



2017.13.27

the Sloop's Log

Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Fall 2013
Issue

Editor's Notes

Dear Sloop's Log Readers,

Autumn rolls around after a busy summer on Chebeague. Our Museum has done well: the gift shop has been successful and this year's exhibit, "No Idle Hands," has attracted many visitors – some who remember the works of some of the folks they knew in years past and some to become acquainted with various types of handcrafts that their grandparents made. Many thanks go to the Chebeague households that made this

show possible. We also had another very successful House Tour, thanks to Mary Holt and her hard working crew.

There were interesting evenings spent with George Daughan, who gave a talk on three important Naval Actions during the War of 1812; Jim Millinger, who spoke on Winslow Homer and the Sea; Greg Paxton of Maine Preservation, who spoke on historic preservation of historic buildings. We were also honored to have Earle Shettleworth speak on architecture at our Annual Meeting.

This issue of the Sloop's Log includes the Census of 1860 as well as an article on early farming on the Island. Ken Hamilton writes about the history of the Chebeague Rescue units. Also included are a lovely rambling poem of fisherman lore from the West End, the stories of two special stones in the Cemetery, some news from the Six Town Times in 1893, and a wonderful school picture from Sylvia Ross. See how many you can recognize!

We make note of two departures – the one a revered West End fisherman, Sanford Doughty, and the other, an East End crafter, collector and past Postmaster, Betsey Ross.

Sincerely,
Susie Stavropoulos,
Sloop's Log Editor

Our address is:
Chebeague Island Historical Society
PO Box 28
Chebeague Island, ME 04017



Photo-Mabel Doughty Collection



Photo-CHHS Collection

Top left: Mabel and Sanford Doughty with Granddaughter Amy.

Left: Jennifer Smith Belesca, Diane Slowik Brewer, Betsey Ross, Vicki Riddle Todd, Kim Kuntz, Angela Varney.

Chebeague in the 1860 U.S. Census

By Morrison "Toby" Webb

Page No. 33

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Cumberland in the County of Cumberland State of Maine, enumerated by me, on the 19th day of June 1860. Willard Blough Ass't Marshal 541

Post Office Cumberland Center.

Dwelling-house—number in the order of visitation.	Family—number in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, { White, { Black, { Indian.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
252	267	David H. Rugh	38	M		Fisherman	500	100	Maine				
		Rachel	40	F					"				
		Martha	17	F					"				
		Frederic	14	M					"				
		Emma G.	3	F					"				
253	268	Josiah Wallace	26	M		Fisherman		50	"				
		Lilian	35	F					"				
		Joseph	7	M					"				
		Emery	1	M					"				
252	269	Seacher Soughly	30	M		Fisherman	500	40	"				
		Olivia	37	F					"				
		May J.	6	M					"				
253	270	Stephen Soughly Jr.	32	M		Fisherman	300	20	"				
		Mary E.	28	F					New Jersey				
		John C.	9	M					Maine				

In 1860, the U.S. government conducted the second nationwide census in which every resident was listed individually by name. The handwritten census pages for the town of Cumberland, now available online at a number of websites, include a lot of information about Chebeague Island's 499 inhabitants in that year. There were many more year-round residents on the island just before the Civil War than there are today.

Chebeague had grown dramatically in the prior decade. There had been 379 residents in 1850, so the population had grown by 32% to 499 in just ten years. Two hundred seventy-two were males, two hundred twenty-seven females.

From eleven recorded households in 1790, to thirty-nine in 1850, there were 100 family groups in 84 distinct dwellings in 1860. (In an accompanying article, Donna Damon discusses the fact that some of the separate "dwellings" counted by the census-taker may have been under the same roof.) The many young men of Chebeague's third or fourth generations were old enough by 1860 to have started families of their own. Fifty-three men were ages twenty to thirty, forty-four percent of all the males 20 and above, while only 28 men were fifty or older. Two hundred sixty-one individuals, or well more than half of the island population,

were less than 20 years old. The number of young people attending school had grown in the decade from 139 to 191, or 37%.

Families we have come to know into the twenty-first century were well established on the island by 1860. Among many familiar names, there were 106 Hamiltons, 34 Doughtys, 35 Rosses, 30 Littlefields, 22 Webbers, 18 Thompsons, 17 Johnsons, 16 Mansfields and 16 Hills, 11 Bennetts, 7 Cleaveses and three Bownes.

A few early settlers were living well into old age. In this year just before the start of the Civil War, Ambrose Hamilton, who was a son of the first Ambrose on Chebeague and who had lived through the American Revolution as a child, was 90, the island's oldest inhabitant, living with his daughter, Dorcas Ross. Ambrose's brother James was 81, and their sisters, Jane (Hamilton) Curit and Lucy (Hamilton) Hill were 87 and 77. Jonathan Webber was 78 and Sarah Henly was 88.

The population explosion on Chebeague forced a change in the island's economy. Twenty years earlier, one hundred fifteen people had been listed in the 1840 U. S. census as involved in agriculture and only twelve in maritime activity. It was an island of farmers, as it had been from its settlement. But in 1860, the numbers were dramatically reversed. One hundred and

four men looked to the sea for their livelihoods (Ship Master, Seaman, Coaster, Fisherman or Calker), while only 28 called themselves farmers. And this appears to have been a generational shift: of those calling themselves farmers, only eight were under the age of forty, while fifteen were over fifty, including Barneville Johnson at 71, Daniel Morse at 75, Jonathan Webber at 78, and James Hamilton at 81! Only two household heads in their twenties called themselves farmers: Stephen Curit and Nathaniel Long, while twenty of their head of family twenty-something peers had seagoing professions. Perhaps this was because land for extensive farming was no longer available on the crowding island; perhaps it was because the financial returns from slooping and fishing were much greater than farming could offer, but a significant change had taken place. There were few male professions other than farming and the sea: five men were carpenters or day laborers, 2 were traders and 2 clergy. Three females were domestic servants, two were seamstresses and one was a dressmaker.

Of the 191 students that year, 25 were eighteen or older, continuing a pattern we first noticed in the 1850 census of seagoing boys apparently returning to school in the winter months to finish their studies. Eight of these students were in their twenties.

The simple listings of the census do not merely reveal statistics about the island population, they also suggest questions about the individuals in that community. Elizabeth Kirk, 9, is staying with the family of Warren Taylor in the household of Charles Hamilton. John Kirk, 7, lives with Samuel Ross. Sarah Kirk, 5, is with Edmond Sawyer. There are no Kirk adults on the island. What family tragedy befell these small children and how did they come to be taken into the island's homes? Other stories begin to emerge as one studies the cluster of individuals living under each unique roof. Why, for example, do several of the young seamen's wives come from Nova Scotia? How did John Francis, a Portuguese fisherman, come to Chebeague? What became of the husband of Sarah Kennedy, 37, who is heading her household? (That story continues with an entry elsewhere in the census, in the Cumberland mortality census, which lists all deaths in the year ending 1 June 1860: seaman Michael Kennedy, 44, died of accidental drowning in April.) Because the census names these people, we are curious about them as individuals and about the lives they led.

