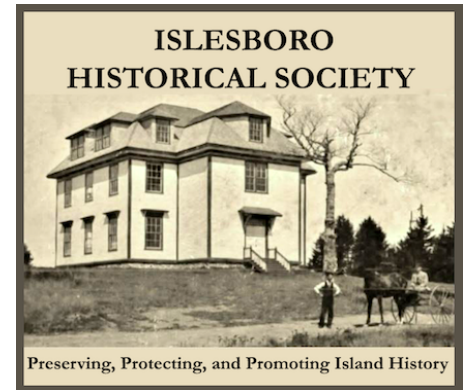


Islesboro Historical Society

Spring 2024



Dear Friends & Supporters of the Islesboro Historical Society:

Wow, last year was a busy one at IHS! The 2023 season marked our first return to “normal” since the onset of the pandemic. The museum was open throughout the summer. We hosted the return of the Island Talent Show and the Student Art Show, as well as two other art shows and the Arts & Crafts Show. We sponsored three evening programs and led three walking tours. And to top it off, thanks to Jane Wherren and the MacKenzies, we ended the summer with a concert and dance at Brigham’s Orchard with the fabulous Searsmont Street Band.

At the end of the summer, we delivered more than thirty videotapes to Northeast Historic Films in Bucksport for digitization. With the expert help of Catherine Demchur-Merry, we expect to get the digitized media back later this spring and plan to host some of it, as well as our latest island genealogies, on our website.

This summer we hope to have as much fun as last year. The Student Art Show will open on June 6 and the Island Talent Show will be held the evening of June 19. The museum will open on July 4 and will be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 12:30 to 4:30 pm, closed on Monday and Tuesday. We hope you contact us if you’re interested in volunteering in the museum or at the art shows.

This year we’ll host two art shows, one in July and one in August, each extending over a two-week period, and a Weekend Arts & Crafts Show, all of which serve as fundraisers for ongoing digitization of our holdings. The July show, “Art ReHomed: Sharing Community Treasures” is the first of its kind and will feature pieces owned by island residents who now wish to sell to other islanders, perhaps because they are moving off-island or are downsizing their homes. This show was conceived as a way to keep island art on the island for future generations. The August show will be a solo retrospective of photographs and drawings by artist Jack McConnell, who documented the island and its residents over the many summers that he and his wife Paula visited. The Islesboro Art Collective’s Weekend Arts & Crafts Show, with at least twenty artisans, is not to be missed! Please note that the opening reception for the art shows will be on the Thursday before the Friday opening, while the Weekend Arts & Crafts Show reception will be held on Saturday evening.

For our first evening program in June, we are lucky to host internationally known climate scientist Michael Mann, who will talk about the history of climate change. In July we’ll host our third “Evening with Island Elders,” featuring Laura Ault, John Creelman, Peter Mills, and Donna Seymour. These have become not-to-be-missed evenings. In August, Taury Smith will present an update on geological research on the island. Also in August, we’re thrilled to welcome Tilly Laskey from the Maine Historical Society who will talk about Rose Cleveland and her late-nineteenth century model farm on 700-Acre Island.

Of course we’ll offer walks. Taury Smith will lead another exploration of island geology, and I will lead history walks at Town Beach and at Keller Point. Finally, the Searsmont Street Band will return to Brigham’s Orchard to close out the summer!

Please “follow” Islesboro Historical Society on Instagram, “like” us on Facebook, and visit our web site at www.islesborohistorical.org for the latest news! But the best will be to see you in person this season!

Patrick O'Bannon, President

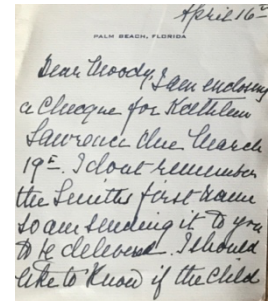
From the Archives

By the time this newsletter is printed, Carrie Thomas and I will have climbed the three flights of stairs to the IHS office to prepare for another season in the archives. We'll survey the piles by our desks and reacquaint ourselves with the not-yet-completed items from last year's to-do list. There is much that can feel routine, but every summer brings fresh offerings and interests, and 2023 was no exception.

