



11 Captain Bill Road PO Box 212 Hancock, Maine 04640

# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2023

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"How was your winter?"

"Long."

For many of us here in Hancock, "long" is the typical response to our friends returning from winter homes or returning from extended vacations. The number of days are the same, but icy walkways from November to April just seems to make winter seem "long". This winter we in Hancock have lost old friends, long time members of HHS.

Herbie Hodgkins, an HHS life time member and member of the board for many years, passed away in January. We will miss his knowledge of Hancock history and his sharp memory of places and happenings over nearly 8 decades. As well as appreciating the many donations in his memory, we are grateful for the many letters describing fond memories of summer friendships, and of his key role in Maine's lobster industry. These letters will be added to Pat and Herb's HHS folder.

We are truly appreciative for our historical museum and archives to honor people, places, and events.

Wishing you a great Spring no matter where you are, and looking forward to seeing old friends in the Summer.

Best regards,  
Myrna Coffin

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

Spring 2023

Another Maine winter has come and gone, with sort of a whimper of what winter in Maine used to look like. We all remember huge piles of snow that took forever to melt in the spring. Not so much this year, but still the new green sprouts poking out of the ground are a welcome site.

As we look ahead to the 2023 season at the Museum, our featured exhibit will be a collection of postcards from Eastern Illustration and Publishing. Alan Gray and I have chosen 8 postcards from the Penobscot Marine Museum's archives to enlarge and frame and they will be hung along with several postcards in our collection. Marcus and Alan are also working on a slide show of postcards and captions to run on the big screen when we are open. Alan and Lois Johnson worked on the captions for these postcards and they will be included.

We will continue to be open on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings along with Saturday afternoons as long as we have enough volunteers. With luck we will be able to open one evening a week at least during the summer months as well. Keep watch of our Facebook page for updates on the schedule.

A varied selection of programs will be coming our way this season, from postcards to the history of houses on the point, to depression era rugmaking and the disaster at Mount Desert Ferry. We hope you will be able to join us.

This is my eleventh season at the Museum. It has been a joy to watch it grow from the dusty upstairs at Town Hall (remember those stairs?) to our beautiful new home on Capt. Bull Road. I have been especially pleased to see our Board become increasingly active in the day-to-day activities of the museum. I look forward to a successful and busy summer.

Charlene Clemons, Curator

## **Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum Summer Hours**

**Beginning June 1, 2023**

Tuesdays 10:00-12:00

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Saturdays 1:00-3:00

Watch for possible evening hours???

## **The Old School House**

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

## **Connect with Hancock Historical Society**

**Mail: Hancock Historical Society**

**PO Box 212 Hancock,**

**Maine 04640**

**Telephone: 207-412-9777**

**Email: [hancock.me.history@gmail.com](mailto:hancock.me.history@gmail.com)**

**Website: [hancockmainehistory.org](http://hancockmainehistory.org)**

**And look for us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/884980958296314>**

## Upcoming 2023 Programs

### **June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company (EIP)**

Penobscot Marine Museum Photo Archivist, Kevin Johnson will give an illustrated slideshow on the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company (EIP) collection with a special focus on Hancock views. Eastern Illustrating of Belfast, ME was the largest manufacturer of real photo postcards in the U.S. The collection at the museum consists of more than 50,000 glass plate negatives that cover all of Maine and the rest of New England and upstate New York taken between 1909-1950s.

Kevin Johnson earned a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's University, and a Professional Certificate in Photography from the Maine Photographic Workshops, where he first encountered the Eastern Collection. Johnson has grown the Museum's collection to more than 500,000 images from various sources including EIP (acquired in 2007), *National Fisherman* magazine, the Maine Sardine Council, photographer Kosti Ruohomaa, and many others. He is the co-author of *Maine on Glass: The Early Twentieth Century in Glass Plate Photography*.

### **July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm The Architecture of John Calvin Stevens**

We are pleased to welcome Maine State Historian, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Mr. Shettleworth will reprise a talk he did several years ago at the Chapel on the John Calvin Stevens designed buildings in Hancock.

Mr. Shettleworth was educated in Portland public schools, graduating from Deering High School in 1966. He received a B.A. in Art History from Colby College in 1970, an M.A. in Architectural History from Boston University in 1979, and an L.H.D. from Bowdoin College in 2008, and an L.H.D. from the Maine College of Art in 2012.