One note on the transcription of the 1860 census that accompanies this article: the census taker has used "Sr.," "Jr.," and "3d" in several places to distinguish males with the same name. These abbreviations do not necessarily mean that there is a direct father and son relationship, however; only that one man in the community with that name is older and that the next is younger. For example, Stephen Doughty 3d in Family 272 is Stephen Waterman Doughty, the son of the head of that household, Job Doughty, and not the son of Stephen Doughty Jr., listed in Family 270.

The transcription omits columns from the census for which there were no entries at all for Chebeague: races other than white and individuals who were convicts, deaf and dumb, mentally ill etc. Spelling is presented as the census-taker wrote it down, although we now may have a different understanding of correct names. The "Grunnells" in family 334, for example, are now known as Grannells. "Thomsons" are Thompsons. But spelling was not standardized even in the 1860s, and misspellings often were based on how the census-taker heard a name. Say "Isachar" Doughty (family 269) out loud slowly and you get a sense of how "Hezekiah" was pronounced by the family.

Dwelling	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Value RE	Value PE	Birthplace	At School
227	237	Henry Mansfield Jr.	46	m	Farmer	4000	500	Maine	
		Rachel Mansfield	47	f				Maine	
		James E. Mansfield	19	m	Seaman			Maine	
		John F. Mansfield	18	m	Seaman			Maine	1
		Joseph H. Mansfield	16	m				Maine	1
		Isaiah Mansfield	14	m				Maine	1
		Lemuel C. Mansfield	12	m				Maine	1
		Lucy E. Mansfield	10	f				Maine	1
		Justina Mansfield	7	f				Maine	1
		Samuel W. Mansfield	4	m				Maine	1
228	238	Abner C. Hill	37	m	Seaman	275	50	Maine	
		Mary F. Hill	39	f				Maine	
		Emma L. Hill	10	f				Maine	1
		Greenville Hill	5	m				Maine	1
		Theodors Hill	2	m				Maine	1
229	239	Albert Worden	39	m	Day Labourer	300	100	Maine	
		Rebecca Worden	36	f				Maine	
		Albert H. Worden	12	m				Maine	1
		Joseph H. Worden	9	m				Maine	1
		Sarah Witham	77	f				Maine	
230	240	Robert Goud	49	m	C.B. Clergyman		100	Maine	
		Eliza Goud	42	f				N.H.	
		Robert F. Goud	21	m	Day Labourer			Maine	1
		Charles A. Goud	14	m				Maine	1
		Samuel J. Goud	9	m				Maine	1
231	241	Charles Hamilton	59	m	Farmer	800	150	Maine	
		Betsey Hamilton	60	f				Maine	
		William Hamilton	15	m				Maine	1
		Martha Hamilton	11	f				Maine	1
		Warren Taylor	28	m	Ship Master		100	Maine	
		Lucinda Taylor	26	f				Maine	
		Elizabeth Kirk	9	f				Maine	1
		Alonzo S. Taylor	6	m				Maine	1
		Almira Taylor	3	f				Maine	
		Eliza Taylor	1	f				Maine	
232	243	Elijah Soule	49	m	Ship Master	800	900	Maine	
		Elizabeth Soule	49	f				Maine	
		Alonzo K. Soule	21	m	Seaman			Maine	1
244		Gilbert Henly	34	m	Seaman		700	Maine	
		Miriam F. Henly	25	f				Maine	
		Charles G. Henly	3	m				Maine	
		George C. Henly	1	m				Maine	
233	245	Isaac Strout	38	m	House Joiner	400	25	Maine	
		Sarah S. Strout	33	f				Maine	
		Franklin P. Strout	7	m				Maine	1
		Mary M. Strout	5	f				Maine	1
		Deborah A. Strout	2	f				Maine	
		Ambrose A. Strout	3	m				Maine	
234	246	Daniel Morse	75	m	Farmer	1000	125	Mass.	
		Mary J. Patten	42	f				Maine	
		Eustice Patten	15	m				Maine	1
		Woodward Noyes	9	m				Maine	1
235	247	William Ross	37	m	Ship Master	1000	50	Maine	
		Mary Ross	47	f				Maine	
		James W. Ross	18	m	Seaman			Maine	1
		Freeman Ross	16	m	Farmer			Maine	1
		Susan E. Ross	14	f				Maine	1
		Abby C. Ross	9	f				Maine	1
		Norton S. Ross	6	m				Maine	1
		Mary J. Ross	3	f				Maine	
236	248	Enoch Hamilton	49	m	Farmer	500	25	Maine	
		Mary C. Hamilton	39	f				Maine	
		Charinda A. Hamilton	24	f				Maine	
		Ellen M. Hamilton	21	f				Maine	
		Cyrus Hamilton	19	m	Seaman			Maine	1
		Sylvanus B. Hamilton	17	m				Maine	1
		Allen J. Hamilton	14	m				Maine	1
		Louisa A. Hamilton	12	f				Maine	1
		Rufus Hamilton	24	m	Seaman			Maine	
		Alma E. Hamilton	2	f				Maine	
		Ida May Hamilton	4	m				Maine	
237	249	Henry Mansfield Sr.	72	m	Seaman		100	Mass.	
		Thankful Mansfield	66	f				Maine	
		[Dyer family on Stave Island]							
238	251	George Hoyt	25	m*	M.E. Clergyman		100	Maine	
		Sarah Hoyt	21	f*				N. H.	

