



Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Spring 2015
Issue

the Sloop's Log

Editor's Notes

Greetings and welcome to the Spring Edition of the Sloop's Log. We have many wonderful articles for you island history enthusiasts. Please enjoy the following submissions for our contributors:

- Toby Webb with the 1900 Chebeague census.
- Donna Damon with this issue's mystery photo.
- Leon and Sherman Hamilton on going to Portland in the '50's and '60's.
- Nancy Vachon on her minister ancestor, Samuel Blake.
- Chris and Caroline Loder on coming to Chebeague.

We had planned to do a large article on the West Winds Girls Sailing Camp, but we are saving it for next time because we have discovered a lot more material. Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this issue. We hope it finds your summer residence.

Please let us know if you have stories you would like to share with the Chebeague community.

The linoleum print below by Ralph Frizzell was done around 1940. The print depicts Raymond Hamilton's fish house on the Backshore. It is fun to look at the details in the picture and for the tools used by the fishermen of that ... and the hollyhocks.



Thanks so much for staying connected with the history of your island.

And thanks to Ron Recchio for formatting our articles and pictures.

Sincerely,
Jane Frizzell, Editor

Chebeague in the 1900 U.S. Census: The Island Matures

By Morrison "Toby" Webb

In 1900, the U.S. government continued its decennial counting of all the inhabitants in the country. This particular census is a goldmine for family historians. The enumeration did not merely name every individual; it recorded race, gender, age, month and year of birth, family relationship to the head of each household, place of birth and place of parents' births, occupation, literacy, and whether homes were owned or rented, mortgaged or owned free, houses or farms. For individuals born outside the United States, it asked the year of immigration, years living in the U.S., and whether the individual had become a naturalized citizen. Mothers were asked how many children they had had and, sadly, how many were still alive.

All of this detail is doubly important because most of the records of the nationwide 1890 census were lost in a fire. The 1900 census therefore is the first surviving enumeration in which many people born or arriving in the last two decades of the nineteenth century are identified.

A comparison of the 1900 census with the information we have drawn from the 1880 census (see the Fall 2014 Sloop's Log) shows an island community that has aged and has moved away from its farming roots.

There were 501 inhabitants of Chebeague in 1900, 241 males and 260 females, down from 536 in 1880.

At least, that is how many were counted. Donna Damon has discovered, by tracking the locations of the families who are listed, that the census taker in 1900 apparently traveled as far as Coleman's Cove and then never visited Deer Point and Chandler's Cove. By her estimate, about fifty Chebeaguers were never counted. All of the statistical discussion that follows relies on the official record, but actual numbers should have been higher and family historians seeking West End families may find that their ancestors were omitted in 1900.

Two decades earlier, when the effects of a mid-century baby boom were being felt, fully half of the island's population was aged 20 or younger. But in 1900, that had fallen to 188 people, only 37%. The school population, which had been 193 in 1870 and 154 in 1880, was only 100 in 1900. And, at the other end of the spectrum, 118 people were 50 or older in 1900. Twenty people were seventy or older. Rufus Soule's Aunt Elizabeth was 89, and she was just one of twenty widows and four widowers now living on the island.

The occupations of the island had also changed. In prior articles, we have seen that Chebeague was settled in the 1700s as a farming community and that, as families grew and land for farming was divided, many men turned from the land to the water for employment. Fishing and slooping became the growing occupations. Farming seems to have peaked around 1880. And so, when the 1900 census was taken, only 21 of the island's men called themselves "farmers" or "farm laborers." The census that year included special farm schedules, capturing the agricultural output of the country; only eleven households on the island had farm schedules taken by the census taker. (These leading farmers were John F. Hamilton, Aaron Cleaves, Ephraim Hamilton, Charles Grannel, John A. Hamilton, Solomon Hamilton, Joseph Curit, Benjamin Bishop, Sylvanus Higgins, and Nettie Jenks.)

