 28, 1889 an 86ft Canadian Schooner was forced on the ledges during a gale at The Thread of Life. The anchor donated by Linwood Gamage at SBHS may be one of two anchors set out. Name the Schooner.

9. Thanks to the heroic acts of three Christmas Cove men five of the crew were rescued, name one of the three Christmas Cove men.
10. The SBHS received a donation of a sign for Bob's Lunch. Where was Bob's Lunch?
11. Who was the owner of Bob's Lunch?
12. The junction of Rt. 129 and Westside Road was also known as?
13. The old granite quarry on Plummer Point is known as?
14. The first steam menhaden (pogy) oil factory in Maine was erected at South Bristol in 1864 by what company?
15. What year did the Summit House open?
16. What year did the Summit House burn?
17. What famous swimmer stopped at Farrin's wharf on the way to his summer home in Rockport?
18. South Bristol High School reopened in 1948, who was the first principal?
19. South Bristol High School closed in 1962, who was the last principal?
20. Who wrote “The Short History of South Bristol”?
21. What year did the current elementary school open?
22. The Union Hall was the home of what two organizations?
23. Where was the Wigwam?
24. The Darling Marine Center is located on a point of land in the Damariscotta River. What is the name of that point?
25. What year was the Union Church built?
26. What does the abbreviation C.C.I.A stand for?
27. What South Bristol photographer took many photos of residents and later donated the collection to the SBHS?
28. What man ran a gas station and garage in the building presently owned by Ken Seiders at the top of Kidd Hill, who also served as Town Constable for many years?
29. The present Rutherford Library was built on land donated by what person?
30. March 16, 1915 South Bristol became what number town in the State of Maine to become incorporated?

Scholarship Award 2019

Each year the South Bristol Historical Society gives a \$500 scholarship to a South Bristol resident graduating from Lincoln Academy, based on the recommendation of the LA Guidance Department. The 2019 scholarship was awarded to Haley Graves, daughter of Betsy and Sam Graves. Haley attended the South Bristol School and graduated from Lincoln Academy, where she was active in the Academy's Jazz Band and Concert Choir for all 4 years. She attended Mid Coast School of Music in Portland for 4 years, and performed at several different venues in Portland and Freeport in their ensemble groups. Haley is now a freshman at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, studying modern music and majoring in Music Performance. We wish her well in her college career and beyond!



Scholarship recipient Haley Graves and SBHS Board Member Donna Plummer at the Lincoln Academy Class of 2019 Commencement



Maine's Bicentennial Celebration 2020

Starting last December, Lincoln County historical societies and other groups came together to plan events to celebrate Maine's Bicentennial in 2020. Ellen Wells, Deb Storch and Donna Plummer represented the South Bristol Historical Society. One of the major plans to come out of the meetings is a "Lincoln County Pilgrimage". The idea is to publish a booklet detailing events and activities occurring throughout the county during the week of August 10-16. The booklet will also include a "passport" that organizations will stamp to encourage folks to visit as many organizations throughout the county as possible. SBHS will participate by having both the Museum and the S-Road Roosevelt School open for visitors. In addition, the Walpole Meeting House and the Thompson Ice House will participate.

For more information and a list of planned state-wide events go to www.maine200.org

Lecture Series Chronicles History of Maine

Announced this past September, Lincoln County Historical Association and Old Fort Western started Maine's bicentennial celebrations with a lecture series in three parts. The first part included six talks in September and October 2019 that provided insights to life in Maine from prehistory to the 18th century. The second part, next May and June 2020, will discuss the effects of the French and Indian Wars and the resettlement of Maine along the Kennebec River. The third part, next September and October 2020, will cover the period of statehood, the Civil War, and the rise and fall of industries in Maine. Watch for more details in our next newsletter and the Lincoln County News.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