Chebeague in 1860: Where Cowhide Was as Good as Money

by Donna Miler Damon

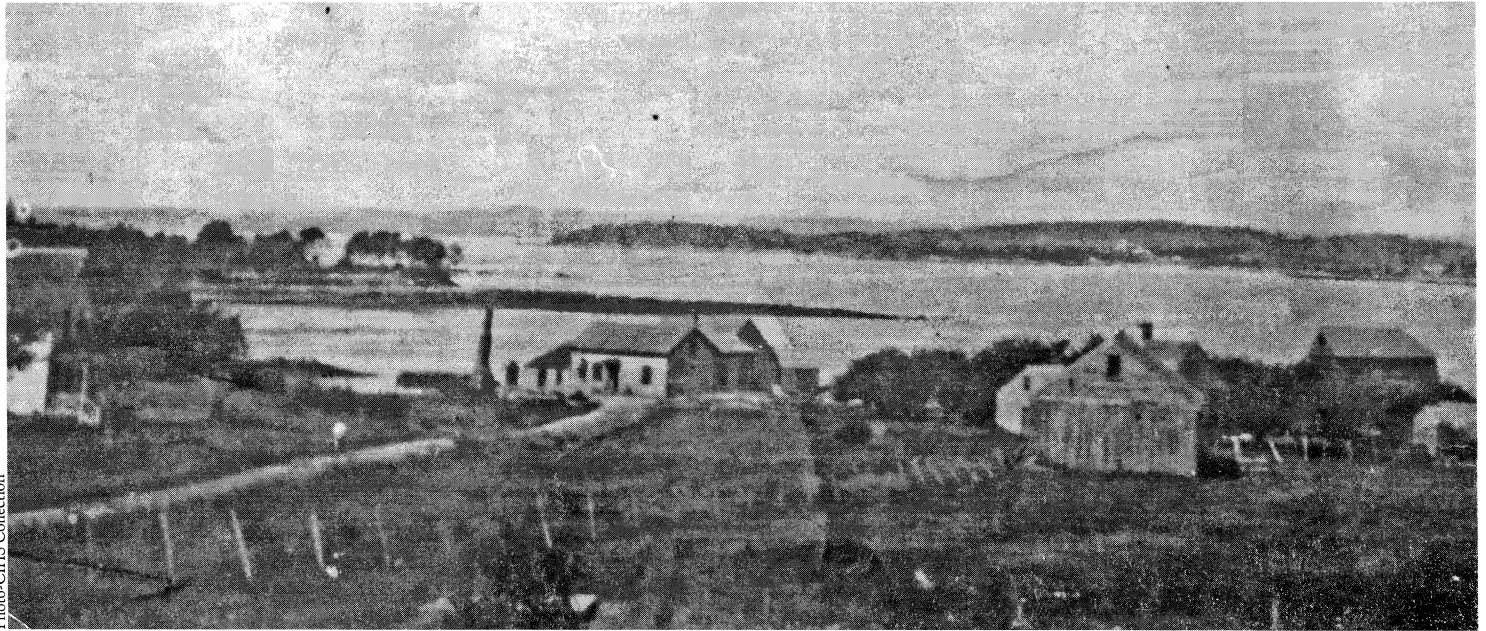


Photo: CHS Collection

By 1860 Chebeague had established itself as a community with two schools, three churches and three stores. Farmers, Henry Mansfield Jr. and Barneville Johnson operated stores on the respective West End farms, while farmers, John Hamilton 2 and Sam Ross had joined forces to establish Ross and Hamilton, a general store with an inventory that included everything from dynamite to sewing needles. Located on what is now the Stone Wharf, Hamilton's son, James Munroe Hamilton was learning the business in 1860 and considered himself a trader. Of the island's three stores, Ross and Hamilton had the largest inventory and the highest value. Sam Ross and James Munroe Hamilton were each taxed on stock in trade valued at \$500 each, while Johnson and Mansfield were each assessed for \$50 worth of stock. The Ross and Hamilton Account Books and other primary source materials paint a picture of a bustling mercantile establishment where a cowhide or a bushel of potatoes was as good as cash. Thanks to descendants of the owners of Ross and Hamilton, the Chebeague Island Historical Society has a primary source that provides important information about Chebeague's agricultural heritage. Coupled with the U.S. Population and Agricultural

Censuses and the Cumberland Assessors Records, the 21st century researcher can learn much about life on mid nineteenth century Chebeague. Despite the declining number of farmers, agriculture was alive and well on Great Chebeague in 1860. Families helped each other and the stores provided a market for the farms' surplus.

During the 1850s the Town of Cumberland laid out what eventually became North and South Roads and established Mansfield Road as the island's first cross road. Now known as Lover's Lane, Mansfield Road ran from an earlier West End Schoolhouse on South Road to the North Road near Deb Hall's house. Even though the roads created a common path of travel, they ran through the island's many farms. In his book, *The Stone Sloops of Chebeague*, William Hauk recorded a story passed on by Roswell Hamilton (b. 1838) that in the 1860s thirteen pasture gates were located between the East End and the Church. Based on property records of the era, one can imagine where the gates were located along South and North Road. A tour of Chebeague written by Edward W. Hamilton in 1859 describes the author's journey along this route. Although he doesn't mention the bars and gates he does note all of the farms through which he passes (Grannell Papers). As Toby Webb's article on the 1860 cen-

sus shows, Chebeague was experiencing a population explosion when it grew by 25% during the 1850s. Stone slooping was a bustling business at this time. Although the island still appears to have been defined by farms, the number of farmers identified in the 1860 Agricultural Census declined during the decade of the 1850s from 23 farms in 1850 to 17 in 1860. As the population grew, the number of farmers decreased but the number of barns increased. Whether farmer or sea captain, a barn was a necessity for many families, because the vast majority of Chebeague's households were assessed for livestock. Thanks to the assessor who made notes on the 1861 Cumberland Valuation Records we have a good understanding of the types of livestock that were prevalent on the island in the mid nineteenth century. He even went so far as to list the names of many of the island's dogs! "Milch" or milk cows appear to have been essential for many island families. Cows gave milk, which could be made into butter, and cows could reproduce. Their off spring, if not needed, were slaughtered for "vele" that islanders sold to the Ross and Hamilton store for 4 to 5 cents a pound. Each calf provided 35-45 pounds of meat. The calf's skin was even more valuable and was sold to the store for 14 cents a pound. An average calfskin ranged from 10 to 12 pounds. It is assumed that the store

Left: Road to Hamilton's landing. Hamilton store in center on the wharf and Sawyer/Holmbom house on right. The Cole cottage is on the left. This building was torn down and moved to a location across from Frank Mansfield. It is presently owned by the Oderdas.

Bottom: Corner of South and Wharf Roads. Store on wharf, Cole house on left, Sawyer/Holmbom on right.

then sold the calfskin to one of Portland's tanneries. Ross and Hamilton also bought beef and cowhide from seamen such as William Bennett, who sold 9 pounds of calfskin and 18.75 pounds of "vele" on June 1, 1860, and then sold another 11 pounds of "vele" the next day for a two-day total of \$2.19. Three days later, widow Eliza Hamilton sold 9.5 pounds of calfskin for \$1.33. Mature cattle were usually slaughtered in the fall and winter. John Soule sold 66 pounds of beef on September 15, 1860 for \$2.64 (4 cents/pound). He received \$2.52 for 42 pounds of cow hide at 6 cents a pound. A month later he sold a 52-pound cowhide for \$3.12. The assessor recorded about twenty yoke of oxen as well as several yoke of steers. It is assumed that some of them ended up as cowhide!

Chebeaguers Listed as Farmers in the 1860 Agricultural Census

Jane Webber

Rufus Wasgatt

Stephen Orr

Barneville Johnson Sr.

Benjamin Mitchell

William Littlefield

David Hamilton

James Hamilton Jr.

Simeon Hamilton

Robert Hamilton Sr.

John Hamilton 2

Eunice Soule

Edmund Sawyer

David Hill

Henry Mansfield Jr.

Charles Hamilton

Daniel Morse.

Many families raised a swine. While Ross and Hamilton sold quite a bit of pork, they bought very little from islanders so it is assumed that Chebeaguers raised a swine for their own family's consumption. While the records show that five islanders owned a total of 72 sheep, six farmers are shown as producing 270 pounds of wool. Is it possible that Henry Mansfield Jr. produced 65 pounds of wool but did not own any sheep? Not probable! Occasionally a farmer such as Daniel Morse sold some lamb or mutton to the store.

The Agricultural Census and the Cumberland Assessor's Records noted the presence of horses on Chebeague. It is unclear if the horses were used in agriculture, for transportation, or in some cases, both. Stephen Orr, William Littlefield, John "Uncle Jack" Hamilton, Henry Mansfield Jr., and Daniel Morse each owned one horse while David Hill owned two. Hill did not own oxen, so it is possible that he used a team of horses the way others used oxen and steers. In 1861 the Assessor noted that Stephen Curit and Robert Littlefield also owned horses.

The Ross and Hamilton store recorded many purchases of eggs, chickens, and turkeys from "official farmers" as well as many other islanders such as Ebenezer Hill who sold 6 dozen eggs for \$0.14 per dozen. John Soule sold 32 chickens at \$0.12 a piece. Because of the number of people from various occupations who sold eggs and chickens, an argument can be made that the majority of islanders raised chickens to produce eggs and meat for their own consumption and to earn a little "egg" money!