Fishing was the leading occupation in 1900. Fifty-five men were fishermen. But there are signs that the fishing industry is changing. Fred Curit didn't fish; he was a "Fish Dealer." Willard Fenderson was a "Canner," packaging clams at his clam factory. Can maker Edward Webber may have been making Fenderson's cans. Two coopers were making barrels. Fishing was industrializing.

Traditional seagoing activities continued. There were seven Sea Captains, twelve Mariners and four Sailors. But there are new shipboard occupations as well: five dredgers, a steamboat engineer, steamboat laborer and a deckhand. Steven Bennet repaired lighthouses. Three "stone masons" were stone sloopers building sea walls.

What is most striking is the number of people employed in what we might have thought of as "mainland" activities. Occupations show that Chebeague had become a settled community. There were three grocers, two grocer's clerks and a dry goods wholesaler. Two physicians and two nurses, a postmaster (Henry Bowen, whose eight-year-old son Archie would eventually follow him in the postal service), a postmistress and a telegraph operator. Three school teachers, one preacher. A shoe maker, a leather worker and a traveling salesman.

And clearly there was an island construction industry, building homes perhaps for successful stone sloopers or for people from away who began to build cottages of their own instead of staying in the two boarding houses that had survived Chebeague's initial tourism boom. There were five house carpenters, two painters and a "Builder & Contractor." The island economy was no longer just farming and the sea.

What had not changed were the family names. Names that remain important in island matters were represented in strength: 143 Hamiltons, 33 Rosses, 28 Hills, 16 Bennets, 13 Doughtys. (The Doughty count is probably low, since several Doughty families lived at the uncounted West End.) Other family names in the 1900 census read like a modern directory or map: Littlefield, Bates, Rose, Curit, Soule, Brewer, Cleaves, Bowen, Dyer, Johnson, Webber, Miller, Higgins, Jenks and Ricker. It is surprising to realize how many of our island place names draw from the people listed in the 1900 census: Aaron's Wharf, Ricker Head, Jenks's Landing, Littlefield Crossroad, Fenderson and Curit Farm roads, Bennett's Cove, Rose's Point, the Higgins Farm. The turn from the nineteenth to the twentieth century appears to be the point when Chebeague established itself as a stable and long-lived community.

As with prior transcriptions, the transcription of the original census pages from 1900 which follows attempts to record precisely what the census taker Howard Clough wrote, which was not always accurate. The residents of Chebeague were not identified as such in the census; these names have been pulled from the Town of Cumberland census based upon our general knowledge of island history. As mentioned before, about 50 residents of the West End are now thought to have been missed in his count.

To conserve space, columns in the census which offer little new information have been omitted: all people listed were "white," and the only people not credited with being able to speak, read and write English were small children. The columns for foreign-born individuals had the following few entries:

Foreign Born

Family	Name	Immigration Year	No. of years in US	Naturalization
158	Hill, Mabel		Un.	
165	Hamilton, John A.		Un.	
196	McDonald, Angus	1880	20	Al[ien].
196	Hamilton, Sarah	1880	20	
208	Bowen, Hugh	1845	55	Na[turalized].
217	Grannel, Chas. A.			Na.
219	Hamilton, Elizabeth A.	1842	58	
235	Cobb, Catherine	1881	29	
239	Johnson, Lydia A.		Un.	
243	Bishop, Benjamin		Un.	
244	Hill, Rebecca		Un.	
268	Johnson, Eliza L.		Un.	
273	Grannell, Albert H.		Un.	
284	Hook, Walter S.	1869	31	Na.
287	Hamilton, Adelaide H.		Un.	