Doug Welldon handed over to us a large trove of Elizabeth Ladd papers, handed into his care by Kristen Gustafson, who now owns the novelist's house. The documents, which we are still organizing and hope to display, comprise whole and partial manuscripts and other publishing matter, notebooks of stories and ideas interspersed with everyday jottings, reminders, and lists, as well as Ladd's journals.

Patrick O'Bannon delivered, courtesy of Barbara Talamo, a collection of letters between the Atterbury family and Ben Moody from the 1930s and 1940s, with directions for opening the Dark Harbor House and the daily minutiae of buying supplies, hiring help, paying bills, and delivering checks.

Dorothy Stevens sent more wonderful pieces from her art collection, including works by Erik Hopkins and Frank William Handlen. Her instructions were to sell them for the benefit of the Historical Society. Thomaston Place Auction Galleries is handling some of the sales for us, and more of Dorothy's donations will be on view and for sale at our July show "Art ReHomed: Sharing Community Treasures."



Letter to Ben Moody from Anna Davis Atterbury

Donna Seymour gave us a bundle of memorabilia from the Dark Harbor Ice Cream Race, notably the hand-written results and times for the years 1979–2019. Among items donated by Carol Kimball Stahl were nineteenth-century receipts from the Seaside Hotel. The library passed along the typescript for Robert Rothschild's 1982 talk at the Historical Society, "Eclipse of the Sun."



"West Side Bay" kids

Some terrific photographs were added to our collection. From Anne Shdeen, a cabinet card photograph of a magnificently mustachioed Hobart Dodge and a young girl, presumably his daughter, as well as a studio portrait of the Loranus F. Pendleton family. I love the photograph of six youngsters in the snow that arrived from Beverly Wakely, a childhood friend of Mary Ella Rolerson Grinnell. The kids are lined up outside their clubhouse and look ready for anything that comes their way.



Hobart Dodge and daughter

Carlisle Knowlton Rex-Waller
Archives and Collections

Islesboro Historical Trivia, courtesy of John Mitchell

What felled the Big Tree by Seal Harbor?

Get Involved at the Historical Society

IHS has a full summer planned. To keep things running takes many hands. We are seeking volunteers as docents, both to sit the art shows and to welcome visitors to the museum. You don't need to have an extensive knowledge of the island to be helpful, and we do provide a brief training session. If you are interested in volunteering either as a docent, an art show helper, or both, please get in touch: www.islesborohistorical.org/207-734-6733. This is a great opportunity to learn about the island as well as to meet others on the island!

2024 Islesboro Historical Society Schedule

Building open Wednesday through Sunday, 12:30–4:30pm

June 6	Student Art Show Reception (Thursday 3–5pm)
June 7–June 26	Student Art Show
June 18	Talent Show Rehearsal (6–9pm)
June 19	Talent Show (7–9pm)
June 26	Evening Program (7–9pm) — Michael Mann: History of Climate Change
July 4	Museum Opens
July 11	Art Show Reception (Thursday 5–7pm)
July 12–28	Art Show: “Art ReHomed: Sharing Community Treasures”
July 13	History Tour — Town Beach (9–11am)
July 17	Annual Meeting & Evening Program (6:30–8:30pm) Evening with Island Elders — Laura Ault, John Creelman, Peter Mills, Donna Seymour
August 2–4	Islesboro Arts Collective Weekend Arts & Crafts Show (12:30–4:30pm)
August 3	History Walk — Keller Point (9–11am) Weekend Arts & Crafts Show Reception (Saturday 5–7pm)
August 7	Evening Program (7–9pm) — Taury Smith: Islesboro Rocks
August 8	Art Show Reception (Thursday 5–7pm)
August 9–25	Art Show: “Jack McConnell Retrospective: 25 Summers at Water’s Edge”
August 10	Geology Walk — Hutchins Island (9–11am)
August 21 Farm	Evening Program (7–9pm) — Tilly Laskey: Rose Cleveland’s 700-Acre Model Farm
August 25	Searsmont Street Band Dance — Brigham Orchard (4–6pm)
September 1	Museum Closes

Trivia Answer:

Big Tree was a landmark ash near the beach that carries its name. A lightning strike in 1929 weakened the tree, which was toppled in the hurricane of November 1944. Thel Keller and Nate Cooper dealt with the aftermath of its demise. A piece of the tree is housed at the Historical Society.



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