Corn, barley, and potatoes were the most important crops for the official "farmers". Together these 17 farms produced 362 bushels of corn, 455 bushels of barley and 1290 bushels of potatoes. Their 41 "milch" cows produced 3750 pounds of butter, very little of which was sold to the store.

While some agricultural products may have been shared or bartered between family and other islanders, the Ross and Hamilton store proved to be a source of income for many of the farmers such as Edmund Sawyer. Sawyer's thirty-one acre farm ran from the Golf Course cemetery and included much of the



Photo-CIHS Collection

Course located on the easterly side of Stone Wharf Road. It also extended across the South Road. Twenty-three acres of the farm was used in agriculture. Sawyer was one of the few Chebeagers who had a commercial orchard and sold several bushels of apples to Ross and Hamilton each fall. The store in turn sold apples to islanders throughout the winter. Sawyer estimated his orchard income as about \$10 a year. The store records for 1862 show that Sawyer sold \$12.30 worth of apples at 30 cents a half bushel.

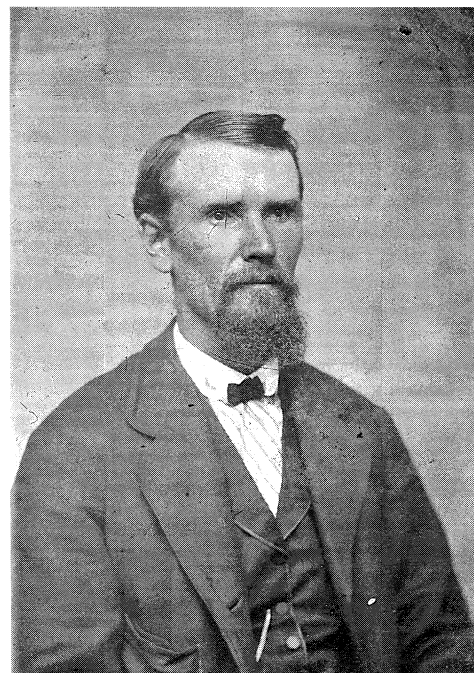
Edmund Sawyer, who lived in the Holmbom house near the wharf, sold 22.5 bushels of potatoes to the store in 1861. The value of the potatoes changed with the seasons. Ross and Hamilton bought potatoes in early August for 33 cents for half a bushel. However, the store resold the potatoes to the sloop Belle Savage for 40 cents a half a bushel. By then end of September the price had dropped to 20 cents.

Much more information than can be recounted here can be gleaned from the Agricultural Census of 1860 including some surprises! Several teenagers are identified as farmers in the 1860 Population Census. One of these young men, Alfred E. Hamilton 17, was in fact one of the captains of the sloop, Hero. While Alfred may have helped his father, Robert Hamilton, on the family farm, he considered himself a sloop captain, later the proprietor of the Hamilton Villa, and Raymond Hamilton's grandfather!

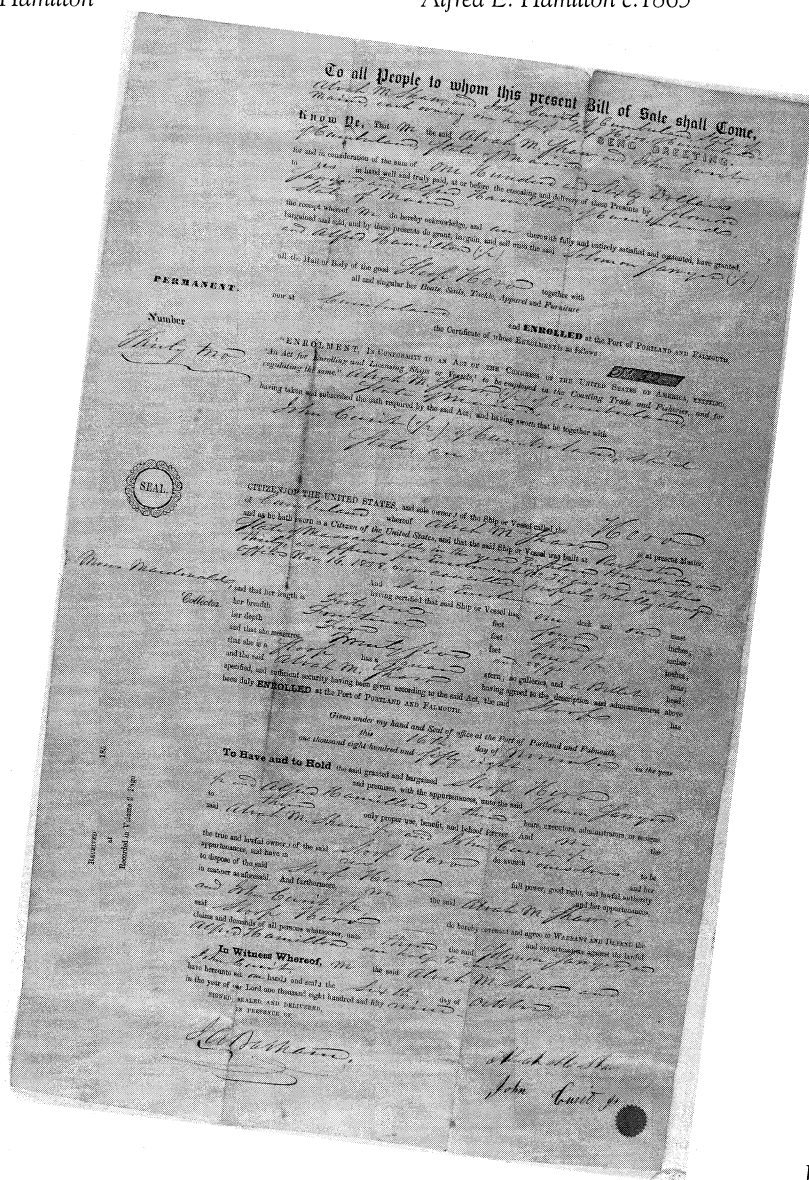
Next spring we will examine the role of agriculture on Chebeague after the Civil War as we delve into the 1870 records. Readers will be surprised to learn that the number of Chebeaguers who are included in the Agricultural Census more than doubled! Why? The answer will be in the next Sloops Log!



Simeon Hamilton



Alfred E. Hamilton c.1865



Bill of sale for the sloop Hero.

Chebeague Schools Years Ago

by Sylvia Hamilton Ross

Thanks to Pamela Johnson for letting us reminisce with this photo that she happened to come across in her home. We think it is unique.

school teacher was (Stanley Libby?), originally from Westbrook, Me., continued as principal/teacher of the High School. (today's

SCHOOL PICNIC-1944 CLASSES 4 THROUGH 6

It has been a challenge for many to help identify all of the children in this photo, especially those who are half hidden in shadows. PLEASE TRY TO HELP US! Remember, this is a school picnic photo taken sixty nine years ago! Some students did not attend the picnic. We believe this photo was taken at Rose's Point. Most of the children have been identified. Some are still in question.

