



Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Fall 2016
Issue

the Sloop's Log

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Fall 2016 issue of your Sloop's Log. This issue will be a little different, as we will be presenting part of our summer exhibit in this volume. The Chebeague Recompense Fund helped the CIHS with a grant for the production of our show on Chebeague Domestic Architecture this year. As part of our thank you, we are publishing sections of this exhibit in this Sloop's Log and will present the section on Greek Revival/ Transitional architecture in the Spring issue. Notice that the middle section of the Log can be removed separately and saved if you so desire.

Articles in this issue include:

The Toll of the Sea Memorial by Jackie Doughty Trask

The Toll of the Sea Continued by Donna Miller Damon

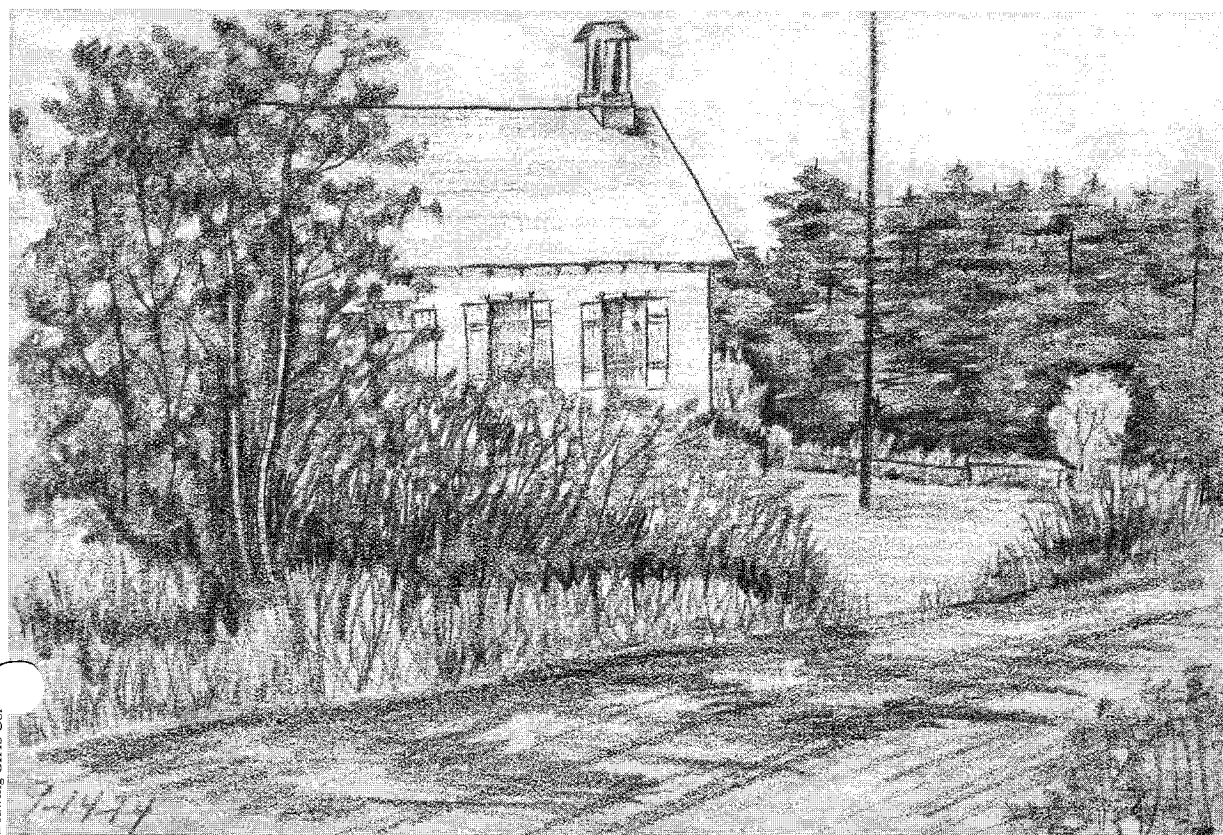
Chebeague's Architecture Exhibit by Earle Shettleworth, Jr.

Chebeague's Domestic Architecture and the Cape Style House
written and formatted by Donna Damon and Toby Webb

Mystery Photo by Donna Miller Damon

Waiting for the Ferry, a poem by Rev. J. Barrie Sheperd

A sketch of the East End District #9 School House from the South Road dated Sept. 14, 1914. The artist was Nellie Hill Hamilton, who lived in the John and Mary Holt house for most of her life. She and her sisters were often passengers on her father, David Hill's, stone sloop.



Drawing CIHS Coll

Thank you
to all our
contributors.

Jane Frizzell,
editor

TOLL OF THE SEA

Dedication and Presentation of Legislative Sentiment

by Jackie Doughty Trask

On Sunday, August 21, 2016, Sanford Doughty's long held wish was fulfilled with the dedication of The Toll of the Sea Memorial at Chandler's Cove Field. During his lifetime, Sanford lost 12 relatives to the sea, including 3 brothers and 6 nephews. He spoke often of his longing that a monument be erected to recognize the many Chebeague lives lost to the sea. More than 225 people attended, including folks from neighboring islands and from as far away as Massachusetts.

Following Sanford's death in 2013, his family designated the Chebeague Historical Society as the recipient of contributions to fund a memorial to the 56 men, women and children who had lost their lives to the perils of the sea between 1801 and 2016.

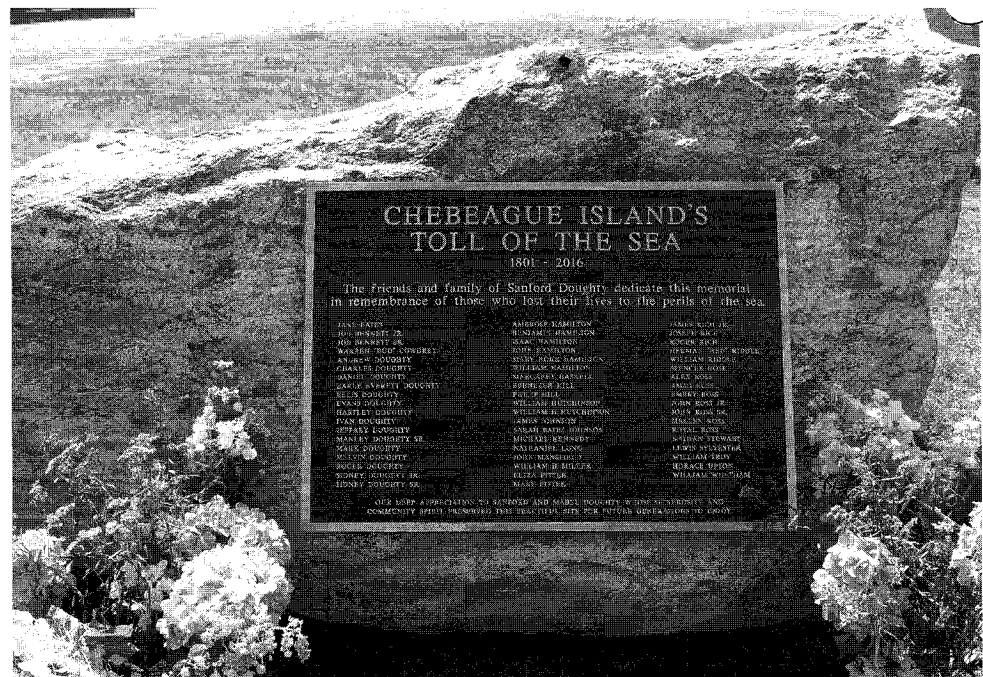
Sanford's family and the CIHS agreed that the Chandler's Cove site was especially appropriate both due to its fishing history and due to Mabel's and Sanford's generosity and vision in creating a community resource there.

Donna Damon and Binkie Boxer, on behalf of the CIHS, were responsible for designing the bronze plaque. Richardson Monuments ordered the plaque, prepared the rock, and affixed it to a native boulder.

Pastor Melissa Yosua-Davis gave the invocation and benediction. Donna Miller Damon explained how the memorial came to be and Toby Webb, CIHS president, spoke about the importance of local history and how it tied into the Toll of the Sea Memorial. Beverly Ross Murray, Sanford's grandniece, read an original poem written for the occasion. The Doughty's grand daughters, Amy and Laura Trask, spoke about their grandfather and his personal losses to the sea. They, with his great granddaughter, Mabel Tyler, unveiled the plaque. The community will long remember Mabel Knowles Doughty for her dedication and commitment to numerous island organizations. Following the Toll of the Sea dedication, legislative members,



All Photos: Cathy MacNeill



Sen. Cathy Breen and Rep. Janice Cooper, formally recognized Mabel's lifetime contributions by reading a legislative sentiment posthumously recognizing Mabel's lifetime of contributions to Chebeague Island. Beverly Johnson lovingly recalled Mabel's many years of working to enrich Chebeague Island's many institutions as

well as her important role in the founding of the Town of Chebeague Island. She Conover, representing the Island Institute, spoke about the importance of service in island communities. Mark Dyer, who served with Mabel as one of the secession leaders, led the gathering in singing "Casco Bay", one of Mabel's favorites.

CHEBEAGUE'S TOLL OF THE SEA CONTINUED

by Donna Miller Damon



Every name on our newly erected Toll of the Sea Memorial Plaque has a sad story attached to it. Some of the most sorrowful are those relating to the loss of children. People were moved by Russ Cleary's retelling of the day that his cousin, Billy Troy, drowned at the Little Chebeague Sandbar. (Sloop's Log Fall 2014) This issue will focus on the tragic loss of Sarah Bates/Johnson, Mary E. Pitree and her sister Eliza, and Earle E. Doughty.