(Questions on page 2)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1. The Islander | 7. Roosevelt Schoolhouse | 16. June 7, 1918 | 25. 1897 |
| 2. Lady | 8. Ocean Belle | 17. Andre the Seal | 26. Christmas Cove Improvement Association |
| 3. King | 9. Capt. Manley Brewer, Anson Marden and Loring Thorpe | 18. Harold J. Webster | 27. Ann Hillis |
| 4. Walpole Meeting House, Thompson Icehouse, Sproul Homestead, Emily Means House | 10. The present Bridge House | 19. Frank W. Reed Jr. | 28. Crosby Thompson |
| 5. Gene Tunney | 11. Robert (Bob) Farrin | 20. Nelson W. Gamage | 29. Jane Sewall |
| 6. Centennial Hall | 12. Woodchuck Corner | 21. 1961 | 30. 482 nd |
| | 13. Kelsey's Quarry | 22. Eastern Star and Masons | |
| | 14. W. A. Wells & Co. | 23. Junction of Westside Rd. and Middle Rd. | |
| | 15. June 15, 1893 | 24. Wentworth Point | |

Lobster Potbuoys

Lobster potbuoys used by current and past South Bristol fisherman were on display in August at the S Road School. Organized by SBHS trustee and lobsterman Wayne Eugley the colorful array represented about a dozen fishermen.

The following story, written in her own handwriting by author Jane Sewall, was given to SBHS by her sister, Kate Beaudette.

POTBUOYS IMMORTALIZED IN THREAD

Written by Jane Sewall, South Bristol, Maine, Late 1970s

Four summers ago I went out in my rowboat and drew pictures of all the potbuoys within rowing distance of the bridge in South Bristol. This bridge IS one of the few remaining swing bridges on the coast of Maine. Once I was so preoccupied with the potbuoys that I found myself on the wrong side of the bridge when the tide came in. The usual procedure in such a case, if you are a fishboat or an imposing yacht is to blow three long blasts with the horn. The bridge tender emerges from his cabin, trudges from one end of the bridge to the other closing the traffic gates, and disappears into the control booth. Gears screech, and in stately manner the bridge pivots around until it is at right angles to itself. Thus the channel is opened and the boat is enabled to proceed. But since I was only a rowboat and I had no horn, and it was flat calm, and the clearance looked OK, I felt silly about asking the bridge to open. I started under and immediately got caught up in a current, which unbeknownst to me had been rushing through the channel at an exorbitant rate of speed. Then, to my horror, I discovered that some huge girders under that bridge were protruding into my air space. I ended up flat on my back in the bottom of the boat, hoping that the edges of it stuck up higher than I did. When I appeared on the other side, the bridge tender was smiling and waving and looking for all the world as if he had been checking up on me.

These expeditions to draw the portraits of the potbuoys can be blamed solely on the Ladies of the Bristol Mills Congregational Church. These Ladies produced a marvelous quilt for the Bicentennial, in which the local historical monuments, like the Lighthouse and the Fort at Pemaquid, were all done up in calico. The Ladies dressed up in colonial costumes, baby-sat their quilt at the First National Bank in Damariscotta, sold lots of chances, and made enough money to rebuild the steeple of their Church.

The leading source of dynamic enthusiasm in the Union Church in South Bristol is the niece of one of the Bristol Mills Quilting Ladies. Nothing would do but Our Church had to have a South Bristol quilt more magnificent, if possible, than the Bristol Mills quilt. But we have no edifices in South Bristol except for Herbert Thompson's ice house and that's falling down. What subject would be suitably unique for our slightly after-the-Bicentennial South Bristol quilt?

We ended up with potbuoys. Our waters are studded with them, and they come in all sorts of colors: red and yellow, red and green, turquoise and yellow, black and white, black and orange, and any other color combination you might mention. Each lobster pot has a buoy attached to it. The pot sits on the bottom, baited and ready to lure the lobster into its recesses. The potbuoy floats on top of the water where the fisherman can see it. Each fisherman has his own special colors, and no other town on the coast of Maine has an array of potbuoys precisely like ours.

One of the fishermen went through my list of potbuoys, weeded



out a couple he knew were from Pemaquid and East Boothbay and identified the owners of about three-fourths of them. But what of the others? Who belongs to that black and green and orange one?" I asked. "Whose is the white one with all the green stripes?" The usual answer: "That must be one of the kids."

