



11 Captain Bill Road PO Box 212 Hancock, Maine 04640

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been an eventful winter here in Hancock with 3 major storms causing significant damage to our shoreline infrastructure and major erosion issues.

The museum is closed in the winter months, but we are glad to assist in finding information for requests that are received by phone or email and to open the museum by appointment. This winter we were able to assist with helping to locate roads past and present with our map collection, finding the location on the Pomroy road where an early school once stood. We had several genealogy requests and questions as to where ancestral homes are or were located.

This past summer we acquired many files, photos, and audio as well as video recordings of people and events collected by Sandy Phippen. We have begun to sort through all this but have much still to process.

This summer we will have as our featured display works of art from Hancock artists past and present. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the landing of German spies on Hancock Point. We have put together a display to commemorate this historically significant event.

We are still finalizing plans for this summer's programs. On August 9th our program will be presented by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust on their salt marsh restoration project here in Hancock. We will offer a guided visit to the project sight on August 10th.

The museum opens for the season on June 4th.

Our open hours will be:

Tuesday 10-12

Wednesday 10-12

Saturday 1-3 in July and August only

Hancock Historical Society 2024 Programs

| June 14 – Schooners of Taunton Bay and

Hancock Sea Captains

| July 12 – Hancock Artists, Past and Present

| August 9 – Maine Coast Salt Marsh Restoration

On Fridays of programs, the museum opens at 6. | August 10 – Field Trip to Old Pond/Carrying
We look forward to welcoming you this summer. | Place Salt Marsh Restoration Project
David Johnston, President | September 13 – To Be Announced
| October 11 – Annual Meeting & Program

The Old School House

The flagpole on the Hancock Point School came from the Larrabee village School located just south of Machiasport. When we first saw that building it was in a state of collapse, but the flagpole was very visible. Dick Moll contacted the Machiasport Historical Society. They were able to contact the out of state owner who graciously allowed us to salvage the flagpole for the Hancock School. The old one had been missing but was visible in old pictures.

It was an exciting day when Jill and Gary Gatcomb- Grant arrived to build a support and install the old pole and raise a flag

For the past two falls, the flag, up all summer for several years, has twisted & we have been unable to get it down. So, Jill and Gary have generously come twice now with their lift, to take it down before winter. Next year, 2024, we will improve the pulley or find an alternative.

By the way, over the years, they have also put on a new roof, adjusted foundation stones, and restored the rear exterior of the building as part of their great work with historical buildings.

The Hancock Point School had a well-attended art show in August 2023, when Elaine McNeil and Sue King displayed and sold their beautiful, detailed sea-themed fabric art. Elaine's grandmother, Grace Ball, attended the school.

The Hancock Point Library children's story hour also came for a morning of stories, and reading refreshments.

Pat Moll

Audio/Video Area News

Phase 1 of the work in this area has been completed. Two computer stations are now available where visitors can listen to and view digital media. Additional capabilities and media will be added as time permits. This is a comfortable (air conditioned) place to sit and explore the sights and sounds of our past.

For the 2024 season we are featuring 40+ audio taped interviews (listed below) conducted by Sandy Phippen, Vera Foss and Lois Johnson. These are recordings of "old time" Hancock residents as they talk about their lives growing up in town and their careers. Most of these interviews were conducted in the 1970-1990 timeframe. A truly fascinating history of their recollections in the words and voices of those who came before us. Stories from the past, mostly true, uncensored and quite entertaining. These recordings have been reformatted and are loaded on a computer in this AV area. They can be played (using headphones) during your visit. We hope to be adding more of these interviews and other historic recordings to this collection as we organize and identify the copious amount of material handed down by Sandy and others. These recordings are an historical treasure gifted to us by the vision of Sandy (with help from Lois and Vera). We are pleased to be able to preserve and make them come alive again in our museum. In addition to the "Sandy" interview tapes this computer station contains hundreds of scanned letters from the Foss family and acquaintances, written from the late 1880s through the early 1900's. These letters detail life in Hancock and feature the correspondence of ship captains on the Schooner sailing ships of the era.