Sarah Johnson

Sarah Johnson was the daughter of Alexander Johnson and Jane Bates. Most of what we know about Sarah comes to us through the stories of our elders, the 1850 US Census, and her sister Mary's death certificate. Sarah was born c. 1843 on either Chebeague or Bates Island. It is unknown what happened to her father, but by 1850 Jane Bates appears to have been a single mother who was raising her three daughters on Bates Island with her mother, Mary, and elderly Alexander Johnson, assumed to be a relative of Sarah's father.

In 1850 Mary was 9, Sarah 7, and Rosa 4. The story goes that sometime in the 1850s Sarah, her older sister, Mary E., and younger sister, Rosa rowed a dory from Bates Island to Stave Island to gather driftwood for fuel. Stave Island has a jagged shoreline with steep shale banks created by the dynamite used by Chebeague stone sloops, when they were blasting rocks to build seawalls and wharves. Ledges surround the island mak-



From left to right:
Jackie Doughty Trask,
Amy Trask, Mabel Tyler
and Laura Trask

The Toll of the Sea Memorial with its Casco Bay backdrop stands as a reminder of the dangers associated with maritime endeavors as well as recognizing the community contributions of Mabel and Sanford Doughty.

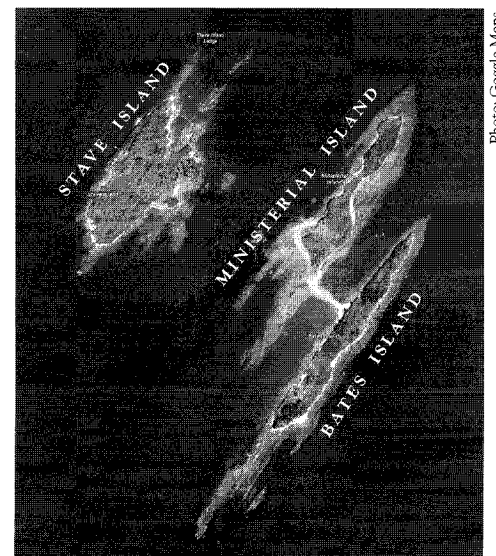
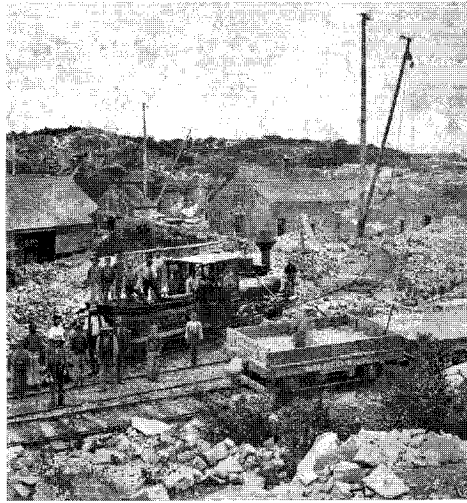


Photo: Google Maps

ing landing difficult around much of the island. When Sarah fell off the ledges, there was little her sisters could do to save her. The dory had grounded out and was full of wood. The girls had been exploring while waiting for the tide to float it. The story goes that their screams could be heard on neighboring islands. The rest of the details are unknown, but one can only imagine the impact the tragedy had on the family and all those who knew them. Sarah's sister, Rosa Johnson Dyer, was an ancestor of Chebeague's Dyer family.

Mary and Eliza Pittee

Mary Upton married Hezekiah Pittee on Chebeague on Christmas Day 1851, and her twin sister, Sarah, married Issac Strout in the double wedding. Both of the grooms were builders who were involved in the construction aspect of stone slooping. Hezekiah Pittee advanced in the business and became a superintendent in lighthouse construction. His position enabled him to help Chebeaguers gain government contracts. Pittee and Strout travelled to St. Augustine in 1872 to build a new tower on a lighthouse. Realizing that the progress was slowed due to lack of funding, Pittee's family joined him in St. Augustine. Mary



The four Pittee children and a young female African American friend rolled down the railway but something went terribly wrong and the brakes failed to stop the cart, and it rolled overboard. The two youngest Pittee children were saved, while Mary, Eliza and their African American friend were lost. The family brought their bodies back to Maine. The family had relocated to Ferry Village, Cape Elizabeth (now South Portland), so the girls were buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. The tragedy reverberated through their extended family living on Chebeague. Jane Frizzell's grandmother, Annie, was one of their first cousins.

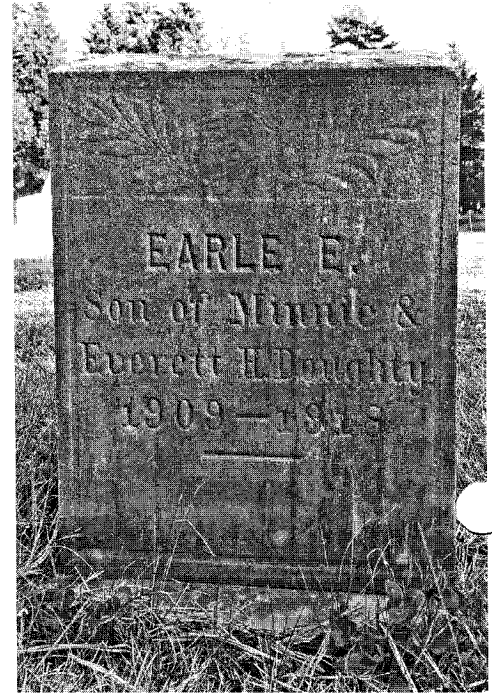
Earle E. Doughty

Everett Doughty, son of Captain Stephen A. and Amelia Wallace Doughty, was living in the original Doughty homestead at Coleman's Cove when he married Minnie Barker from Long Island. He was a fisherman and he and Minnie had a store near their home on the inside of Long Island.

Doughty descendants recall varying versions of Earle's death. One version has the Doughty family travelling by boat to another island to go blueberry picking. Islanders frequently visited uninhabited islands for a day of exploring, picnicking, and picking. The party included Everett, Minnie and sons Evans b. 1905; Milton b. 1907; Earle b. 1909; and daughter Madeline b. 1912. In this account Minnie noticed that Earle was missing and found him floating face down not far from shore. She used a gaff to reach him but he had already passed. The second version has the accident occurring near the family's home on the shore in front of fish houses on Long Island. In both cases it was Minnie who found him. The family was devastated, and relatives on Long Island and Chebeague mourned the young boy.

Everett Doughty's brother, Edmund, named his next son after young Earle.

Madeline Doughty Brewer was a very small child when the accident occurred, but she never forgot the tragedy. When she was well into her 80s she recalled the family rowing the small white casket over to Chebeague for burial. Ed Jenks met them with a horse and wagon down near the Little Chebeague sandbar, and the mourners followed the wagon to the Chebeague Cemetery. Earle E. Doughty was an uncle to Hartley Brewer, Bryle O'Neill, and Sharon Marr from Chebeague.



All Photos: CHS Collect.

When did this happen? That is a good question because the gravestone and death certificate differ. The death certificate gives the date as August 11, 1917, his age as 8, and place of death due to accidental drowning as Long Island. Is that because that is where the attending physician first saw the body? The death certificate also identifies the undertakers as S. S. Rich and Son and E. B. Alexander doing business on Long Island. The date of burial is given as August 14, 1917 at the Chebeague Cemetery. The certificate is stamped Cumberland 1917. So the evidence strongly suggests that the accident occurred in 1917 even though the gravestone gives his dates as 1909-1918. Which is correct? Next stop the microfilm of the Portland newspapers. Hopefully, we'll have the answer published in the Spring issue of the Sloop's Log.



Pittee and her four children, Mary 15, Eliza 13, Edward 9, and Carrie 5 arrived sometime before July 1873. What should have been the experience of a lifetime ended in tragedy.

The family lived in a house near the construction site. One day the children were playing near the lighthouse and decided to take a ride in a handcar that was used to bring supplies and construction materials from the shore to the site. The handcar ran on a rail and was controlled by a break.

Island Homes

Chebeague's Domestic Architecture 1750-1890

The following section of the Sloop's Log is a recreation of the first couple of sections of our current exhibit-2016-2017.

The Recompense Fund helped the Chebeague Island Historical Society with funds for photo reproduction and CIHS would like to show its appreciation by including the beginning sections of our exhibit in the fall Sloop's Log issue.

We will be continuing our exhibit coverage in the spring edition.



Photo: Cathy MacNeill

The front door depicted in the above photo is from the Cape style house built by William T. Littlefield in c. 1846.

This door is more decorated than other Cape doors on Chebeague.
Notice the fan ornamentation above the door and the door's sidelights.

This house is presently owned by Joan Phipps.

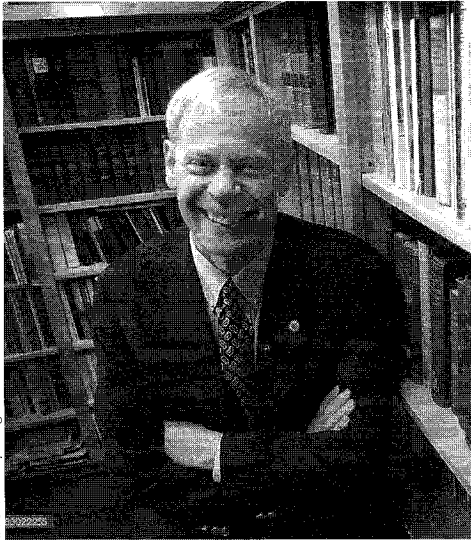


Photo: Getty Image

Earle Shettleworth is Maine State historian and has been a long time friend of the Chebeague Island Historical Society. He attended our first house tour and has been a frequent quest ever since. Earle has given many lectures on Chebeague, and the CIHS was honored to have him deliver the keynote address at the opening of the Museum of Chebeague History. He provided several of the Greek Revival photographs in the current exhibit that he found a box of glass negatives from the 1880s at an auction. He recognized many Chebeague houses and sent copies along to us for identification. Organizations throughout the State of Maine have similar stories.