Chebeague in the 1900 U.S. Census

DWELLING	FAMILY	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	SEX	BIRTH MONTH	BIRTH YEAR	AGE	MARITAL STATUS	YEARS MARRIED	CHILDREN	CHILDREN LIVING	PLACE OF BIRTH	BIRTH OF FATHER	BIRTH OF MOTHER	IMMIGRATION YEAR	NO. OF YEARS IN US	NATURALIZATION	OCCUPATION	MONTHS UNEMPLOYED	MONTHS ATTENDED SCHOOL	OWN OR RENT HOME	FREE OR MORTGAGED	FARM OR HOUSE	NO. OF FARM SCHEDULE
156	157	Hamilton, John F.	Head	M	Oct	1833	66	M	38			ME	ME	ME				Sea Captain	0		O	F	F	116
		Hamilton, Melissa M.	Wife	F	Jan	1836	64	M	38	0	0	ME	ME	ME				Housework	0					
		Grannell, Jennie B.	Servant	F	July	1871	28	S				ME	CAN (Fr)	ME										
		Hill, William G.	Servant	M	Nov	1880	19	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		7				
157	158	Hill, Reuben	Head	M	Dec	1826	73	M	42			ME	ME	ME								O	F	H
		Hill, Mary W.	Wife	F	Aug	1825	74	M	42	3	3	ME	ME	ME										
		Hill, George S.	Son	M	Sept	1861	38	M	0			ME	ME	ME				Mariner	0					
		Hill, Mabel	Dau in Law	F	Dec	1877	22	M	0	0	0	CAN (Eng)	CAN (Eng)	CAN (Eng)	Un									
		Hill, Reuben F.	Son	M	Dec	1864	35	S				ME	ME	ME				Mariner	4					
158	159	Hill, Isaac S.	Son	M	Oct	1858	41	M	7			ME	ME	ME				Sea Captain	2		O	F	H	
		Hill, Nellie	Dau in Law	F	July	1858	41	M	7	0	0	ME	ME	ME										
159	160	Mansfield, William A.	Head	M	May	1870	30	M	10			ME	ME	ME				Fisherman	0		R		H	
		Mansfield, Nancy L.	Wife	F	July	1871	28	M	10	6	6	ME	ME	ME										
		Mansfield, Eva L.	Daughter	F	Apr	1891	9	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		7				
		Mansfield, Grace F.	Daughter	F	Jan	1893	7	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		7				
		Mansfield, Walter H.	Son	M	July	1894	5	S				ME	ME	ME										
		Mansfield, Inez B.	Daughter	F	Jan	1896	4	S				ME	ME	ME										
		Mansfield, Harry L.	Son	M	Jan	1897	3	S				ME	ME	ME										
		Mansfield, William E.	Son	M	Nov	1899	6/12	S				ME	ME	ME										
	161	Hamilton, Robert	Head	M	June	1830	69	M	47			ME	ME	ME				Dredger	4		O	F	H	
		Hamilton, Betsy	Wife	F	Apr	1831	69	M	47	8	5	ME	ME	ME										
		Hamilton, Emma E.	Daughter	F	Feb	1834	36	M	17	1	1	ME	ME	ME										
		Hamilton, Ammie A.	Son in Law	M	Mar	1860	40	M	17			ME	ME	ME				House Carpenter	0					
160	162	Hamilton, Alvin G.	Head	M	Sept	1853	46	M	19			ME	ME	ME				Painter	0		O	F	H	
		Hamilton, Emily C.	Wife	F	Mar	1859	41	M	19	5	3	ME	ME	ME										
		Hamilton, Ethel W.	Daughter	F	Dec	1881	18	S				ME	ME	ME										
		Hamilton, Edgar L.	Son	M	Mar	1884	16	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		5				
		Hamilton, Edith M.	Daughter	F	Mar	1891	9	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		7				
		Morse, William H.	Boarder	M	Sept	1842	57	M	20			ME	ME	ME				Nurse		3				
161	163	Hamilton, Winfield	Head	M	Oct	1866	33	M	4			ME	ME	ME				Fisherman	4		R		H	
		Hamilton, Clara F.	Wife	F	Mar	1875	25	M	4	0	0	ME	ME	ME										
162	164	Hamilton, Roswell E.	Head	M	Oct	1837	62	M	39			ME	ME	ME				Fisherman	6		O	F	H	
		Hamilton, Georgiana	Wife	F	July	1840	59	M	39	2	2	NH	NH	NH										
	165	Hamilton, John A.	Head	M	Feb	1835	65	M	40			CAN (Eng)	CAN (Eng)	CAN (Eng)	Un			Farmer	0		O	F	H	
		Hamilton, Harriet W.	Wife	F	Feb	1840	60	M	40	5	4	ME	ME	ME										
		Hamilton, Melville J.	Son	M	Mar	1881	19	S				ME	CAN (Eng)	ME				Fisherman		3				
164	166	Hamilton, Howard S.	Head	M	Nov	1864	35	M	12			ME	ME	ME				House Carpenter	0		O	F	H	
		Hamilton, Gertrude L.	Wife	F	Nov	1868	31	M	12	2	2	ME	ME	CAN (Eng)										
		Hamilton, Beula M.	Daughter	F	July	1893	6	S				ME	ME	ME				At school		7				
		Hamilton, Clayton H.	Son	M	Sept	1899	8/12	S				ME	ME	ME										