I sat on our dock once and watched some of these youngsters begin their careers as lobstermen. The morning was wearing on, and the grownups' boats, with the loud motors and the louder radios, had been and gone. All that was left were a few small outboards. In one of them, the mother was showing a small boy how to string up the bait. In a second, a very tiny, very blonde boy was figuring out how to maneuver a huge lobster trap into his boat, while his father sat in the stern, meditatively smoking his pipe and offering occasional advice. It's hard to find a boy in South Bristol who is willing to mow a lawn. They all want to be out lobstering. They make such good money that one boy paid for his high school trip to Greece with what, in the course of a summer, he had earned hauling traps.

You'll find that there are many family resemblances among potbuoys. In one family, for instance the father's buoy is yellow with an orange spindle, the son's is yellow with an orange stripe and an orange spindle with a white tip, while the grandson's is orange with a white bottom and a white spindle. Another family is organized around yellow and dark green. The father's buoy is mainly yellow, with a narrow green stripe, a scalloped green border around the bottom, and a green spindle. One of his boys has reversed the colors and put a yellow stripe and a yellow spindle on a dark green background. His brother divided his buoy into four sections running lengthwise and alternated the yellow and the green. The family mailbox is painted with the narrow green stripe and the scallops, to go with the potbuoy.

After I had assembled a vast collection of authentic potbuoys, I drew up four giant lobsters, with their tails curled in an attitude of defense and their claws poised for attack. I surrounded the lobsters with the potbuoys and arranged them in a symmetrical manner, as is traditional with quilts.

Then I discovered that people keep changing their potbuoys. One boy came to the Church Fair last summer, saw the quilt top hanging on the wall, and pointed out that he didn't have that potbuoy anymore. I was dismayed. It was a red and white buoy, divided in quadrants lengthwise, and one of the handsomest in the

(continued from page 4) whole quilt. I insisted we would keep it on the quilt, even though he had ceased using it. I confess I'm awfully glad I designed this quilt before the fishermen started using so many Day-Glo colors. What used to be yellow, for example, is rapidly being transformed into livid chartreuse. Our quilt is vibrant enough without such innovations.

I'm also glad we got the quilt top finished before the purple potbuoy moved to town. Colors of that sort cause nothing but consternation. For most of one winter I sat in a tiny, dark dining room with a very dutiful Lady, sewing potbuoys. She had a huge Monitor woodstove, but the fires she burned in it were conservatively small. We were huddled quite close to this stove one day when she rummaged through the shoebox and pulled out a pink and black potbuoy. She slapped it on the table, scowled at it, said "I hate pink!" and commenced to sew on it so ferociously that it almost seemed as if she were trying to warm herself up with her anger. The pink and black potbuoy, as it turns out, belongs to our lady lobster fisherman. You can see her with her flowing golden hair, driving a bright blue outboard skiff. She did not invent this color scheme, however. She inherited it from her brother. He abandoned his old wooden buoys, gave half of them to her and hung the rest in a tree.

After we had sewed up all the potbuoys and attached them to their royal-blue quilt top, we had to admit that though we might rival the Bristol Mills Ladies in concept, they knew a great deal more about quilting than we did. We invited them over, with a promise of lunch, to help us stretch the quilt on its frame. We hoped they would teach us everything they knew. The first disaster was that we did not have enough T-pins. Does one drive 26 miles to Damariscotta and back just for T-pins? The Bristol Mills Ladies offered to go home and come another day. We were afraid if they did that, they'd never come back. So several of our Ladies rushed back to their houses and ransacked them for T-pins. Finally, when we had gathered enough, we began the stretching operation.

That was when Chaos struck. We had previously widened one dimension of the royal-blue backing by sewing a navy-blue border on it, so that was OK, but the whole group of Ladies got entirely fussed when they discovered that the other dimension of the quilt back was too short. Everybody was dashing about, giving suggestions to other people. Various ladies were hard at it, pulling and yanking and adjusting and pinning, each according to her own individual initiative. It wasn't until after things had calmed down and we had started quilting that we discovered that, though the quilt back had gone onto the frame straight, the top had not. It was skewed, and that is how the South Bristol quilt has come to have a crooked, navy-blue border on the back of it.