Earle Shettleworth recently retired from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission after 40 years at the helm. Earle became interested in local history as a young teen after the demolition of Portland's Union Station. While a student at Deering High School, he was one of the founders of Greater Portland Landmarks. Earle received a BA in art history from Colby College and a MA in architectural history from Boston University. He has curated many exhibits, written several books, and given numerous lectures relating to Maine history.

Earle's sister Sara, has been a regular renter on Chebeague for many summers, giving him another reason to be a frequent visitor to the island.

DMD

Since the opening of the Museum of Chebeague History in July, 2003, the Chebeague Island Historical has mounted thirteen summer exhibitions on various aspects of the island's past. These exhibits have been well researched, richly furnished with appropriate artifacts and images, and beautifully designed. In short, these shows far exceed the norm in their professional presentation of informative content. Any historical museum in the state would be proud to claim such exhibitions.

This year's show on the theme of Chebeague's domestic architecture from 1750 to 1890 traces the development of island homes from before the American Revolution to the decades following the Civil War. A progression of Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles dominate this story, which is effectively told through a combination of old and new photographs and detailed captions about original owners, dates of construction, and local builders. While each of Chebeague's architectural periods produced strong examples of national styles, the number of fine Greek Revival capes built between 1840 and 1860 is of particular interest, reflecting the island's mid-nineteenth century maritime prosperity. The exhibit's curators wisely omitted consideration of late nineteenth-early twentieth century summer cottages, which is a stand-alone topic for another day.

Photographs are supplemented with artifacts such as builders' account books, a house painting by the Portland artist George McConnell, and the architect's model for the 1855 Methodist Church. Though not technically domestic architecture, this rare model is one of the treasures of the historical society's collection and deserves to be on view whenever possible.

Through this exhibition and others like it, the Chebeague Island Historical Society makes a significant contribution to educating residents and visitors about the island's rich heritage. This year's annual house tour on the theme of the Chebeague Cape was an appropriate companion to an outstanding show.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
Maine State Historian

Island Homes: Chebeague's Domestic Architecture 1750-1890

Introduction by Donna Miller Damon

The Museum's 2016-2017 exhibit explores the residential architecture of the island during the first century and a half of its permanent settlement. Great Chebeague Island has a rich architectural heritage. More than 140 residential and community structures were built on Chebeague from the time of settlement to 1890, when summer cottages began to be built. In addition, scores of barns, out buildings, clam houses, fish houses and other auxiliary buildings have dotted the landscape. In this issue of *The Sloop's Log*, we preserve the work which created the exhibit and, more important, the fruits of our extensive research.

The evolution of island architecture coincided with the development of the island. From classic Cape Cods and houses

with Greek Revival and Italianate features to the Mansard houses of the 1880s, most similar houses were built during the same era, following the construction techniques and fashions of their times.

The Cape was the predominant style of Chebeague homes from settlement to 1850. However, in the mid-1840s Greek Revival elements were added to a couple of basic Capes. During the next forty years, Chebeague experienced a building boom. The Greek Revival and then Italianate styles influenced most of the island's vernacular architecture during this period.

While some of these buildings have disappeared from the landscape due to fires or neglect, others were razed because the building didn't meet the needs of the current owner. Despite the loss of a significant

number of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, the majority have survived. Of the more than fifty buildings that have disappeared, nearly half exist in photographs. Many of the remaining houses have been renovated and updated, but in most cases some original architectural elements are still evident.

In the mid eighteenth century, before settlement, Chebeague was subdivided into two large tracts of land. By 1840 those two parcels had been subdivided into more than 50 lots. The subdivision of Chebeague continued as new generations of islanders needed housing. These interfamily subdivisions resulted in numerous multigenerational hamlets or neighborhoods. For example, in 1835 Benjamin and Eliza Hamilton Ross built their small Cape Cod house on a fifty-

Cape style, originally built by Simeon Webber c.1807 (not extant), razed pre-1910. Bea York Kendell appears on steps.

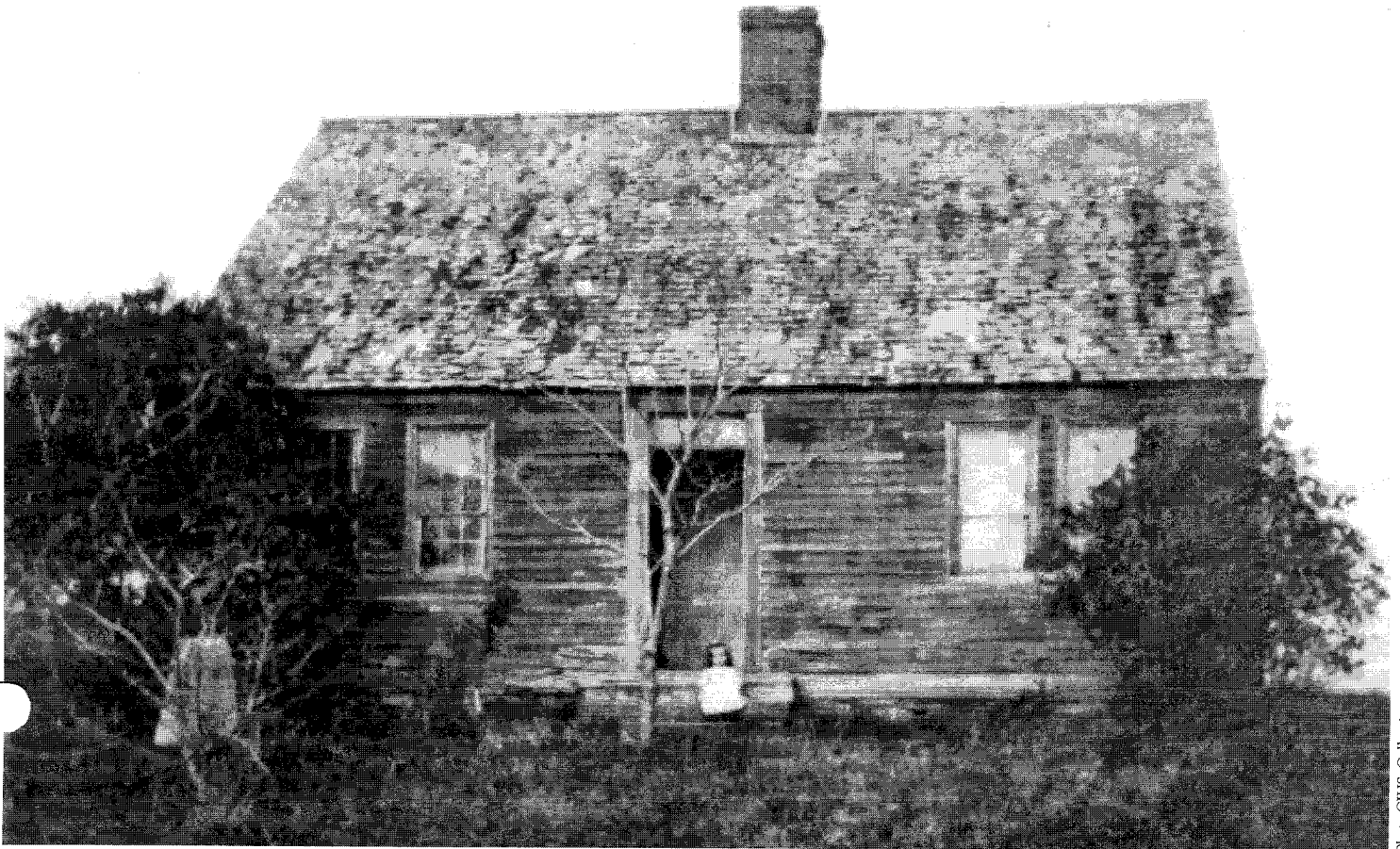


Photo CHHS: Collection

acre parcel that now includes the Grange Hall. As years went by nine family houses were built on that one parcel. The architectural styles of those additional houses represent the era in which they were built. One can stand by the World War I Memorial and literally read the landscape.

Each of the houses presented in the 2016 exhibit has been extensively researched. Some were more difficult than others, because of delayed deeds, unregistered deeds, and lack of early tax assessor's records. Several types of primary resources provide the framework for this exhibit.

The exhibit committee consulted several architectural publications as well as historical maps, U.S. Census records, Cumberland's Assessor's records, property deeds, diaries, the Ross and Hamilton Store Account Books (1854-1870) and historic photographs. All of the construction dates attached to the houses in the exhibit are estimates based on these sources. We welcome written records that may correct any misinformation.