GOING TO TOWN IN THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES

In the fall 2014 edition of the Sloop's Log we had several stories about going to Portland in the 1950's and 1960's. Below, please find another in this series. The following article was sent to me from Florida by Jen Hamilton. It was written by Leon and Sherman Hamilton shortly before Leon passed away. We are very pleased that the brothers were able to send us this piece of Chebeague and Portland history.

Leon, our brother Leland, and I all went lobstering as sternmen with our dad when we were young, starting at about 12 years old. There was a 12 year difference between me and the twins, Leland and Leon, so we did not do this job at the same time.

As for lobstering ourselves, we started with 200 hundred traps; and we hauled everyday including Sunday, as most all Chebeague fishermen did. We eventually built up to 450 traps which was considered a lot of traps back then in the 1960's. Sherm went until 1956 when he joined the Navy. Our sister Lois went for a while too. Then the twins took over when they were about twelve.

As I said we hauled our traps everyday except twice a week when we would take our lobsters to town to sell them. All the lobstermen did pretty much the same thing, and that included the lobstermen from Cliff and Long Islands. We stored our lobsters in crates, or as we called them "cars." The days we would go to town we would only haul half our traps. Then we would go get our lobsters and put them in wooden barrels, washed clean as we had used the same barrels for bait. When we got close to town, we would fill the barrels with water as the lobsters ingest water, which can make quite a difference in the weight of 4 or 5 hundred pounds of lobsters. We brought our lobsters to the dealer where they were weighed and the dealer culled them into his tanks.

After that, we would buy our bait (red fish) from the dealer, and Dad would go to the office and settle up. We sold to a dealer named Eddy Palmer on Custom House Wharf for most of our years lobstering. He always paid Dad in cash. In the 1950's we were getting 25 to 30cents a pound.



Leon and Leland Hamilton

From the dealer we would go to get fuel. We would fill our tanks from a small tanker only 30 ft long. They still had a hand pump. The name of the boat was the *Struggle*. After fueling we would tie up at either Harris Co. or Sargent and Lord's. Both places carried most all of the essentials needed for fishing. Sargent and Lord also carried groceries so you could get other essentials there.

There was a little diner where the J's Oyster Bar is now. We usually ate lunch there. As for Commercial St., it was completely different. Back then it was a working waterfront that mostly catered to fishermen. There was a store called Larrabee's where you could buy clothes and books, etc. There was a market at the head of Custom House Wharf where you could get groceries and they would ship them to the island on Casco Bay Lines. There was a popular little tav-

ern frequented by the fishermen, only beer of course. In the 1950's it was called Larry Naples'. Later it was called Chubb's as it was owned by Chubb Doughty from Long Island. You couldn't buy liquor back then except at the state liquor store-unless you went to a bootlegger. There was a store on the next street up, Fore St., called Sulko-wich's which was used by the islander's very frequently.

