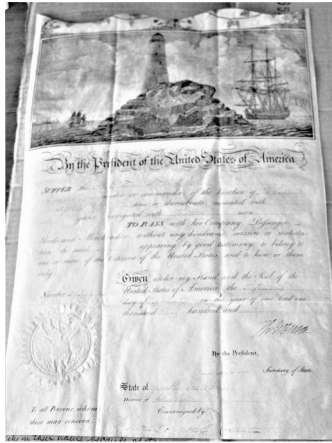




CHEBEAGUE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2023

Signed, President Jefferson



My mother, Mabel Knowles Doughty, enjoyed a close relationship with George Higgins, who owned the Higgins Farm at the West End (now owned by Joan Dayton). At the end of his life in the 1960s, George bequeathed an original Letter of Marque to my mother. The Letter is dated 1801 and signed by both President Thomas Jefferson and then-Secretary of State James Madison. It granted privateer status to George's Uncle Sylvanus, giving him and his ship, "The Thomas" out of Charleston, S. Carolina, permission from the U.S. government, to "pass without any hindrance, seizure or molestation." My mother proudly displayed the framed document for over 20 years until my father became concerned about "housing an item of such great value!" My mom then entrusted the document to none other than Martha O. Hamilton! The document went missing for many years until this past summer when Beverly Murray called me to say she discovered it safe in the bottom of a cedar chest at the home of her parents Pochie and Priscilla Ross, still sandwiched between two pieces of cardboard and tied up with string by my mother! *Submitted by Jackie Trask*

This Month's Mystery Photo

What is this building? Where is it? Is it still standing?



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Theron Hamilton correctly identified the **January Mystery Photo!** It

is Bert Mansfield's Spa, originally on the corner of Firehouse and South Roads, being moved to Alden and Madeline Brewer's store, which was also in the Center. The Spa was built as Forbe's Drug Store in the early 1900s. Soon after Bert Mansfield converted it into an ice cream



parlor, which operated for more than four decades. It closed after a July 4th fire c. 1952. A few years later, Alden Brewer bought it, had it moved, and attached it to his store, which stood on the site of Julie Doughty's garage. The store was built c. 1890 as a combination post office and store. Stephen B. Hamilton was the postmaster and initially James York ran the store. Solomon Francis Hamilton bought the store in the late 1890s, and three generations of his family (Theron's) ran it for decades. The Brewers bought it and operated the store and ice cream parlor until both buildings were destroyed by fire on a frigid night in January 1959. Thanks Theron! *Submitted by Donna Damon*

ELLSWORTH MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE

The presenter for our next lecture will be Gayle Bowness from The Gulf of Maine Research Center. The lecture topic will be: "Preparing Coastal Communities for Sea Level Rise". Join us at [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) on 1/30 at 7 PM. The Meeting ID is 829 6247 6056. No password is required. And, many thanks to Michael Porter for his December lecture on sundials!

Past Miller Memorial Lectures are available on our website under the "Our Collection" tab.

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