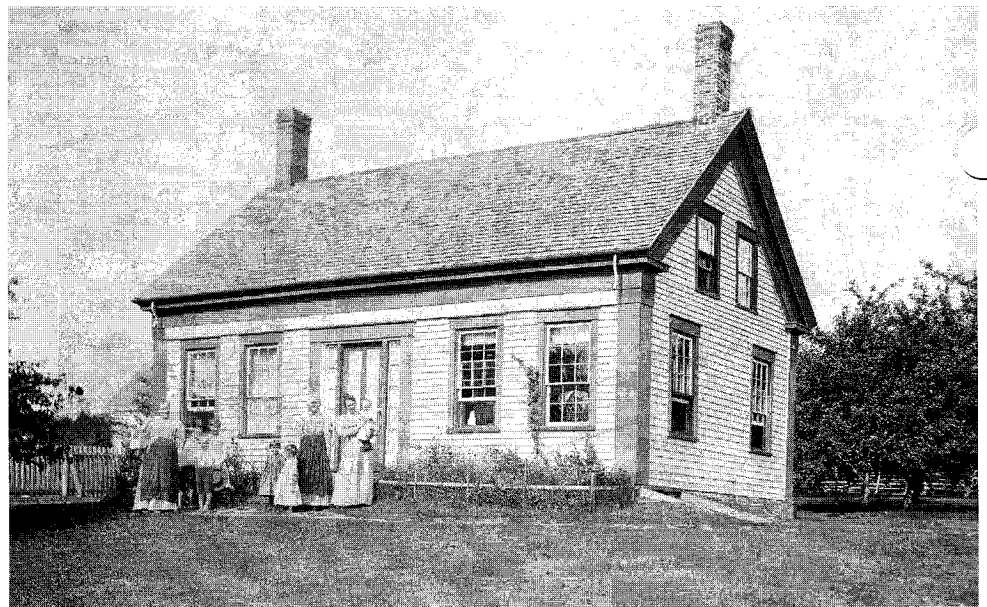
Chebeague's settlement pattern up to 1890 was depicted for the exhibit on a diorama constructed by Michael Hamilton. Through the use of color one is able to see where early settlement occurred and how the island developed over a century.

Thanks to the preservation efforts of Bill and Carolyn Swann, the Chebeague Island Historical Society, and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the exhibit showcases more than 200 historic photographs which have been skillfully reproduced by Grapheteria in Portland. Cathy MacNeill's photographs of houses as they appear today and Alison Paradise's sketches of architectural elements further enhance the exhibit.

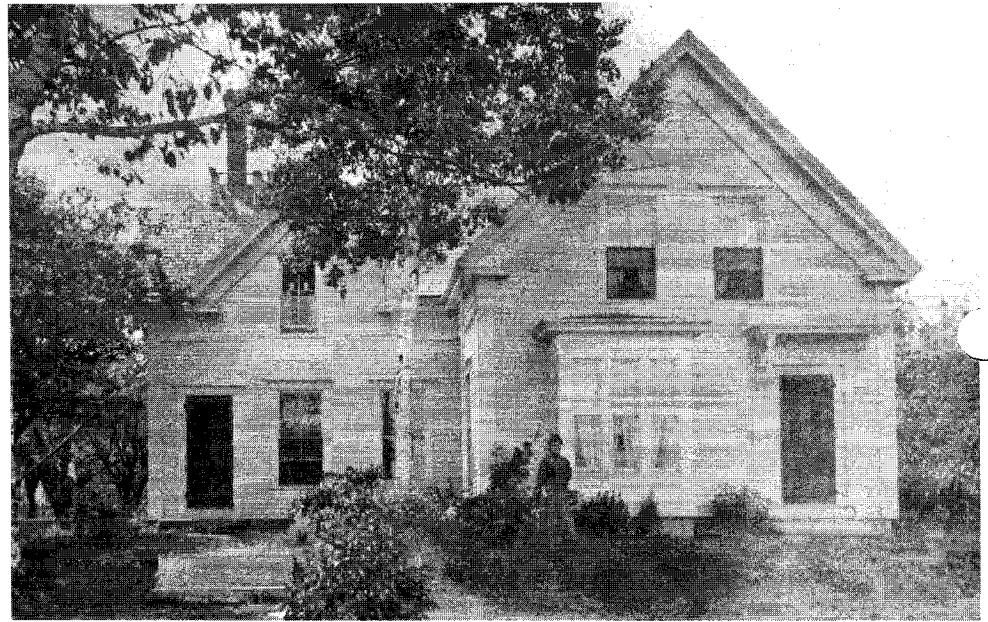
The Exhibit Committee included Suhail Bisharat, Donna Miller Damon, Jane Frizzell, Mary Holt, Cathy MacNeill, Alison Paradise, Pat St. Cyr, and Susie Stavropoulos.

The quality of the exhibit, particularly of its photographs, is due in large part to the generosity of our sponsors: Recompense Fund; W.E. Reynolds, LLC; Manny Morgan; Charles Hall Builder; Grapheteria; and Maguire Construction, Inc. And, of course, of Historical Society members like you!

There were more than 2000 visits to "Island Homes: Chebeague's Domestic Architecture, 1750-1890" during the summer of 2016! For 2017, we invite you to explore, or re-explore, this important look at the way we lived and built across Chebeague.



Greek Revival 1855 John and Statira Hamilton



Italianate Style 1882 Ellis Mansfield



Mansard Style built by Charles Willis Hamilton 1888

Settlement to 1850

The “Cape Cod” House

by Morrison “Toby” Webb

An early British map suggests that there may have been six homesteads on Great Chebeague at the time of the American Revolution. This number may have doubled by 1790 when the first United States census was taken; eleven men were identified as “head of household” on the island that year. Several of those heads of households had bought land prior to 1790, while some of them actually purchased the land several years later. So where did they build and live? Did they plan to buy the land and took a chance to build their homes before the deeds were passed? The records are sketchy for this period.

Little is known about the earliest Chebeague houses, but the ones that have survived are known as “Cape Cods” or simply “Capes”. These houses were low posted, meaning that the distance between the top of the door and the eave was very close. They had a center door that was flanked by one or two windows on either side. This type of vernacular architecture was prevalent throughout New England. It evolved from the early houses in the Plymouth Colony that had been inspired by the English cottages that early New Englanders had left behind. Many were built decades before Timothy Dwight coined the term “Cape Cod” in his 1823 book, *Travels in New England*. Dwight described them as

having “one story and four rooms on the lower floor...the chimney is in the middle, immediately behind the front door; and on each side are two windows. The roof is straight. Under it are two chambers and there are two larger and two smaller windows in the gable end.”

Over the years, several houses on the island have developed an oral tradition of being “the oldest surviving house.” The three usually suggested are the Keazer House near the Stone Wharf, the Hutchinson House near the Methodist Church, and the Wentworth and Elizabeth Ricker House at the top of Indian Point or “The Hook”.



Cape Cod style house, drawing by Alison Paradise

Wentworth and Elizabeth Ricker House c.1788-1792

Now owned by Susan Stavropoulos

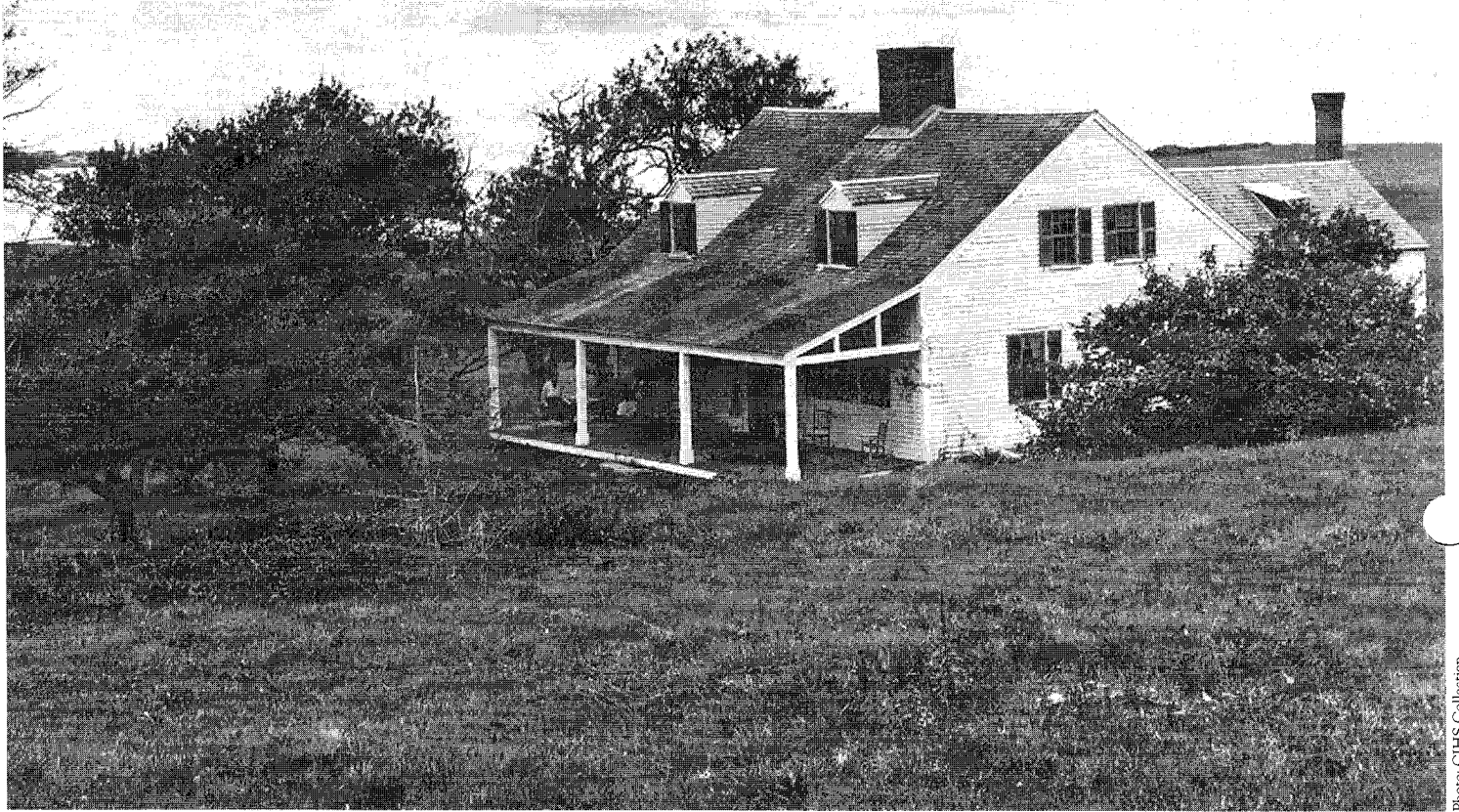


Photo: CHS Collection

The Wentworth Ricker House is a classic Cape with a large central chimney and several fireplaces, including one that would have been used for cooking. The windows have nine panes on the top and six on the bottom, which was typical of the period in which it was built. The front door has Federal trim but lacks the sidelights and transom lights which were often found in later Chebeague houses.