Front Row:
Barry Hamilton,
Suzanne Bennett Jackson,
David Hamilton, Frank "Bud"
Bennett, William Tebbetts,
Wilbert Munroe.

Second Row:
Chaperon/Teacher(?), Herbert
Rich(?), George "Cap" Leonard,
Loyd Parker, Frank "Skip"
Mansfield, Richard "Dick"

Calder, Harland "Chirp" Webber, Mildred
Johnson, teacher.

Third Row:
Constance "Connie" Stilphen Fowler,
Donald MacIntosh, Barbara
Newcomb, Priscilla Stephen Ross, (?), Diane
Webber Calder, Marjorie Small Munroe, (?).

Fourth Row:
(?), Dorothy Newcomb, Elizabeth Stilphen
Ross, Minnie Rich Mac Neill, Larry Bennett,
Douglas Dyer, Marianne Webber Brenton.

Back Row:
Alfred "Freddy" Ross, Byrle Brewer O'Neil,
Nellie Ross Estes(?), Andromache Komlosy
Thurlow, Louise Rich Todd, Sylvia Hamilton
Ross. Richard "Dick" Dyer is behind Freddy
Ross.

Photo-Pamela Johnson



Some people on Chebeague today may not realize that there were three schools on the island and all three schools were in operation in 1942 continuing through 1956. They were the West-end, the East-end and the Central Schools. In fact, they had been in operation since, at least early 1900. It was in 1942 when the superintendent of the Town of Cumberland decided to transfer all fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Central School to the West-end School, thus combining the two schools. The same plan applied to the sub-primary, first, second and third grades from the West-end School. They would be consolidated with the West-enders and transferred to the Central school. According to early Town reports, this plan "may prevent over-crowded conditions," possibly evening out the classes. In 1943, Mildred Johnson was appointed as teacher of the West-end School. The Central

Museum) residing where Marshall Bowen lives on Firehouse Road. He was a long-time teacher on Chebeague and was very well respected. Miss Johnson, a well-liked teacher, lived on Chebeague most of her life, teaching for several years before retiring. Her yellow house at the East End was purchased by Don and Joyce Souchek some forty years ago. The children were very fond of Miss Johnson. Beyond her teaching of the general subjects, she entertained them with the piano and teaching them songs and anthems. She was strict but fun. At home, she enjoyed hooking beautiful rugs. Incidentally, Mr Libby hooked rugs also. This past summer one could see some of Mildred's rugs on exhibit at the Chebeague Museum of History.

Sylvia Ross, former pupil
(Class of '49)

CEMETARY TALES

By Martha O. Hamilton

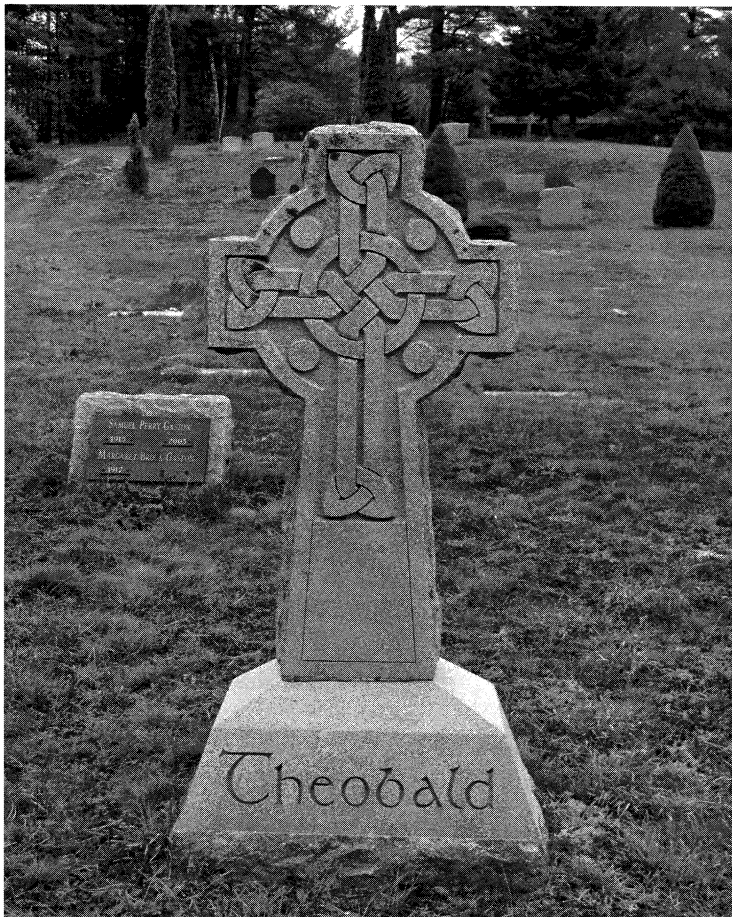


Photos-Cathy Macneill

UNUSUAL SLATE GRAVE STONE

There are several very different slate stones throughout the cemetery, but one in particular has an unusual story behind it.

William (Bill) Feeney was an enterprising young man who decided that the slate cover to the kitchen sink in their cottage on the Back Shore would make a nice marker for his grave at the lot in the cemetery and save them from buying one. He set to work, carving the appropriate top design with the traditional urn and leaves; and eventually his and his wife, Doris' names were added. It is fairly close to the road near the entrance to the Transfer Station. So, say, "Hi" to Bill and Doris as you pass by some day.



THE GASTON PLOT

The Gaston plot was purchased in 1983 following the death of Betsy Gaston's husband, Harry Theobald. His was the first headstone, a simple rectangular granite stone with his name, dates, and military service information. For over 20 years that was the only stone on the plot.

When Samuel Gaston died in 2003, his wife Margaret chose a natural headstone with a bronze plaque that had both of their names on it. She then discussed with Betsy the need for a center monument that would be unique to that area of the cemetery, and suggested an obelisk. Betsy, who didn't care for obelisks and remembered that part of the Gaston family ancestry was said to be Irish, lobbied successfully for a Celtic cross instead. When Betsy visited Ireland years later and saw weathered, lichen-covered Celtic crosses in the churchyards there, she had a strong feeling of "rightness" about the choice they had made for their plot on Chebeague.

Two Foggy Weeks in May

May 23rd
By Nettie Doughty Rich

*In the year of 1928, on a foggy day in May,
Capt. Sid in the "Old Reliable" took his crew and sailed away.
They were anxious to get started and chafed at all delays,
They never seemed to be satisfied 'til they're out of Casco Bay.*

*The poor old Knox protested and got cranky at the start,
But they went to work and coaxed her 'til she worked right good and smart;
She knew it would stay foggy, cause she felt it in her bones,
But she didn't have the heart to balk when she heard their awful groans.*

*First they went to Tenant's Harbor where the Proctor girls abound,
But they didn't get to fishing, there were white waves all around.
There's something about Tenant's Harbor, or perhaps the girls they've met,-
That keeps them right well entertained, about writing home they soon forget.*

