

11 Captain Bill Road PO Box 212 Hancock, Maine 04640

# NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2023

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here at the Hancock Historical Society Museum, we had another busy summer with over 500 visits to our museum, four entertaining evening programs were presented, and a remembrance event was held in honor of Herb Hodgkins, a long-time board member.

The Board hosted a revival of Lights Out, an annual gathering of local historical societies, where we share ideas and learn from one another. Sullivan/Sorrento, Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, Franklin, Surry, Ellsworth, and Hancock were all represented at this event.

We were very excited to welcome the 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies class from Hancock Grammar School for a visit to the museum and a question-and-answer session. Their enthusiasm and engagement was wonderful. Their teacher Ms. Thomas has said it will become an annual event.

Next summer we will have a display to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of German spies at Hancock Point.

We hope you will visit the museum to see our various displays and check out the extensive collection of Family Genealogies put together by Lois Johnson.

The museum can be open by appointment this winter.

David Johnston  
President

# Hancock Historical Society Annual Meeting

## September 8, 2023

Call to order at 7:07 PM

**Attending** – Myrna Coffin, Charlotte Stetson, Charlene Clemons, Jean Foss, Bob Foss, Eleanor Fairbanks, Pat Moll, Eric Gatcomb, Anne Pomroy, David Pierce

**Review the minutes of the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting** – Jean moved to accept the minutes as recorded. Anne seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### President's Report

- The museum was open more than in the past. Attendance was down, which has instigated a movement to send email blasts next year to publicize our displays and open hours.
- Bob Foss worked tirelessly on improving the audio-visual area
- Marcus Clemons was invaluable in improving our computer hardware and capabilities

### Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Don Parker,

- There was a vote on 2024-25 budget with the addition of \$2,000.00 for computer consultation.
- Jean Foss moved to accept the amended budget, Eleanor seconded, all were in favor.

**Curator's Report** – Charlene mentioned the gift of the large portrait of Dorrice and Hap Bell from the Bell Family.

**Nominations** – Anne Pomroy presented the following slate of officers for the upcoming (2023-24) year:

- President – David Johnston
- Vice-president – Myrna Coffin
- Secretary – Charlotte Stetson
- Treasurer – Don Parker

Bob Foss moved to accept the slate of officers, Anne Pomroy seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Re-election of Directors whose terms are up:**

- Eleanor Fairbanks
- Anne Pomroy
- Heather Parker
- Alan Gray
- Charlene Clemons

Charlotte Stetson moved to accept these re-elections, Charlene Clemons seconded the motion, and all in favor.

### **New Director Possibilities:**

- The following people were suggested as potential new board members:
  - Janice Colson
  - Robin Stratton or one of her family members
  - Peter or Janet Burnett
  - principal or teacher at HGS

### **Other Business:**

- We'll organize ourselves for the Lights Out event at the program on 9/29/23.
- Pat Moll talked about the possibility of using the old schoolhouse for an art show sponsored by the Historical Society. There was consensus that this was a good idea, but no specific plans were made.
- The Woman's Club didn't have either the chicken barbeque or the lobster feed. One idea is getting together with other community groups to put on one of these events.
- Anne Pomroy hopes that we can re-institute a raffle next year.

**Adjournment – 8:38 PM**

## **Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum Curator's Report**

Fall 2023

As we wrap up the 2023 season, we are taking stock of our operations and looking at ways to improve them in the coming years. This summer we tried opening on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 in the hope working folks would drop in to see what was going on. Unfortunately, nobody visited so we will not plan on doing that next year. Our Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons continue to see folks stopping to visit.

You will see in a report from Bob Foss the work that has been done this summer to get the digital archives up and available for public use. Bob, Don and Marcus deserve a big thank you for the work they did on this project.

We hosted five programs this summer, four our regular monthly evening programs and the fifth an afternoon tribute to our late friend and Board member Herbie Hodgkins. We dedicated the "Lobster Corner" to Herb in honor of his work with the lobstering community. The

programs were all well attended. With our enhanced digital technology videos of these programs as well as those from years past can be viewed in the museum.

We were especially pleased with a visit from the eighth-grade class of Hancock Grammar School. The students came well prepared with questions about the town's history. They were interested in the various displays (especially the typewriter!) and played a few games of checkers while there. We hope to have more interaction with the school in the future.