The date of construction of the Ricker House (c. 1788-1792) is an estimate. The Ricker family was living on the island when the 1790 U.S. Census was taken, but Wentworth Ricker didn't formally buy this land until 1792. But this is the oldest documentation of a surviving island residence that has been found to date.

The Hutchinson House now owned by Maine/White has often been referred to as the oldest house, but none of the deeds mention a house until after Richard Hutchinson bought the land in 1807. A 1913 article by Richard G. Albion refers to the Hutchinson House as "one of the oldest houses" on the island. A postcard published after 1917 then called it "the oldest house." There is some oral tradition that it was brought to the island over the ice in the 1760s, but this has not been verified.

Rufus and Nancy Chandler House

c.1792-1796

Now owned by Richard Ross

Zachariah Chandler bought the West End of Chebeague in the late 1740s and divided the land among his relatives. The properties were built upon and eventually sold out of the Chandler family. The Rufus and Nancy Chandler House, c. 1792-1796, (now Richard Ross on John Small Road), is one of the only two existing houses in which a Chandler lived. Rufus was the son of Zachariah's brother Jonathan. The house is a full cape with two windows on either side of the front door. The doorway in the photo of the Isaac Strout family appears to have sidelights, which along with transom lights over the doors were typical additions to Capes of that era. The front door

faces the water, making it a true saltwater farmhouse. The two-story addition at the right of the photograph was added in the 1860s. Wentworth Ricker House is a classic Cape with a large central chimney and several fireplaces, including one that would have been used for cooking. The windows have nine panes on the top and six on the bottom, which was typical of the period in which it was built. The front door has Federal trim but lacks the sidelights and transom lights which were often found in later Chebeague houses.

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Photo: CHS Collection

Isaac and Sarah Strout with extended family. On the far left is Mary Upton Pittee, mother of the two girls who drowned in St. Augustine, mentioned in Donna Damon's "Toll of the Sea" article on page 4.

Reuben and Polly Keazer House

c.1807

Now owned by Ann Holmbom

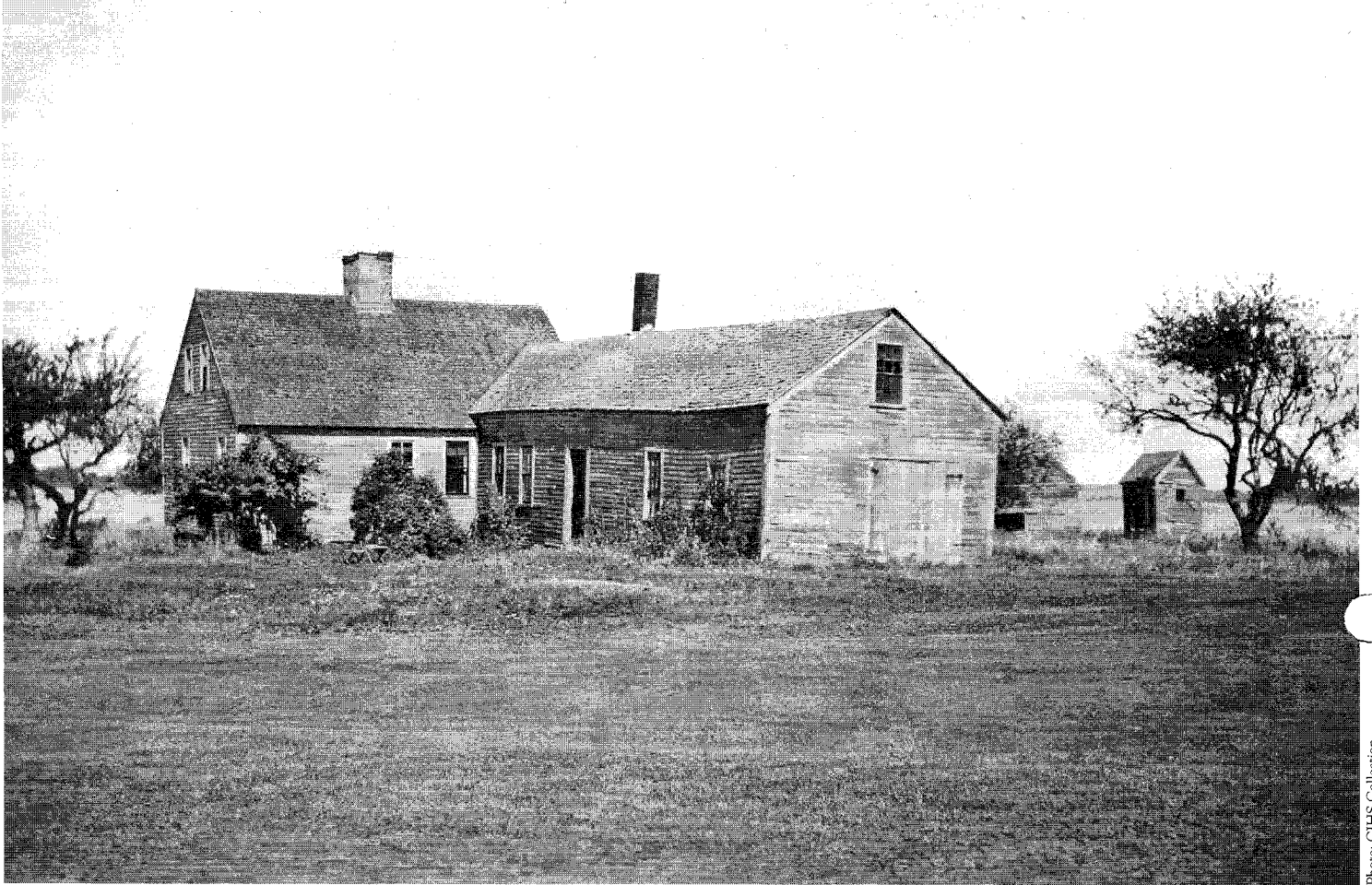


Photo: CIHS Collection

The Reuben and Polly Keazer House (now Ann Holmbom) was one of several homes built in the early nineteenth century on land the owners bought from John Waite, who acquired the eastern half of Chebeague in 1773. The Keazer House (c. 1807) is the oldest extant house without major alterations built on the former Waite land and it is an excellent example of the Cape style. The Benjamin and Hannah Mitchell house (now Levey/Goodman) may have been built a year or two before the Keazers', but the original house there is nestled between a barn and a twentieth century boarding house addition, making the original Cape features more difficult to see.

The unadorned front door of the Keazer house faces the water and is flanked by two windows on either side. The large central

chimney and multiple fireplaces are typical of the era. The rock foundation appears to have been made from stones such as shale, which are plentiful in the area, as well as larger pieces of granite. The corner boards are plain and narrow. The eaves extend down to the top of the door. A later owner may have added the ell behind the house.

The earliest documentary evidence we have found so far thus supports the claim of the Wentworth Ricker House, but researchers remain open to additional written evidence about any other early house. What is important to note is that all of these houses are traditional Capes, built in the manner described by Dwight in his book.

Stephen and Rachel Bennett House c.1807

Now owned by Jane Harrington



The Bennetts moved to Chebeague from Freeport. Rachel Bennett was Deborah Soule Hamilton's niece. They may have settled on Chebeague because of the family connection.

The original house was a typical Federal Cape with sidelights on either side of the front door. Two windows with nine over six panes were located on either side of the front door.

At some point during the first half of the nineteenth century a front gable end addition was added, and the house became a two family home.

Bennett deeded the house to his two daughters, Susan Wallace and Martha Mitchell. Susan Wallace lived there with her family and the widowed Martha Mitchell lived next door.

The main house was razed in the early twentieth century.