One day coming from Portland our dad, Leland, was alone and down around Long Island. He had a coughing spell and leaned over the side and fell over. He was not able to get back aboard the boat, but he got his fingers in the scupper and held on. A boat owned by Amos Doughty came by and saw him. Fawny Doughty was aboard and was able to get him aboard that boat. They took him back to Portland, and he spent the night in the hospital. Luckily, he was OK.



Apologies & Corrections Department

Below I have listed several mistakes made in our last issue. Our sincere apologies go to all concerned. In our spring issue we misspelled Louise Rich Todd's first name.

We also misattributed (such a word?) the ownership of Louise's painting of sailboats at The West Winds Camp. This painting belongs to Mabel Doughty, who worked at the Camp a few summers ago. We also misidentified Bea Pettit's house as the Island View Hotel. We definitely know the difference, but there's many a slip....

JF



All Photo this page - S Hamilton

Clockwise from top left:
Leland Jr., Loretta, and Leon Hamilton, Leland Hamilton Sr., Lois Hamilton, Sherman Hamilton.

From the CHIS Collection

This wonderful old carriage belongs to the CHIS. It has been stored in a barn on Division Point which belongs to Gretchen Tonks - Hartling. The photo shows the "buggy" being moved to Toby and Stacy Webb's new barn on Cottage Road.



Photo-Cathy MacNeill

CHEBEAGUE NEWS ITEMS FROM THE SIX TOWN TIMES

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-1900

by Janr Frizzell

Below please find some news items printed in a local newspaper from 1900. You will find these names in Toby Webb's census list. Sorry we couldn't include everyone's picture from the news articles below.

January 12, 1900:

Mrs. Alfred Hamilton and son returned home from North Conway Tuesday.

Mr. Henry Bowen the postmaster has been on the jury the past week. Miss Sadie Grannell is acting as postmistress during his absence.



Miss Sadie Grannell

Mr. H. Emmons, also Mr. Barton, from Mr. Sanford's Bible School, Shiloh, visited friends on the island recently.

Mr. Renwood Brewer, who has been visiting friends in Southport, returned home Monday.

The fishermen report smelt very scarce, very few being shipped from this place as of late. Mr. Harold Brewer of Portland spent the Sabbath with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton.

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Messrs. Edward Ross, Ervin Ross and Will Johnson went to Portland Tuesday to attend a special meeting of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Joseph Hamilton made a short visit home with his family last week.

July 6, 1900:

Mr. Ernest Hill who has been away for some time is at home for a short time.

Mr. Ballard's family of Philadelphia are occupying Capt. J. F. Hamilton's house, which they have hired for the season.

Rev. William Murray is visiting relatives on the island.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cook of Portland spent a few days recently with Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Soule.

There are two baby alligators to be seen at Alwilda Hamilton's.

Capt. Thomas Turner spent the fourth of July at home with his family.



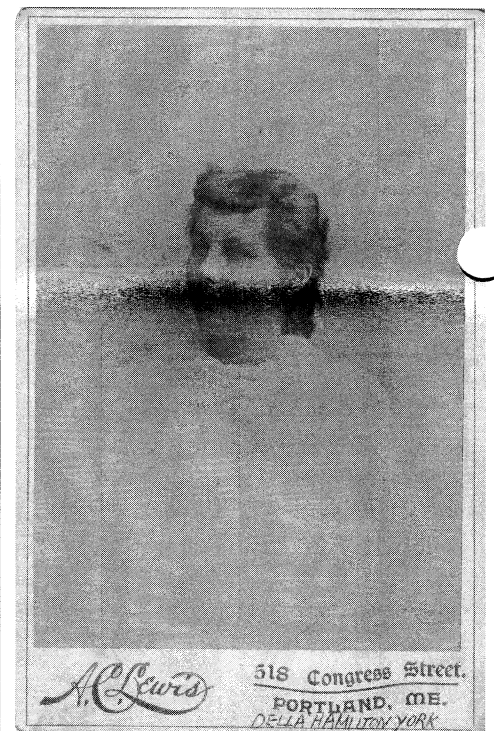
Capt. Thomas Turner

Sloop M. M. Hamilton. Capt. Sylvester Hill arrived the 3rd from Deer Island, bound to Portland with a load of stone.