One of the South Bristol Ladies kept insisting, "I do not sew. I'm a knitter!" But she discovered to her delight that she loved quilting. The opposite happened to me. I never did figure out how people wiggle the needle up and down on that flat surface so as to produce the tiny little stitches that go through all the layers of material and look as good from the back as they do from the front. My stitches were huge. They went halfway through the Mountain Mist quilt batt and came up again, leaving the backing untouched. They were ripped out by the Adept and replaced.

The hardest part, I'm told, was quilting around the lobster legs. I'm not surprised, for I sewed the appliques for all sixteen legs, and I must have made thirty of them before I figured out how to do it. The Ladies maintain that next year's quilt will have a Mariner's Compass surrounded with scallop shells, and under no circumstances will it have anything so esoteric as lobster legs on it.

We hope to make a great deal of money with this quilt, in order to afford a well next to the Union Church's Parish House. At the

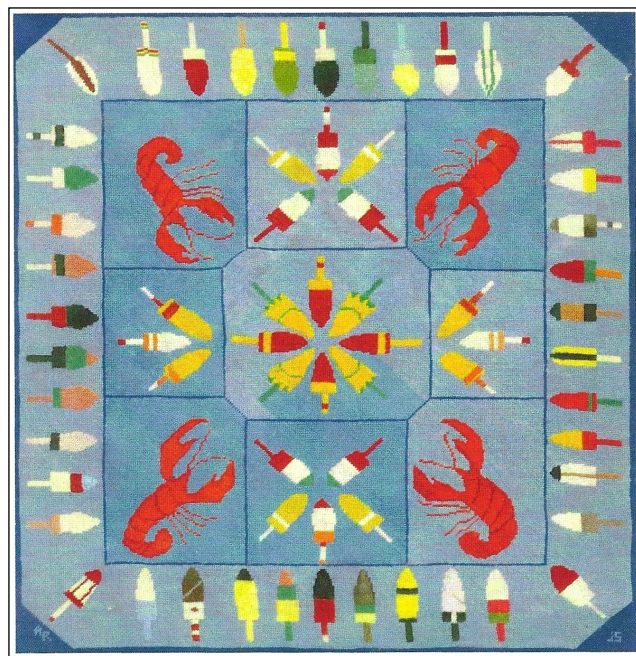
moment the Parish House gets its water from the well by the Parsonage. The pipes run downhill, through the basement of the Church, across a ledge, and under the road through a culvert to the Parish House. With the result that every summer at the Church Fair, just as the Ladies are cleaning up after the Lobster Roll Luncheon, the pressure vanishes and the water supply subsides to a trickle. And every winter the pipes under the road freeze up solid. You can be quite sure that a lot of un-religious language is used to describe that situation.

Our quilt will soon be taken up to the First National Bank in Damariscotta where it will hang in resplendent glory. No doubt some Ladies will be sitting next to it, soliciting a "donation" in exchange for that slip of paper commonly referred to as a "chance." I guess they will not be wearing long dresses and ruffled hats like their counterparts in Bristol Mills, since the Bicentennial escaped us some time ago. Someone suggested the Ladies should wear hip boots or slickers but that would be awfully drippy on a hot day.

When the drawing for the quilt takes place I suppose we will celebrate the occasion with a Potluck Supper. In a previous era, when Bill was our minister, a potluck supper was a pretty casual affair. If everyone brought salad, we all ate salad. If everyone brought rolls there was nothing to eat but rolls. But now that Nick and Mary Angela have become our ministers, our Church has acquired such class that each of the Ladies will be called and asked to bring a particular dish, like an apple pie or a macaroni casserole.

The chances will be gathered up in a potato-chip barrel. At the appropriate moment, I imagine Nick will shake the barrel and agitate it like a washing machine, in order that all the chances may be secretly commingled. Then Mary Angela will reach down into the nether regions of the barrel and pullout the winning chance. Her face will light up as she reads the name of the fortunate winner. Only God knows who this person will be, but some of us hope it will be one of our friends from South Bristol. Just to keep the quilt in the community.

If I win this quilt, I shall give it right back to the Union Church for an adornment to the Parish Hall. It's much too loud, and the colors jiggle. I do not want it in my house.



1978 Needlepoint copy of the quilt made by the ladies of the South Bristol Union Church Association, designed by Jane Sewall. Notecards are now available \$1 each

South Bristol Historical Society

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