Solomon and Ann Sawyer House c.1807

Now owned by the Great Chebeague Golf Club

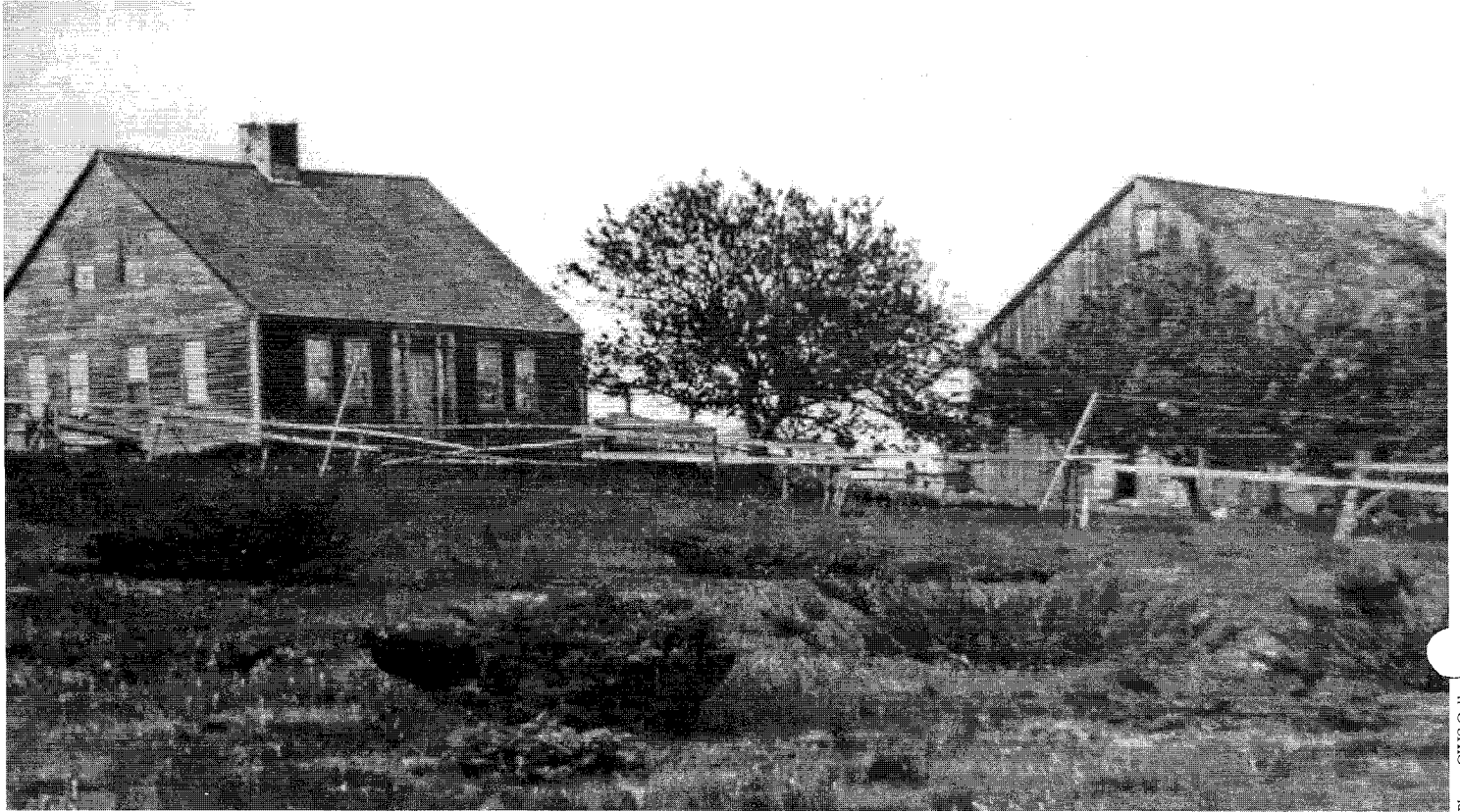


Photo: CIHS Collect

Solomon Sawyer III built his Federal Cape on the farm next to Reuben Keazer in about 1807. The house originally sat closer to what is known as “the East End Cricks.” The house was moved by the Great Chebeague Golf Club in the 1920s, a few years after the Club’s founding, and it is now the clubhouse. The photograph shows the house and barn in their original locations.

The house is a wide Cape with four windows on a side. Although the building was moved, the windows and the sidelights by the front door look much as they did when it was in its original location.

The small cemetery beside the clubhouse originally went with the Keazer house. The Golf Club bought land from both farms and then moved the Sawyer house, which often confuses people studying the cemetery.

Joel and Huldah Ricker House

c.1809

Now owned by David and Clara Hulbert



Photo: CIHS Collection

Around 1809, Joel Ricker built his West End house on a high bluff with a clear view to open ocean. The wide Cape is similar to others of the time, but its front door, with a panel beneath its sidelights and Federal lintel molding above, is the most elaborate entrance of any of Chebeague's early Capes. The central chimney, rock foundation and windows all are typical of the era and of the style.

The Joel and Huldah Ricker House has been used as a summer cottage since about 1896 when it was bought by the William Howell family. Descendants David and Clara Hulbert still own it and it retains much of its original architectural detail, both inside and out.

Samuel and Jane Hutchinson House

c.1826

Now owned by Donald and Norah Alper

When Samuel Hutchinson built his home on the East End (now owned by Donald and Nora Alper), there were no roads. However, he chose not to have his front door face the sea, as many “saltwater farm” houses did. When roads were finally built, the back of the center chimney Cape faced the road. Thus many people have never seen the front of the house. The windows and the ell are not original. But the wooden pegs that hold together the post and beam frame are still visible in the attic.



Photo: Carty MacN

David and Mary Hamilton House c.1834

Now owned by Howard Coffin and Patricia Hatler

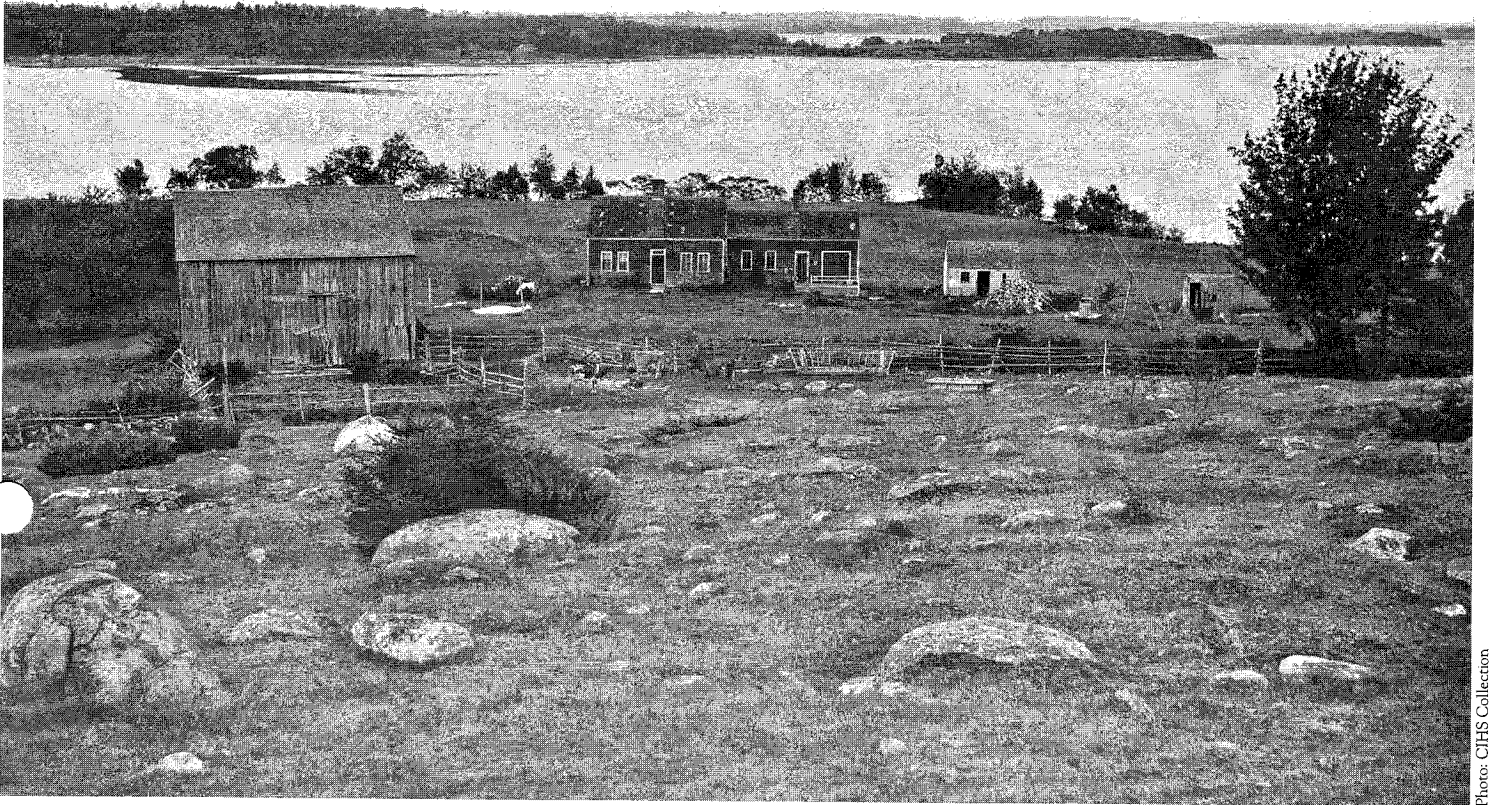


Photo: CHS Collection

A basic Cape may not have been large enough for a growing family. The simplest way to add space was to add a matching but slightly smaller Cape, end-to-end. Several early houses were built with a side ell, but David and Mary Hamilton's home, c. 1834, (now Howard Coffin and Pat Hatter) is the oldest house of that style to survive. Like the other Capes, it had a central chimney and a rock foundation. The front door, which appears to be original, is plain with a glass transom above. The historic photo shows two over one windows, but they now are nine over six, apparently a return to the original configuration during a modernization. A shed shown in the photo has now been added to the house in an end-to-end configuration.

It may be that not all of the first permanent residences on Chebeague were Capes. Folklore has it that before the Revolution Colonel John Waite, who owned the eastern half of Chebeague, built what has been described as a "great house". Waite's house is said to have had three stories and was located near Salt Works Point, the area now known as Central. Ebenezer Hill, who lived at Division Point, is said to have had a brickyard and built a two-story brick house that outshined Colonel Waite's. But for the first century or so of her settled history, the people of Chebeague were living predominantly in Capes.