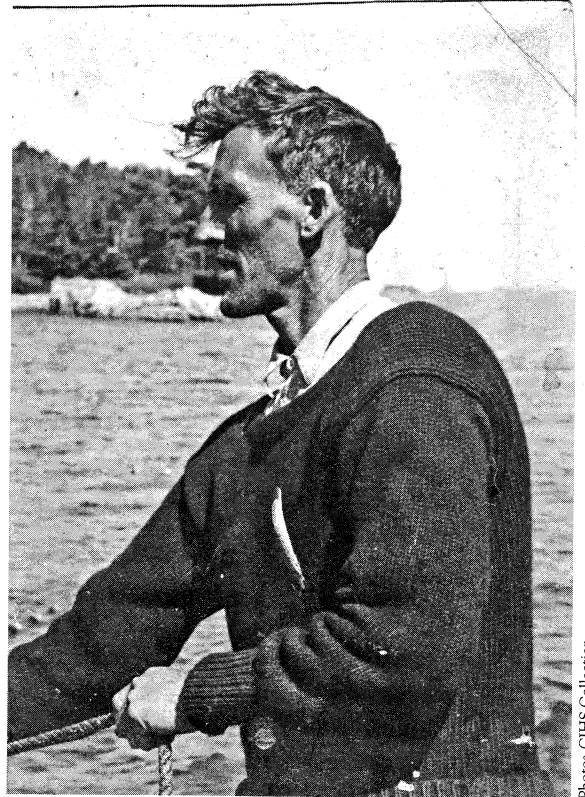
*Port Clyde was the next place that called them, the fishing grounds were handy;
But all they did when they got there was feed Elizabeth candy.
Libby's the charming daughter of the man who runs the store,
And the boys fix up like regular sheiks before they go ashore.*

*They wash their face and comb their hair, and, - yes, they even shave,
But before they'd be that smart at home, their wives would have to rave
They'd like it to stay foggy for a fortnight more, at least,
And then they'd have a good excuse for staying away, down East.*

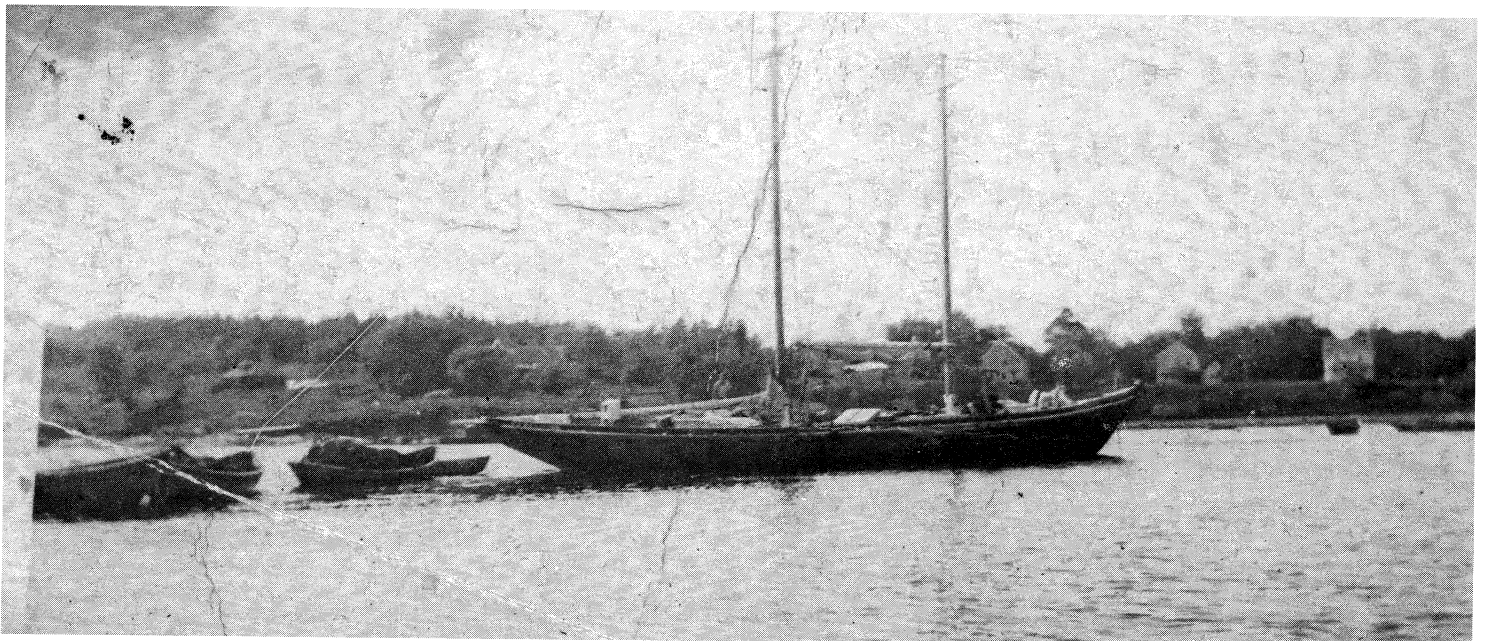
*But their wives have got it in for them, if ever they do get back,
They'll wish they hadn't set sail sooner and put her on the homeward tack.
Venora's got the cleaver, and Etta's got the axe,
Maggie Diggs has got the rolling pin and Lillian some tacks.*

*There are two guys aboard unmarried, Warren and Eben by name,
And Winona and Bertha await them, back at here at Chebeague Island, Maine.
But both girls are getting impatient, and really beginning to frown,
So they won't wait much longer for the boys from Cannibal Town.*

Below:
Sydney Doughty
and the Reliant



Photos-CHS Collection



Intro to *Six Town Times*

by Jane Frizzell

The articles below appeared in the *Six Town Times* in 1893. The *Times* was a local newspaper serving the towns that had been included in the old town of ancient North Yarmouth. Though Chebeague Island was part of Cumberland at that time, it had its own reporter. We are not sure who this person actually was, but he appears to have been much interested in reporting the news from the Methodist Church, the Golden Cross Hall, and the local "gossip;" and he considered himself somewhat of a wit.

The following excerpts show us what life was like for Chebeaguers 110 years ago. There was lots of fun at social occasions, but it was not all a rural idyll, as you will see.

Six Town Times

March 16, 1893

CHEBEAGUE

No services were held at the M. E. Church on Sunday last on account of the storm.

Mr. Henry Eastman of North Conway is visiting friends on the Island. Although a man of over 80 years of age, he still carries his violin with him and plays with all the vigor of a man much younger.

There is still very much sickness on the Island. Among the number are Capt. Robert Hamilton, Mrs. Mahala Smith, Capt. S. (Sewall) M. Curit, Ephraim Hamilton, Master Eli Ross and very many more.

Mr. F. (Fred) G. Hamilton and wife of South Portland spent the Sabbath with Mr. Hamilton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. (Henry Oren) Hamilton.

The ice in the bay has nearly all vanished. The much talked about bivalves will now have to suffer.

At the district school meeting, No. 9, held on the evening of March 10, an action was taken worthy of mention. "On motion, voted to pay the person complaining of anyone cutting or unreefing the hal-yards on the flag staff \$10. S. B. (Stephen Bennett) Hamilton was chosen agent for the ensuing year.

One of our grocers thought he would adopt the monthly payment plan, so accordingly he sent all of his delinquent customers one on the first of the month through the mail. Well, we won't say much about it, only, he is still alive.

Our pastor, Rev. James Wright, has a little boy very sick with pneumonia.

The S. of T. (Sons of the Templars) gave an ice cream supper at the U. O. G. C. (Golden Cross) hall on the evening of the 10th. A good time is reported.