Ellsworth Historical Society sent a group to visit us as part of their research and planning for their future goals. They toured the museum, asked questions about what worked and had not worked for us in building the museum and talked about the Hancock County Historical Center they are working to create in the Old Jail in Ellsworth. David and I enjoyed sharing ideas with them and look forward more interactions in the future.

Lastly thank you to everyone who volunteered this summer. We could not run the museum without you.

Charlene Clemons, Curator

### **Ishka Springs Anyone?**

Visitors to our museum have often come through the doors asking where the ferry terminal for the trains and steamboats was located. And what was the turntable and where was that? Or less frequently but no less intriguingly, do you know anything about the Balm O'Gilead?

These questions have led us to a project which will identify many former businesses, sites, organizations and community buildings throughout the town and will pinpoint their location on a map.

Joan Hildreth, David Johnston and Anne Pomroy with help from several of their family members, have driven up and down roads listing the locations of long forgotten places by today's nearby mailbox numbers and, in some instances the numbers on the telephone poles. They will be pulling together photos and descriptive information from our files and from "The History of Hancock" to match with the locations.

The plan is to not only have a well-indexed map of the town on the museum wall, but also a notebook with the corresponding information that has been compiled. There will also be an opportunity for museum visitors to add their personal recollections or record what their parents and grandparents told them.

So what was Ishka Springs and where was it located? Do you remember Chicken Coop Hill? Did you know we had a Townsend Hall? A dance pavilion called Franklin Roads? A hotel called Copperopolis? A favorite tea room called the Betty Lou (and which a present-day citizen was named for)? Can you pinpoint the Lincoln Wharf with its US Customs House? And where was a Revolutionary War-era fort built?

Plan to have fun with this project. We are!

Warranted to Keep

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**RHEUMATISM, KIDNEY TROUBLES, and all other diseases arising from URIC ACID in the Blood are Cured by drinking ISHKA freely for a few months. ISHKA Cures Heart Troubles.**

All packages filled and sealed at the spring by the

**ISHKA SPRINGS WATER CO.,  
HANCOCK, MAINE, U. S. A.**

Anne Pomroy

## AUDIO/VIDEO/COMPUTER CAPABILITIES COMING SOON

During this summer a major effort was undertaken to upgrade our museum's computer capabilities. Much of this activity has focused on preserving and making our collection of media files/cd's/tapes/ videos etc. available for visitors to view. The initial phase of this work is close to completion.

We expect to have our Audio/Video Area open in 2024 where you will be able to listen to past audio tapes and videos from our archives. These will include many of the audio tapes that Sandy Phippen and others recorded when they interviewed Hancock residents, our ancestors, and others. Over 40 of these tapes have been digitized, "backed up", and downloaded. They will bring back memories of the past as we listen to our ancestors and others as they relive their memories and tell stories of their lives in Hancock. This collection is certainly near the top of the list of the historical legacy left to Hancock by Sandy Phippen, Lois Johnson, Vera Foss and many others. We also plan to have the capability to play/view videos of past presentations both in the AV area as well as on the "big" screens in the museum or conference room. It's rather exciting as we now add our digital media capabilities to the exceptional "paper" genealogy files compiled by Lois and others. A lot more work remains with copious additional materials remaining in boxes.

Behind the scene a lot of work was accomplished this summer upgrading computers, software, digital archiving, etc. etc. Lots more to do as we move the Society slowly into the digital age and ensure that our valuable historical records are preserved for future generations. A special note of recognition to Marcus Clemons, Jr. for his "hands on" computer consultation work in helping to make this all happen. Marcus and I have had fun with this project (except for when the computer gods decide to be obstinate).

Stay tuned for more details in our Spring 2024 Newsletter.

See you at the museum next summer.