Benjamin And Eliza Hamilton House c.1835

Now owned by Mark and Betsy McGee

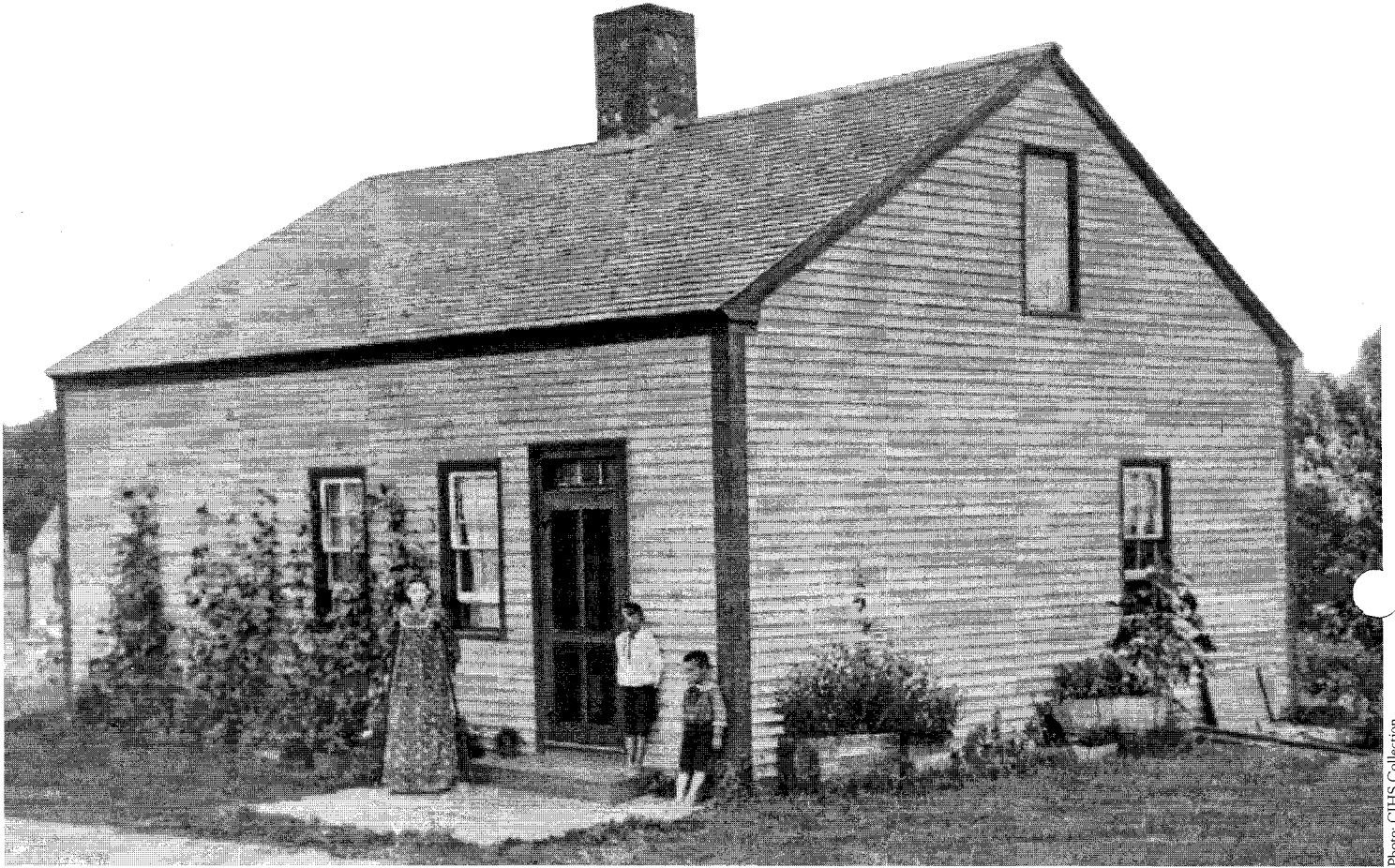


Photo: CIHS Collection

The Benjamin and Eliza Hamilton House, c. 1835, is smaller than the Capes that were built three decades earlier. It has a stone foundation and a transom of glass panes over both the front and back doors. Original fireplaces were walled over when stoves became popular in the mid-1800s, but they were uncovered (with original cooking implements still in place) when the house was restored in the 1980s. The house's barn is believed to have been located in front of what is now the Grange. The house is still owned by Hamilton descendants, Mark and Betsy McGee.

Not all of the houses were full Capes. A smaller house with only one window on each side of the front door was called a "half cape" and one with two windows on one side but only one on the other was a "three-quarters cape."

Dorcas Ross House

c.1840-1847

Now owned by Jane Scifres

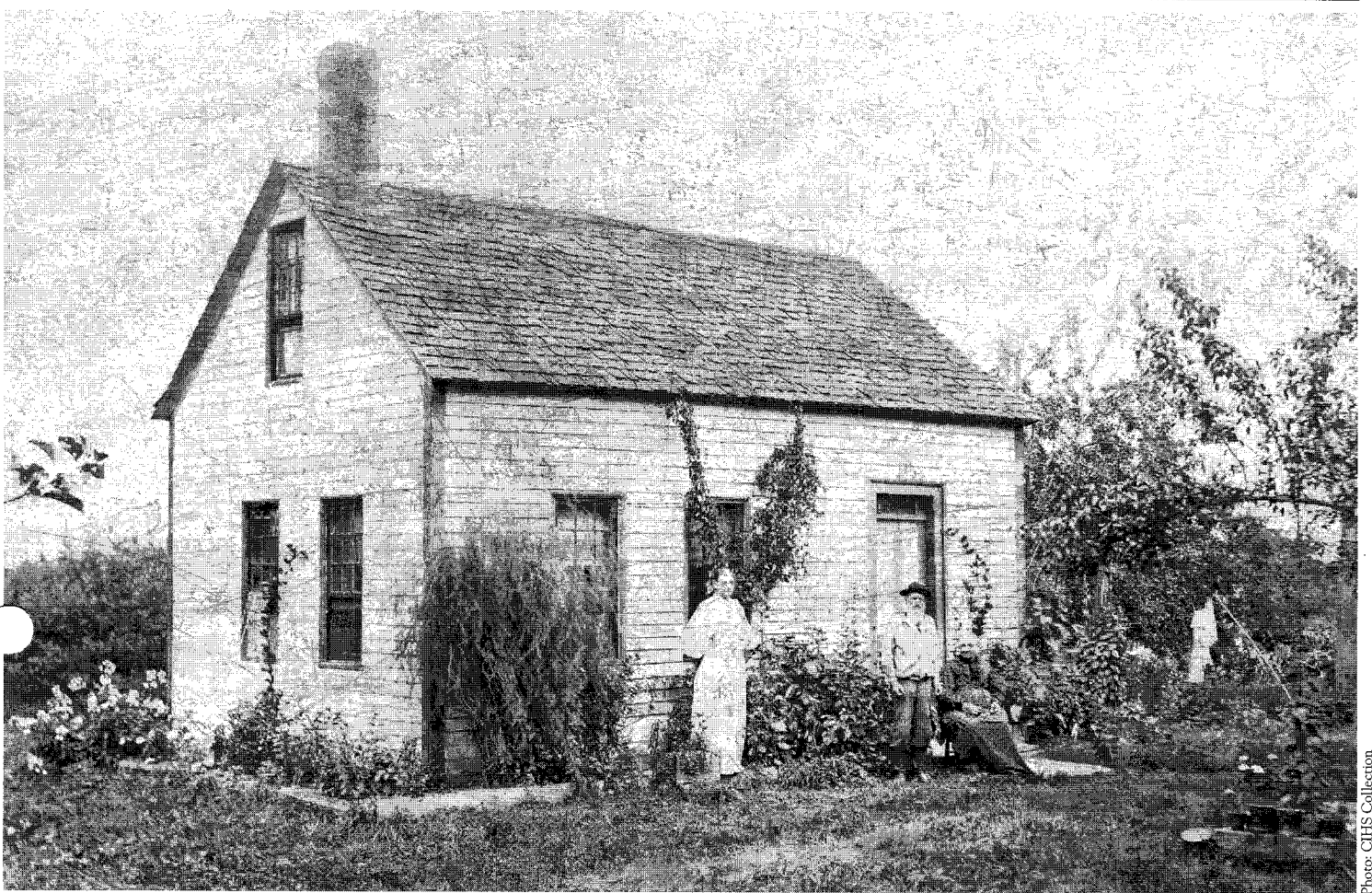


Photo: CHS Collection

The Dorcas Ross House, c. 1840–47, (now owned by Jane Scifres) is a half-Cape example. Dorcas Ross lost her husband and two oldest sons when their schooner Chancellor hit Graves Ledge outside of Boston in 1834. Unable to make mortgage payments, in 1839 she sold her farm and about fifty acres (now the Richard Ross home on John Small Road). Eventually her father deeded a lot to her “being the same land where the house now owned and occupied by said Dorcas Ross now stands.” It is therefore assumed that the small house was built in the early 1840s on a corner of her father’s farm when she moved there with several small children.

It is pictured with a door and two windows to the side. The house was remodeled in the early 1900s when a hip roofed addition was added and the door was moved to the middle of the front.

It may be that not all of the first permanent residences on Chebeague were Capes. Folklore has it that before the Revolution Colonel John Waite, who owned the eastern half of Chebeague, built what has been described as a "great house". Waite's house is said to have had three stories and was located near Salt Works Point, the area now known as Central. Ebenezer Hill, who lived at Division Point, is said to have had a brickyard and built a two-story brick house that outshined Colonel Waite's. But for the first century or so of her settled history, the people of Chebeague were living predominantly in Capes. By the 1840s, however, America's nation-wide fascination with everything Greek had reached Chebeague. Folks named their children after Greek goddesses and adapted names to give them a classical twist. Architectural fashion began to try to make simple houses look like Greek temples, painting wood white like marble and incorporating the columns and pediments of ancient Grecian style. It is not surprising that in the 1840s while most Chebeague houses were still traditional center chimney capes, a couple of new houses were adorned with "Greek Revival" trim. This fashion took hold and dominated Chebeague's architecture for the remainder of the nineteenth century.



The photo on this page shows the simple trim of a window from the Cape style period with 9 over 6 window panes. In the next issue we will be looking at the Greek Revival/ Italianate Transitional period from c. 1850 to 1890. In these homes doors and windows became more ornate.

