



# CHEBEAGUE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MARCH 2022**



## A great story about our February Mystery Photo

We received great feedback from Ernie Burgess regarding our February Mystery Photo—and we thought we should share it.

“The mystery photo is no mystery to me: it’s of the Springettes Beach fish houses. They belonged to (from left to right): Fred Brewer; Carrol Hamilton; Ray and Alf Hamilton; Alger Burgess (my father); Will Johnson and later, Harry Mansfield; the Ross fish house used by Ernest Ross (my grandfather) and later by me.

The significance of the winter photo is that some of those men went winter fishing - also known as trawling. The photo includes a punt on the beach, indicating that it’s likely to be winter and the men would be busy baiting trawls, preparing to go long-lining for cod, haddock, cusk and hake. This involved raking mussels and pitching them into a punt or dory, then bringing them ashore to the fish house to shell. It was usually necessary to build a fire in the fish house wood stove while shelling the mussels and baiting the trawls - then again in the middle of the night to make sure the mussels weren’t frozen solid before leaving for the fishing grounds: Jeffery’s Ledge about 20 miles due south from Cape Elizabeth or on the edge of the fishing bottom, eight or ten miles from Halfway Rock. We would take the gear aboard around 8 or 10 o’clock pm. If the weather changed for the worse, we would bring the baited trawls back ashore to wait for a better fish day.

I remember these fish houses and the men who owned and worked in them and fished from Springettes Beach because I was one of them for a short time when I was much younger.”

Editor’s note: Several of the East End fisherman also had fish houses on the back shore and used their Springettes fish houses in the winter.

Please feel free to share with us your memories of our Mystery Photos!



### March Mystery Photo

This house no longer stands although there are remnants of its foundation. The house in the background still stands and is a hint to the location. Can you ID it?

### March Lecture

Our March Ellsworth Miller Lecture will feature Donna Damon on Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 7PM. The topic is:

#### "Part II: Education on Chebeague"

Join us on Zoom. Please sign in a few minutes before 7 by going to zoom.us and selecting Join a Meeting. The Meeting ID is 82962476056. No password required. And you can always view past lectures on our website.

### *We need your support!*

The Historical Society is the keeper of the island’s history. If you haven’t made a contribution to the Annual Appeal—please let us hear from you! Your support is what allows us to have the great programs, exhibit, publications, and collections that the community loves and that preserves our heritage. Thanks so much!

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