Bob Foss

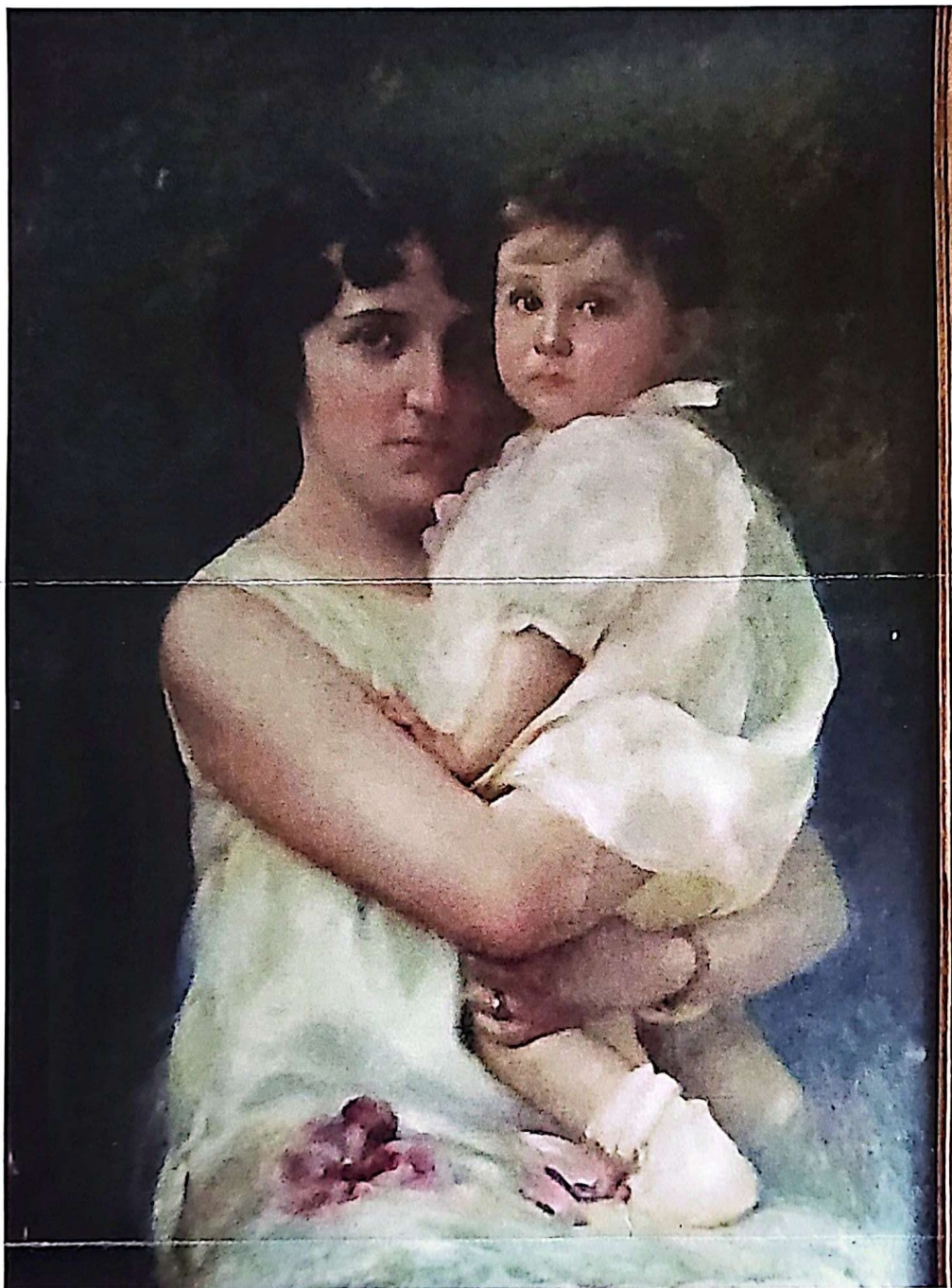
## **Our Friend Sandy Phippen**

Sandy now resides at the Patten Pond House in Surry. Although he has difficulty remembering recent events, he welcomes hearing from old friends and having the opportunity to reminisce. Sandy can be reached at Patten Pond House, 99 Patten Pond Road, Surry, ME 04684. The telephone number is (207)664-2906.

Anyone wanting more information is welcome to telephone Sandy's cousin Anne Pomroy at (207)934-9307 this winter or at (207)565-2015 during the summer.

## **The Old School House**

Pat Moll will welcome visitors to the school by appointment. Call Pat at 207-422-3408 or send her a text at 860-460-7174.



Dorrice C. Robinson Bell 1891-1977 & Harrison B. "Hap" Bell 1925-2006  
Circa 1926

The Bell family contacted us in the spring and offered to donate this painting of Dorrice and Hap. It arrived this summer and has been hung in the library where it is protected from direct sunlight. We are grateful to the family for choosing Hancock Historical Society Museum as a home for their cherished painting.