A second computer station in this AV area allows visitors to play videos of many past HHS presentations. These can be individually viewed on the computer screen using headphones when sitting in this area or upon request can be played on the big TV screen in the museum. During the summer the HHS will evaluate how much interest the community has in further developing and expanding this audio/video resource. It's an important but time-consuming task.

Note. Please excuse any misspellings or mis labels of the Sandy Tape collections as much of the original media was not clearly labeled, speakers not identified and dates difficult to discern. If you find corrections, please let me know.

Bob Foss

<u>DATA BASE SANDY TAPES</u>			
sorted by speaker			
SPEAKER	TAPE NAME	DATE	MODERATOR
BOWDITCH, PEGGY	ADMIRALS OF HANCOCK POINT	Aug-83	SANDY PHIPPEN
BEACH (REV.)	HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION HANCOCK	1986	VERA FOSS
BLAIR, MIKE	SARA ELIZABETH GUSTAM; MIKE BLAIR		SANDY PHIPPEN
BURROUGHS ,MARTHA	ADMIRALS OF HANCOCK POINT	Jul-83	SANDY PHIPPEN
COOK, EFFIE	EFFIE COOK		VERA FOSS
CRABTREE, LILLIAN	LILLIAN CRABTREE		VERA FOSS
CROWLEY ,PAM	THE LOUNDER FAMILY	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
DICKSON ,WALTER	WALTER DICKSON 1986 #1 (Grant?)		SANDY PHIPPEN
DILLON, MARY	MARY DILLON	Jul-87	SANDY PHIPPEN
EMERSON, KEN	KEN EMERSON & CONDON RODGERS		SANDY PHIPPEN
FOSS, BEE	FOSS FAMILY		SANDY PHIPPEN/LOIS JOHNSON
FOSS, MAYNARD	FISHING STORIES	1990	SANDY PHIPPEN
FOSS, MAYNARD	FOSS FAMILY		SANDY PHIPPEN/LOIS JOHNSON
FOSS, MAYNARD	HISTORY OF TOWN GOVERNMENT HANCOCK		SANDY PHIPPEN
FOSS ,VERA	FOSS FAMILY		SANDY PHIPPEN/LOIS JOHNSON
GEORGEITIS ,MARY	SAMUEL FRENCH MORSE-MARY HELEN GEORGEITIS		
GORMLEY, HELEN	SARA ELIZABETH GUSTAM; HELEN GORMLEY		
GRANT, FRED	WALTER DICKSON 1986 #1 (Grant?)		SANDY PHIPPEN
GRANT, NELLIE	WALTER DICKSON 1986 #1 (Grant?)		SANDY PHIPPEN
GUSTAM, SARAH ELIZABETH	SARAH ELIZABETH GUSTAM-HELEN GORMLEY		SANDY PHIPPEN
GUSTAM, SARAH ELIZABETH	SARAH ELIZABETH GUSTAM-MIKE BLAIR		
HAMMOND, WILLIAM	WILLIAM HAMMOND 1984 #1	1984	SANDY PHIPPEN
HAMMOND, WILLIAM	WILLIAM HAMMOND 1984 #2	1984	SANDY PHIPPEN
HASKINS, GEORGE	GEORGE HASKINS 1986 SHADOWS OF PAST #1	1986	SANDY PHIPPEN
HASKINS, GEORGE	GEORGE HASKINS 1986 SHADOWS OF PAST #2	1986	SANDY PHIPPEN
HASKINS, GERTRUDE	THE LOUNDER FAMILY	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
JOHNSTON, DICK	FISHING STORIES	1988	SANDY PHIPPEN
JOHNSTON, LES	FISHING STORIES	1989	SANDY PHIPPEN
JOHNSTON, STELLA	HISTORY OF TOWN GOVERNMENT HANCOCK		SANDY PHIPPEN
LOUNDER, EDITH	THE LOUNDER FAMILY	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
LOUNDER, HARRY	THE LOUNDER FAMILY	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
MANY	HISTORY OF CLUBS IN HANCOCK 1995	9/8/1995	SANDY PHIPPEN/LOIS JOHNSON
MANY	HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS	#####	SANDY PHIPPEN
MOON, RUTH	RUTH MOON	1976	SANDY PHIPPEN
MORSE, SAMUEL	SAMUEL FRENCH MORSE-MARY HELEN GEORGEITIS		
OGILVIE, ELIZABETH	ELIZABETH OGILVIE/ DOT SIMPSON	4/6/1991	SANDY PHIPPEN
PARTRIDGE, GEORGE	GEORGE PARTRIDGE	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
PIPPEN, CHARLES	CHARLES PIPPEN		SANDY PHIPPEN
POMROY, CLAYTON	CLAYTON POMROY HISTORY OF SPORTS IN HANCOCK		SANDY PHIPPEN
POMROY, CLAYTON	FISHING STORIES	1987	SANDY PHIPPEN
RODGERS, CONDON	KEN EMERSON & CONDON RODGERS		SANDY PHIPPEN
SIMPSON, DOT	ELIZABETH OGILVIE/ DOT SIMPSON	4/7/1991	SANDY PHIPPEN
SINGLETERY, ELIZABETH	THE LOUNDER FAMILY	1999	SANDY PHIPPEN
SMITH ,CAPT.	LIGHTHOUSES OF THE MAINE COAST	1995	VERA FOSS
THOMPSON, HENRY	HENRY THOMPSON 1991 #2	#####	SANDY PHIPPEN
THOMPSON, HENRY	HENRY THOMPSON 1991 -1	#####	SANDY PHIPPEN
THORSEN, LEON	LEON THORSEN 1986	1986	SANDY PHIPPEN
TOWLE, EDITH	EDITH TOWLE	1975	VERA FOSS
TOWLE, EDITH	EDITH TOWLE	1981	SANDY PHIPPEN
WORKING, LIBBY	ADMIRALS OF HANCOCK POINT	Sep-83	SANDY PHIPPEN
YOUNG, SYLVIA	SYLVIA YOUNG RED CROSS DINNER	1990	SANDY PHIPPEN