A bet between two of our most worthy citizens, a Democrat and Republican, respectively, as to whether fraud had been perpetrated within the Democratic ranks at the recent election in Portland was finally settled by the statements in the *Portland Argus* of the 11th. A first class supper for two at the Falmouth (Hotel) will be paid for by our Democratic friend.



Jon Rich
drawing of the
Chebeague
Methodist
Church

Littlefield family reunion 1897.
The large Littlefield family pictured here
would have known well the people and
stories from the 1893 Six Town Times.
Wm. T Littlefield in front center
with large white beard



Six Town Times

October 1893

CHEBEAGUE

Wm. (William) T. Littlefield is recovering from his illness rather slowly.

Mrs. Lillian Doughty is quite sick. Dr. Hale is attending her.

Geo. (George) W. Littlefield is intending to make an addition to his house soon.

H. (Hudson) S. Emmons has exchanged his bicycle and got a new one with pneumatic tires. It is a fine wheel.

The members of the Banner Commandery had a very lively discussion last Saturday evening on the question: "Resolved that men's thoughts have done more for the world than men's actions." The question for the next meeting is: "Resolved the country life is preferable to life in the city." The discussions of these questions are very interesting and members should be prompt in attending the meetings.

Mrs. John A. Hamilton met with a bad accident last week. In endeavoring to tie a cow to an apple tree she got one of her

hands entangled in the rope, breaking one finger and otherwise bruising her hand severely.

We understand that Capt. Samuel Ross has purchased a schooner with which to engage in the smelt catching business. There are about a dozen gangs engaged in the business from this place. They are meeting with very good success.

Capt. Everett Doughty and crew met with unparalleled success in sword-fish catching this season, the crew sharing about \$300 each, the result of ten weeks' fishing. Capt. Doughty has always been very successful, or to use a popular fishermen's phrase, lucky in his business. But we doubt if luck has much to do with his success as the ability and push of the man.

Miss Belle Wright is teaching school on Hope Island. This is her first experience as a teacher and we wish her success.

Burglars attempted to enter Capt. Q(?) H. Webber's house a few nights ago. They gained an entrance to the cellar and attempted to force the cellar door. The noise they made was heard by Capt. Webber's wife, who being a lady of great courage, instead of covering up her head as a women is supposed to do under circumstances of this kind, raised her chamber window and yelled loudly. She succeeded in arousing her nearest neighbor, Mr. Hamilton, who, like a knight



Photos-CHS Collection

The bicycle shown must be similar to the one purchased by Hudson Emmons, mentioned in the fourth paragraph.

errant of old, arming himself with a shotgun, rushed boldly to the rescue. The parties who came to "burgle" hearing the racket rushed from the cellar and made good their escape. The only "swag" they succeeded in "swiping" was some beef-steak the lady of the house had for next day's dinner.

Short History of the Chebeague Rescue

by Kenneth Hamilton

Photo-Ken Hamilton

It occurred to me as I was reading an old copy of the *Nor'by East* that folks might be interested in the beginning of the Chebeague Rescue.

(The *Nor'by East* was a Casco Bay Island Newspaper published by a family on Peaks Island.) The Rescue got its start in the late 60's when the State of Maine passed a law which required all ambulance personal to hold a State license. At this time the Rescue was part of the Fire Dept. Linden Smith was the Fire Capt. and he had asked Ken Hamilton to be the first Capt. of the Rescue. The *Nor'by East* begins its story with the following paragraph, "Fall, 1979, saw the first woman join the Chebeague Rescue Team. According to Rescue Capt. Kenneth Hamilton, "they are doing a great job, responding to rescue calls and accompanying the unit to all fires". Sue Burgess, one of the new members, reports on the workings of the Rescue Team.

To the Rescue

by Sue Burgess

"Broken bones, heart attacks, ingested mushrooms, dog bites, bee stings, dislocated joints, amputated fingers, car or motorcycle accidents—a Chebeague dial spins the number of the Cumberland-Chebeague Fire and Rescue. The monitor- radios in the homes of firemen and rescue team sound the alarm- tone, the dispatcher in Cumberland broadcasts the location and nature of the call. Within minutes Chebeague Rescue 116 crewed by the first members to arrive at the station is 10-8 {in service} In less than five minutes, joined by other members of the team, they are at the scene with the necessary equipment and most important, their training in First Aid, Life Support including cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, and crash injury management. If a decision is made to transport, the dispatcher alerts the water



Beth Ross Wiles, Susan Whitney Burgess, (Bev Johnson?) in center.

taxi and the Cumberland Rescue Squad, the patient is made secure and comfortable on a stretcher, loaded carefully into the Rescue Vehicle for the trip to the Stone Pier. From there, he/she is taken to Cousins Island where the Cumberland Rescue is waiting to take the patient on the last leg of the trip to a Portland hospital. The approximate time between the call for help and the arrival at the hospital is about 47 minutes.

Volunteer involvement in rescue work on the part of Chebeaguers is not new. Fishermen in their own boats have more than once made hasty trips to Portland with injured neighbors. Around 1952 the milkman used his truck to carry stretchers.

The first island ambulance was purchased and maintained by the Chebeague Island Council. Emergency calls were received over the "Red Network" telephones that also called out the firemen. As a result of medical opinion that a victim has an increased chance of survival if his/her condition was stabilized before transport, a law was passed in 1968 requiring that all ambulance drivers and attendants take a qualifying exam for licensing by the state. To prepare for this exam, the rescue volunteers completed an

Ambulance Attendants Course set up and instructed by a staff of doctors at the Maine Medical Center.

In 1974, the Town of Cumberland apportioned a budget for the Rescue Unit and the ambulance now in use was purchased. A 1974 Ford Econoline Van, the vehicles' interior was customized by a Chebeague volunteer carpenter, donating his time and talent, with help from other members of the Rescue Team and advice from Cumberland rescue workers.

The interest, involvement, and support of rescue work on Chebeague has been consistently growing. In the summer of 1979 a Crash Injury Course taught by instructors from SMVTI saw 20 Chebeaguers attending 50 hours

of classes on the island. Instruction included training in CPR, patient surveys, splinting, bandaging, oxygen therapy, proper handling of stretchers, and psychological first-aid. One August Sunday the school yard was a disaster scene as 'victims' were extricated from 'wrecked' automobiles brought from the dump for the purpose. Upon completion of the course, the Chebeague Rescue Team had 8 new members-7 of them women- and a total of 15 volunteers who meet bi-monthly to refresh their knowledge, practice drills' and plan for the future.

Chebeague is highly appreciative of the whole-hearted support from the Town of Cumberland and justifiably proud of the men and women who volunteer their nerve and knowledge for this necessary health service.

Members are: Kenneth Hamilton (Capt.), Everett "Bill" Ross (Lt), Robert Parker, Linden Smith, Doug Ross, Beverly Johnson, Beth Smith, Sue Burgess, Marlene Bowen, Dianne Calder, and Cheryl Buxbaum."