We are sorry to report Mrs. Alice Estes very sick at this writing.

December 14th, 1900:

The schools in District 9 began on Monday last with Mrs. Whitcomb of Vermont for teacher in the grammar school and Miss Della Hamilton in the primary.



Della Hamilton

Clara Woodbury of South Portland is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Nellie Hill.

Misses Mildred and Florence Hamilton have been visiting friends in Cumberland recently.

Nellie Thompson is quite sick at this writing.

Sloop A. L. Hamilton. Capt. George Cleaves, sailed Monday bound east after a load of stone.

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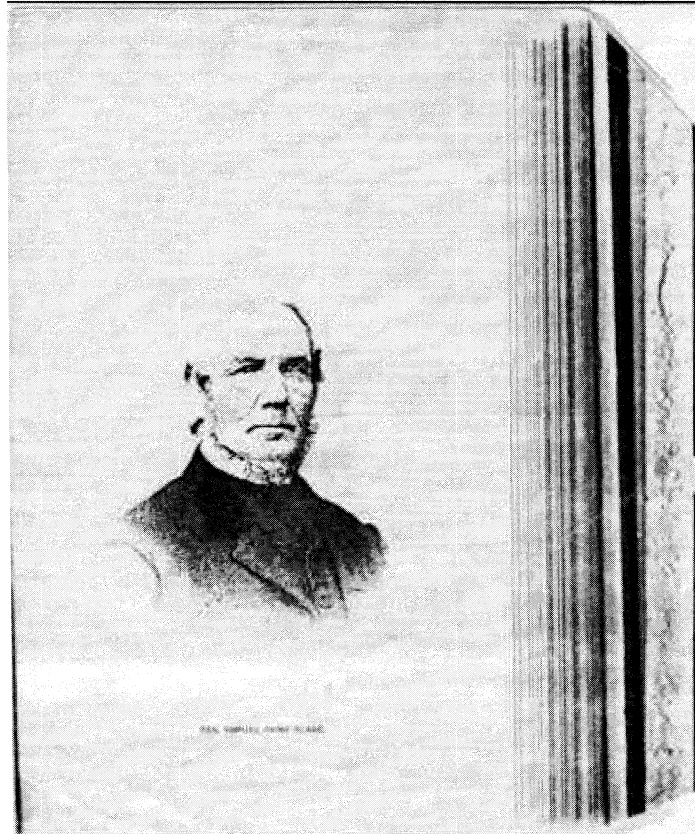
From Ministering to Lobstering

by Nancy Hackenberger Vachon

I enjoy hearing stories of how people first came to Chebeague Island and how many of their generations have continued to have a connection. This is our family's story:
Many people know my son, Jeffrey Putnam and his ties to Chebeague Island through the Putnam and Harris side of the family. Not as many know that his 3X Great Grandfather Samuel Paine Blake, on our maternal side was one of the first Methodist Ministers on Chebeague. He was sent here in 1856-1857 and 1864-1865. Samuel Blake began his ministry at age 27, in 1830 in Bath Maine as a circuit preacher. He and his wife Sarah Mc Donald had nine children born in the various Maine towns where he lived and worked. The children were Samuel and Rebecca both born in Bath, James in Nobleboro, Elizabeth in Industry, Lydia in Skowhegan, John in Fairfield, Elijah in Corrina, Abigail (Jeffrey's 2X Great Grandmother) in Dresden and Harriet in Rumford. Two children died young and one died as a result of injuries received in the Civil War.

Samuel's wife Sarah died May 7, 1865 while he was ministering on Chebeague, and is buried in North Yarmouth Maine. Samuel took some time off after she died, but later officiated at his daughter Abigail's wedding in 1871 to Edmund Mill Barton in North Yarmouth. Samuel Blake died in 1882 at the age of 79 and is buried with his wife Sarah and two of their daughters in North Yarmouth. I donated a small notebook to the C.I.H.S. which was the working diary he kept while on Chebeague Island.