Agreen Crabtree

Most of us have heard stories of Agreen Crabtree one of the earliest citizens of the area. Lois Crabtree Johnson often told the story of Agreen Crabtree, the only licensed Privateer from this area during the American Revolution.

Recently I ran across the following article about Mr. Crabtree's time as a Privateer.

Oct. 31. We hear from the eastward, that on Friday the 20th of September last, a number of persons belonging to the private armed schooner Hannah and Molly, Agreen Crabtree, Master, went into the port of Liverpool, in Nova-Scotia government, and crossed by land till they came within call of a large ship of 500 tons, mounting 4 carriage guns, 4 colorns, and 4 fwivels; the leader of the party hailed the ship and desired them to send the boat on shore; accordingly the mate came with the boat: The privateers-men got into her, went on board the ship, and took her — They brought the guns to bear upon a brig loaded for England, and ordered the master of the brig to come alongside the ship with the brig—They then stripped the ship of every thing valuable, and put the effects on board the brig, and let the ship go on shore, and came off with the brig. The same crew also, at the same time took two schooners and a sloop; the schooner and sloop have arrived, but the brig had not arrived in port the 6th of October, so that we fear she is re-taken. The Captain of the privateer was so careful as to put all the guns and cannon, with a quantity of powder, on board his own privateer, so that they have arrived safe: The schooner and sloop had nails, fish, and a number of valuable articles on board.

**“The Pennsylvania Gazette” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, November 13, 1776**