Iwant to very much emphasize that the 40 some years since this publication the Rescue has grown in number of members, training and acquisition of more modern

Lost at Sea Memorial

While living and working on the water provides a sense of peace and tranquility, it can also be a place of danger. Chebeague's *Toll of the Sea* is unfortunately very long. For many years Sanford Doughty talked about creating a memorial to honor all islanders who have died at sea. His intent was to honor those with a Chebeague connection who died on a boat as well as were lost to the sea. To that end the Doughty family and CIHS have established a fund to create a memorial that will document Chebeague's *Toll of the Sea*. Tax deductible donations may be made to:

Lost at Sea Memorial
Chebeague Island Historical Society
PO Box 28
Chebeague Island ME 04017

The Stone Sloops of Chebeague provides a starting place but we know that it is far from inclusive even regarding those people who were lost before 1949 when the book was first published. We will be circulating a draft list in the Calendar, on Chebeague.org, and other places around town. We will also post what we have in the next Sloops Log. We don't want to forget anyone. Please contact Donna Miller Damon, Mabel Doughty, Binkie Boxer, Sylvia Ross or email chebeaguehistory@gmail.com if you know of someone whose name should be added to the list of islanders who died at sea.

We need your help!

equipment. We recognize that Marlene Bowen made us all proud in her capacity as Capt. after Ken Hamilton retired. With more training and dedicated people, we are greatly indebted to our present Rescue Personnel. Thank You All!

Another "first" entirely separated from the previous topic in this same 'Nor by East' paper was the following report: Chebeague Island has sent its first woman representative to the Cumberland Town Council. Mrs. Donna Damon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Miller, Chebeague, traces her roots to Ambrose Hamilton, one of the earliest settlers on Chebeague. She is a teacher at Greely Junior High, a member of Maine Historical Society, and has written some chapters in the Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries.

Still another Chebeague woman who made history in the 70's was Beverly Johnson, who served as the Maine torch bearer in the Winter Olympics. Three Cheers for the ladies of Chebeague!

Museum Gift Shop Open for the Holidays

Don't miss out on some great deals at the Museum Gift Shop during the holiday season. Many items have been marked down and children's books and plant/bell hangers will be 20% off! Buy 10 items or more and receive 10% off your entire purchase (except consignments)! We have a good stock of mugs, wine glasses, cookbooks, and much, much more! Supplies are limited. We will not be reordering until spring - so don't miss this great opportunity to shop locally!

Holiday Hours:

Black Friday November 29, 1 to 4 • Sunday December 1, 1 to 4
Sunday December 8, 1 to 4 • Sunday December 15, 1 to 4

Something is Always
on Sale at the
Museum

Mystery Photo ~ Spring 2013

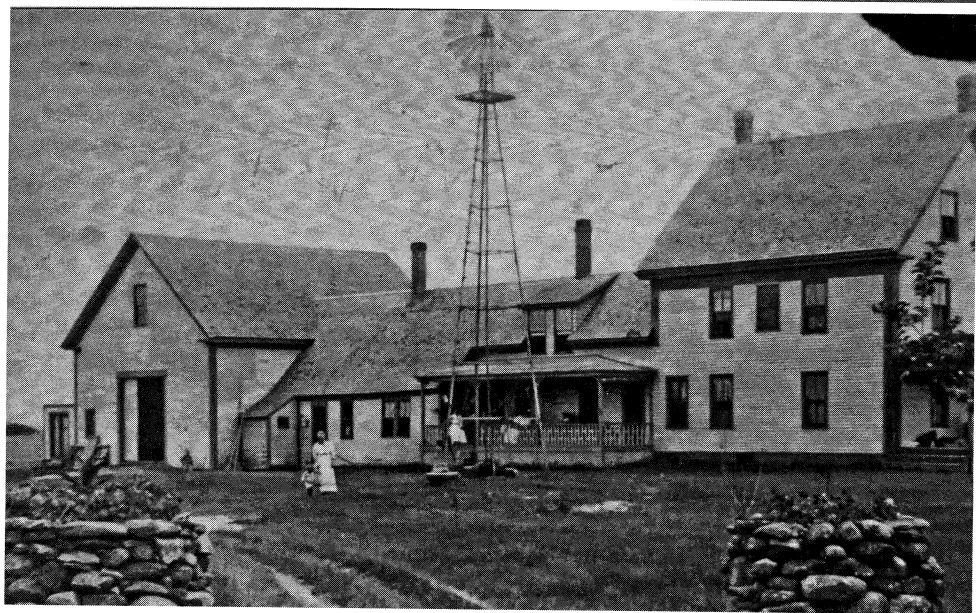


Photo-CIHS Collection

The Benjamin Mitchell homestead was the subject of the last mystery photo. Mitchell built the midsection in the early 1800s on land he bought from John Waite. Located on the East End half of Chebeague the original property bordered the original dividing line, which now separates the Kincaids from the Murrays. Mitchell's granddaughter Adelaide Seabury Gorman Charleson enlarged the property in the early 1900s when she converted the house into a boarding house known as Armordale. The barn may have been moved to its present location at that time. The property remained in the family until the property was sold to the Kaufmanns in the mid twentieth Century. The current owners Bob Levey and Ellen Goodman bought the house in the 1980s. The photo above is a more recognizable view of the house.



The Sloop's log
 Chebeague Island Historical Society
 P.O. Box 28
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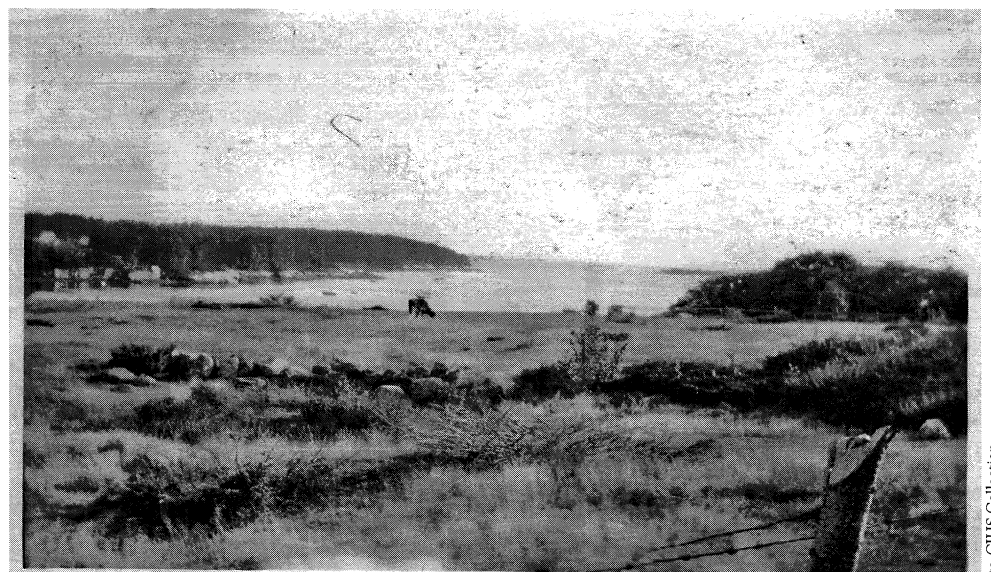
Fall 2013
 Issue

**Mystery
 Photo**

*Can you identify
 this vista?*

*Send us a note or e-mail
 HISTORY@CHEBEAGUE.NET*

the Sloop's Log



Sept. 21, '29

Photo-CIHS Collection