The Blake family enjoyed their time on Chebeague and stories of the Island were passed down through the generations. Abigail and Edmund Barton's son Don (Jeffrey's 1X Great Grandfather) visited Casco Bay as a young man and formed a lifelong friendship with Ed Jenks. During one visit he bought Bates Island in Casco Bay and spent many summers there.



Minister
Samuel
Paine
Blake

On a summer day in 1919 Don Barton rowed his small wooden dingy from Bates to Cliff Island to pick up the mail and met a summer girl, Marjorie Smith, at the post office. They married in 1920 and had daughter Nancy Barton in 1921. Nancy grew up in California but spent her summers on Cliff Island at the Smith Cottage, and on Chebeague, where she stayed with the Jenks family. Nancy became lifelong friends with Leona Doughty Boxer and Sandford Doughty and dreamed of owning a home on Chebeague.

Nancy married Sam Hackenberger in California and later told many stories of Casco Bay to myself and my sister Ruthie. In 1975 Sam and Nancy Hackenberger bought land and built a year round house on Chebeague (now the summer rental of Sam and John Birkett) where they retired and spent many years. They are now both buried in the Island cemetery.

I was lucky enough to raise my three children Jeffrey, Jeremy and Ruthie on Chebeague and to purchase land across from the school house. Sister Ruthie Noble and Chuck McCatherine spend summers and falls on the west end.

Our first generation Minister Samuel Paine Blake passed his love of Chebeague Island through all the generations. Can you see any resemblance between Jeffrey and Samuel Paine Blake?

Jeffrey and Beth Putnam's children are the lucky 7th generation to live on Chebeague Island. We hope there will be many generations in the future.

Sources

History of Cumberland County, Maine with illustrations and biographical sketches of its prominent men and pioneers.

Everts & Peck, 1880

Picture from the *History of Monmouth & Wales* Harry by Hayman Cochrane, 1894

R E M E M B E R I N G

Martha Oliver Komlosy Hamilton



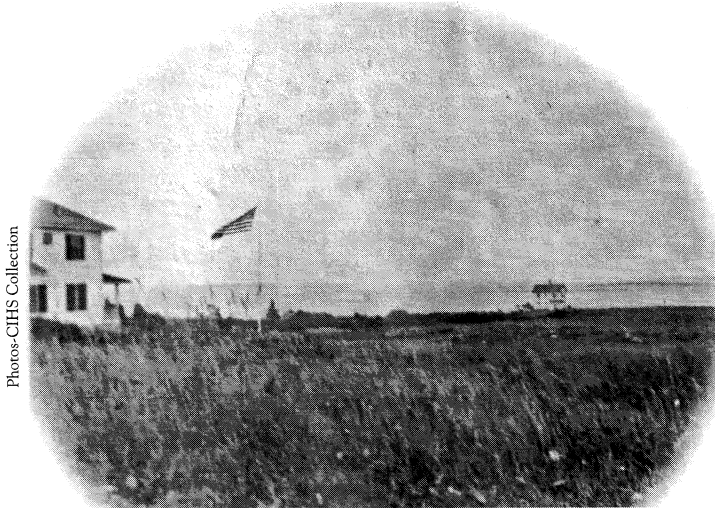
Photo-Jane Frizzel

Martha in 4th of July garb. The theme that year was Chebeague Yesterday and Today. I always liked this photo because it shows a little of that MOH "attitude" in this posed shot.

On behalf of the Chebeague Island Historical Society and of myself, I would like to remember Martha O. Hamilton for her work at the CIHS. As with her involvement in every other group she joined or was in charge of on Chebeague, Martha contributed much and worked enthusiastically on every project. For many years the CIHS papers and artifacts lived under Martha's watchful eye at Chebeague Island Library. She loved putting up exhibits at the Museum, or being a docent for the summer House Tour, or digging into her own home archives at 32 South Road. Martha had collected treasures for her attic over her lifetime on the island, and she was more than happy to share them. The aforementioned are only a sample of her helpfulness at this Chebeague institution. She will be fondly remembered at CIHS. And we hope she continues to entertain the troops. Rest in peace, MOH.