At the age of thirteen, Shettleworth became interested in historic preservation through the destruction of Portland's Union Station in 1961. A year later he joined the Sills Committee which founded Greater Portland Landmarks in 1964. In 1971 he was appointed by Governor Curtis to serve on the first board of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, for which he became architectural historian in 1973 and director in 1976. He retired as director of the Commission in 2015.

Shettleworth's elected and appointed positions include president of the Maine Historical Society (1977-79), president of the New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians (1995-98), chair of the State House and Capitol Park Commission (1988-2015), chair of the Capitol Planning Commission (1998- ), and chair of the Blaine House Commission (2004-2015). He served on the Maine Lighthouse Selection Committee in 1997-98 and the State Facilities Master Plan Commission in 1999.

Earle Shettleworth has lectured and written extensively on Maine history and architecture. The Maine Historical Society's auditorium in Portland was named for him in 1999. In 2004 Governor John E. Baldacci appointed him as State Historian, and he was reappointed to a second term by Governor Baldacci in 2008 and to a third term by Governor LePage in 2014.

### **August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm The Disaster at Bar Harbor Ferry**

"Sunday, August 6, 1899, is a date that for many years will be held in memory as signaling the most dreadful accident that has ever occurred within the boundaries of the state of Maine." Bangor Daily Commercial, August 7, 1899

In an era when the only means of travel to the new, glamorous, and growing resort of Bar Harbor was through a small, isolated, rural-yet-elegant point of land on the mainland in the small town of Hancock, *Disaster at Bar Harbor Ferry* tells the true story of what was, at the time, Maine's deadliest disaster. The heartbreaking tale starts with the arrival of a train overcrowded with passengers anxious to be among the first to cross the bay and their rush for a ferry with too few seats, turning a casual summer Sunday outing into a scene of chaos, tragedy, death and heroism, occurring as quickly as the break of a wooden gangplank. *Disaster at Bar Harbor Ferry* tells not only the complete story of the people and the events of that day, but of a time and way of life long gone by and nearly forgotten.

### **About the Author**

A Navy veteran of the first Gulf War and former reporter for *The Bar Harbor Times*, **Mac Smith** lives in Stockton Springs, Maine, in the village of Sandy Point. He is also the author of *Mainers on the Titanic*, *Peyton Place Comes Home to Maine*, *Maine's Hail to the Chief*, and *Siege at the State House*.

**September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2024 No program planned for this evening.**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** Judith Burger-Gossart will talk about her book, "Sadie's Winter Dream: Fishermen's Wives & Maine Sea Coast Mission Hooked Rugs, 1923-1938" the story of Mrs. Alice M. Peasley from Hancock who inspired fishermen's wives first to hook rugs to supplement their families' meager incomes and then to be imaginative and creative. These rugs created during the 1920's and 1930's are today prized examples of American folk art.

### **Herb Hodgkins**

This winter we lost one of our friends and supporters with the death in January of Herb Hodgkins. He was on the Historical Society Board and a life member of the Historical Society. No matter what the job was, Herb was always willing to lend a hand. Herb was well known for his work with the lobster industry and donated much of the material in the "Lobstering Corner" at the museum. Later this summer a plaque will be mounted denoting that corner as the "Herb Hodgkins Corner." We will miss him. In honor of Herb, we present the following excerpt from "A History of the Town of Hancock 1828-1978.

"The first lobster pound in Hancock was on the Skillings River and was built and operated by John Stinson. Up from this pound, in 1904, Capt. George Colwell, who built the first lobster pound in the United States on Dyer's Bay in the 1890's, built a bigger pound, which sold in 1929 to the Consolidated Lobster Company of Gloucester, Massachusetts. According to an April 1960 article in the "Maine Coast Fisherman," Albert (Colwell) stayed on with the new owners for almost 20 years." Albert was one of George Colwell's four grandsons. "...in 1947, the Colwells teamed up as a family corporation and bought the groundwork for their big operations in Stonington and Boothbay Harbor." Today the old Colwell Lobster Pound, which employed a number of Hancock men in its day, is owned and operated by Lyle and Wes Ford, who also run quite a large fishing business. Another lobster pound is that of Dana Hodgkins at Tidal Falls on the Taunton River. Dana and Winnie Hodgkins used to live in the house now occupied by Mrs. Teresa Torkanowsky, then they moved to the little house opposite the Town Wharf on Hancock Point, and in 1951 they moved their lobster business to the East Side."