Spring 2016 Mystery Photo

by Donna Miller Damon



The Spring 2016 Mystery Photo was a stumper for many! Where was that building? Ann Holbolm was the first caller and her cousin, Bea Pettit was next. It makes sense because the folks in the photo were their grandparents, Eben and Della Hamilton York. The baby was Bea's dad, Stanley York. The picture was taken on the Stone Wharf close to their home (now Holbolm's). The buildings in the background were part of what was known as Hamilton and Co. They burned in the early 1920s. It is difficult to envision buildings of that scale sitting in what we use as parking lot!

Because of the many questions we were asked about this photo it was decided that it would be a good time to share some information about the history of business and industry on the Stone Wharf. The following is the first installment and will be concluded in the Spring 2017 Sloop's Log.

It is thought that in the 1830s Edmund Chandler operated a store in the ell of the Hombolm house. During the next decade rock was laid up surrounding a natural outcropping. The interior was filled with rubble and dirt. Stone slooping was in its infancy, but Chebeaguers were already blasting the shores of Casco Bay, transporting the grout to Portland, and building the city's marine infrastructure. This would have been a small job for the Chebeague sloops. The absence of granite in this area reinforces this theory. (Granite was introduced to Chebeague in the late 1840s.) A store, resembling a three quarter Cape and reflecting the domestic architecture of the day, was built on the wharf. John Morse was the owner of



the store when John Hamilton II (Uncle Jack) and Samuel Ross, bought the store in the early 1850s. Known as Ross and Hamilton, Sam Ross and Uncle Jack's son, James Monroe Hamilton, operated the store, assisted by bookkeeper, Elias Ross, Sam's son. Ross and Hamilton increased the wharf to include the widest section of the wharf. Eventually they built a warehouse, storehouse, sheds, and a cooper's shed on the property. The store flourished and became an economic driver on Chebeague. Purported to have had the most diverse inventory of any general store north of Boston,



All Photos: CIHS Collection

Ross and Hamilton sold school books, shoes, fish, fruit, fabric, dishes, molasses by the gallon and just about anything else you can think of from clam hoes to skirt hoops and from dynamite to needles. The store bought and salted clams that were shipped to Portland warehouses for the Grand Banks fishing bait. Ross and Hamilton outfitted the Stone Sloop fleet and bought eggs, fruits, vegetables, meat and even cow hides from islanders and in turn bought shares in Stone Sloops and provided mortgages when folks wanted to build a house. The store and Uncle Jack also spearheaded the creation and construction of Hamilton Oil Works, which was located on the back shore below David and Nancy Hill's home. During the late 1860s and early 1870s the extraction of oil from pogies was a lucrative Maine business.

When Sam Ross retired, Stephen B. Hamilton, great-grandfather of Ann Holmbom, Bea Pettit and Lori Hamilton, became James Monroe Hamilton's partner. James's son, Clinton Hamilton, soon entered the firm and Ross and Hamilton became Hamilton and Company. The business expanded and flourished. They shipped thousands of barrels of clams off from Chebeague,

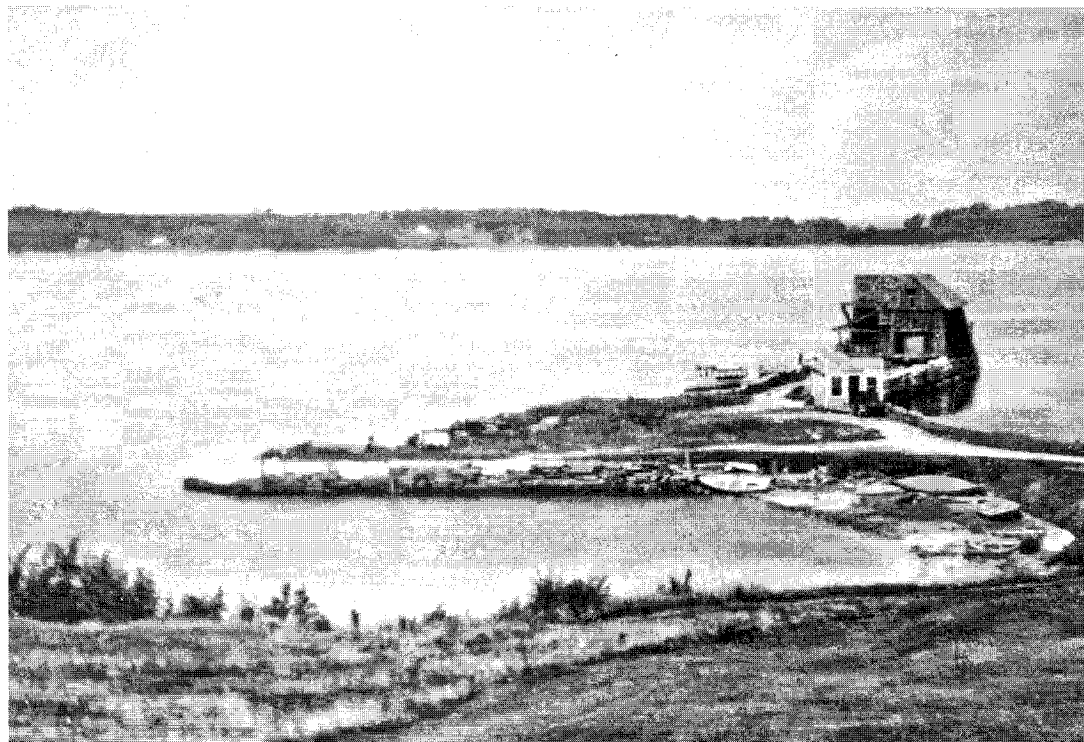
bought and sold real estate, and acquired much of the land that now belongs to the Great Chebeague Golf Course. Stephen B. Hamilton and his family moved into the house now owned by his great-granddaughter, Ann Hombolm. During the 1880s, Chebeague stone sloops built the Rockland Breakwater. It was during that time the Hamilton Landing was enlarged. From 1884-1886 the Island Belle and other Chebeague sloops brought granite from Penobscot Bay. Many trees that had been felled by a hurricane were laid on the mudflats adjacent to the end of the wharf. This narrow section allowed vessels to access the wharf for more of the day. They built a set of stone steps into the wharf for easier access. Some sources say that they had previously built a wooden extension but it could not withstand the historic ice of the 1870s. The steamers were able to land at the wharf and transported the salted clams to Portland.

Stephen B. Hamilton left the partnership and became the island postmaster in 1890. His store and post office were located in the lot to the right of Julie Doughty's house. The father-son team of James and Clinton Hamilton continued to expand the business when they built a coal shed on the end of the wharf and hired a cooper to make barrels in their cooper's shed. The coal shed burned in the 1930s. By the late 1890s stone slooping was on the decline, fresh bait had replaced salt bait as the choice of fishermen, and the Hamiltons were unable to pay its creditors. The company went through bankruptcy. Various islanders tried their hand at store keeping, but eventually the store was abandoned. After it burned in the early 1920s, coal creditor, Randall and McCallister, decided to sell off the granite to recoup some of their financial loss. When islanders heard the news they asked the Town of Cumberland to buy the wharf. Voters at the 19?? Town Meeting approved the purchase of "the Stone Wharf at Hamilton's Landing". At the time of its purchase the surface of the wharf was several inches to more than a foot below the top of the granite. This curb kept heavy loads from compromising the integrity of the wharf and provided a natural safety buffer.

TO BE CONTINUED....



Hamilton's Landing became the island's mecca for folks who wanted to take a sail on the bay. Several stone sloop captains took out sailing parties, while other Chebeaguers filled their power boats with folks wanting to go for a clambake and explore surrounding islands.



This view of the Stone Wharf from the golf course shows what looks like the Nellie G tied up to a float, a small fish market and the deteriorating coal shed. The grassy area depicts the footprint of the once thriving Hamilton Company.

All Photos: CIHS Collection

Our apologies once more go to our good friend and poet, Barrie Shepherd. We have managed to mess up his wonderful poem twice and are hoping for that charm one finds on the third time around.

Thanks again, Barrie.

Waiting For the Ferry

by Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd

Standing on the Stone Wharf Thinking About the Past
August 2014

This wall of solid granite dances
as reflected light from Casco Bay flows and falls,
then elevates again along the jagged, lichen-printed faces.
There is a floating feeling to the way these flickering lines of light
traverse the giant, rough-cut blocks, a suggestion, at the least,
that this old dock just might decide to up and glide away
... a gay, yet ponderous still, rendition of Swan Lake.
These massive, megalithic forms-The Stone Wharf,
as it is named round here-were hauled down
to this island back in the stone-sloping days
when enterprising seamen sailed from "Down East" quarries
with vast blocks of blasted rock, shipping rough stone to
the great city building projects-Boston, New York, Philadelphia-
of The Gilded Age. They say the rock for George's towering obelisk
down in D C was delivered by stone sloops from Maine.
Wealthy men, they were, those long-winter-weathered captains,
working their tall and beamy boats with one enormous mainsail
and the solid boom, as thick as a man's trunk, that doubled as a crane
for harbor work. They sailed back and forth and, coming home,
built elegant Greek Revival mansions-carved white pillars, porches
and pilasters-here at the East End. Left a long seafaring legacy
that nowadays has been slimmed down to lobster fishing,
setting pots and hauling lines of traps, all the while hoping
that a bumper catch will not drag down the price for yet another year.
Still glad to be afloat each day on this steep-blue and swaying element that,
days like this one, gleams and glistens, sparkles with a shimmering light
leads old stones to dance, old houses to sing memories,
old minds to wonder, yet again, just what this bright
and luminescent universe is built upon.



Photo: CIHS Collection



The Sloop's log
Chebeague Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 28
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Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Fall 2016
Issue

Mystery Photo

Burr! With winter just around the corner, can you identify this snowy scene? Where are we and what are those hopefully heated buildings? Please tell us what you know! Call, email or write to Donna Damon with your thoughts and memories.

the Sloop's Log