JF editor

Mystery Photo ~ Fall 2014



Photos-CIHS Collection

Once in awhile we find a stumper and this was one of them. That is not to say that some folks didn't get it right, but most of the guesses were wrong! Ironically, one of the people to get it wrong was Joanie B. Robinson whose house is on the left of the photo! This photo helps us to understand why the road that traverses the field is known as Fenderson Rd. The house in the distance is the Willard Fenderson house now owned by Susan Stranahan. Fenderson's Clam Factory's roof can be seen on the shore between the flag and the Fenderson house. You will note that this area was a field with just a little brush in a few places. Originally, it was part of the 50 acre Simeon Hamilton homestead. His original home, formerly owned by his great granddaughter, Charlotte St. Cyr, is out of the view of the camera. Hamilton lived the last years of his life in the house now owned by Ed and Julie Dougherty. After Simeon Hamilton's death in 1880, his children divided up the estate.

The Loder Family Voted off the Mainland

by Chris Loder

On South Road, across from the Island Commons, one can usually find at least one of the Loder family outside with a greeting. If it is not Christopher or Caroline, it may be Thaddeus, Sascha, or Savannah, but most likely it is Margo-the-dog, or one of their 16 chickens. How did the Loders get here? And more importantly why? What were they thinking?

The answer to the first question is easy, one September, Leon Hamilton found the Loders wandering around the Cousins parking lot with a UHaul, a Saab station wagon and two trailers, one with a boat, the other with a chicken coop. They were looking for a barge.

Growing up, both Caroline and Christopher were attracted to islands. Caroline grew up in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom visiting islands and lakes on family vacations. Christopher, born in Alaska, grew up largely in New Hampshire and spent summers sailing on the coast of Maine in the family cruising boat. "We would pull into an island harbor and see kids my age playing in their island homes, I always thought those kids had it right," says Christopher. On their first date, Christopher asked Caroline where she wanted to live. Her reply "On a Maine island, in a timber frame house". For each of them, that was the right answer.

Both have traveled and sailed extensively, having lived in states on both coasts as well as multiple countries overseas. Their mutual desire to live "simply" on a Maine island by choice was a big deal: twelve years on it is just as important! They both look at Chebeague's Islanders as being fortunate. Islanders were born in a geographically convenient location (on the island), rather than being from away. The Loders had to work for it.

"We chose Chebeague very intentionally," says Caroline. "We were living overseas, researching which Maine islands

would be best for our young family, balancing community, school, work opportunities, and house we could live in."

It took a few moves to get everything lined up. After their return from Munich, Germany, where Savannah was born, they settled on a farm outside of Brunswick. It was there that the pieces began to fall into place. Caroline was tracking down anyone who rented or wanted to sell a house on Chebeague Island. (You may even remember her signs posted at the market.)

"Two years ago we went to the Island Talent Show, to introduce ourselves and

get to know the community a bit," says Christopher. "At one point, I introduced myself to Bev Johnson, declaring our goals and desires. She looked me straight in the eye and replied 'We know who you are and why you are here'. Stunned, I looked at her and at the other folks around the room. We could not have been more 'from away', but this feeling of connectedness and community was exactly what we wanted."

On September 18, 2013, the Loders moved all their worldly goods into their new island home. They had never even spent a night on Chebeague.



Thaddeus, Christopher, Margo, Savannah, Caroline, Sascha

Photo-Loder Collection



The Sloop's log
Chebeague Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 28
Chebeague Island, ME 04017

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Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Spring 2015
Issue

Mystery Photo

This photo was part of a digital collection that came to the Museum via the West Coast. One of the children lived out her life in Oregon, while another moved to Texas. The houses in the background should be a clue to where they are standing. As always please call Donna Damon (846-5140) or email: history@chebeague.net with your guess.

the Sloop's Log

