

# THE SLOOP'S LOG



Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society

Vol. III, Issue 1

Winter 2000

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jill Malony

Wondering why you are just receiving the Winter issue of the Sloop's Log? It was probably that Y2K bug! The truth is there is so much going on in the Historical Society that it took a little longer to get it out. Donna Damon and the Development Committee have been hard at work. See her column "next door" to get caught up. Kenneth Hamilton and the Building Committee received a variance from the Town for a free standing bathroom and storage shed. Doug Damon has provided the plan.

As in the past two years we will once again publish the Annual Newsletter. This year you may order not only the 1999 edition when you send in your dues, but you may also order a copy of the 1997 and 1998 issues.

The trip to Jordan, King's Highway, A Legacy to Remember, sponsored by the Historical Society, promises to be quite an adventure. Suhail Bisharat and Vail Traina have again prepared a unique excursion. Call Vail to get the details. The departure date is March 28th.

Sylvia Ross and the Program Committee have prepared some exciting events including an old-fashioned clam bake. (Check out Ken's article on page 4 for a "preview".

We will also be making a video of Chebeague, 2000. It may be the same old, same old to us, but our children's children will get a taste of what life was like in the good old days!

## UPDATE FROM DEVELOPMENT

by Donna Miller Damon, Chair

Committee Members: Suhail Bisharat, Dot Colbeth, Jane Frizzell, Phil Jordan, Jill Malony, Jim Millinger, Mac Passano, Al Traina, Al Whitaker

The Development Committee of the Historical Society has been very active during the past six months crafting a plan to raise the money necessary to renovate the District 9 School House and to create the Museum of Chebeague History. During the past couple of years through the generosity of members of the Historical Society's Governing Board, grants and accumulated Society savings, things have been happening to the "Old Town Garage." The building has a new roof, is tight to the weather, has a well and septic system, and will soon have an outside public bathroom which should be in operation by the summer of 2000!

The Museum of Chebeague History will be a multi-faceted facility. The Annex (1970's addition) will provide storage and work space. Examples of Chebeague's material culture which to date have been stored in barns, attics, sheds and fish houses will be catalogued and stored in a two-level section of the building. The Annex will have a year-round temperature/humidity controlled room, which will house printed material related to the Island's history as well as textiles, artwork, and other artifacts that require special care. Curatorial space will also be housed in the Annex. This space will provide additional storage as well as a place where items can be catalogued and exhibits can be prepared. The Schoolhouse will house a flexible exhibition space and a Local History Research and Genealogical Center where anyone with ties to Chebeague both yearround and summer can come to research their families and learn more about the evolution of our island community from prehistory to the present. For more information about project to create the Museum of Chebeague History at the District 9 School House contact any of the members of the Development Committee.

### Do you know the Answers?



- John Small once lived in the home now occupied by Elizabeth, Richard and Priscilla Ross. What was the original use of the gray building next to the house?
- Which prolific Chebeaguer once called this house home?
- Who was the first owner of the house?

(Answers on Page 5)

# Coleman's Cove - Then and Now

by Donna Miller Damon



*Coleman's Cove c. 1910*

Even though we live on an island, it is easy to forget that many houses face the sea. There was a time when the ocean was Main Street for many Chebeaguers. They built their houses facing the shore where the men worked and the children played. The women kept an eye on both while keeping the home front ship shape! Fish houses sat between the bank and high water, while vessels and sloops were anchored off shore. These folks understood nature's whims. The people who settled on the outside of the island enjoyed magnificent sunrises one day, while experiencing the fury of a northeast gale the next!

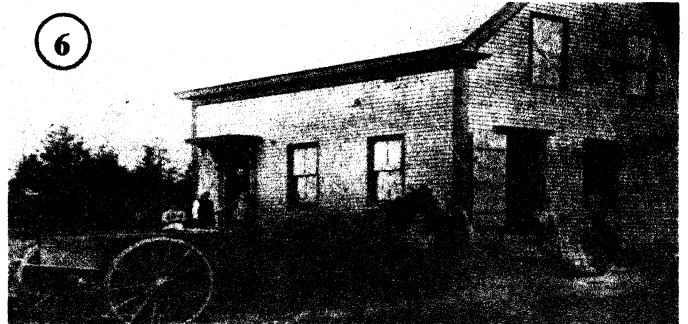
Often times neighbors in these seaside enclaves were related. They worked together to clear the land, build their houses and bait their trawls. Coleman's Cove on the West End was such a neighborhood. The westerly side of the cove, which was the homestead of David and Mary Bennett



*David and Mary Doughty House (first house in Colemens Cove)*

Doughty, was developed first. The Doughtys bought the land from Mary's brother, Stephen Bennett in 1814. Their house stood in front of what is now Ruth Slowick's house. It was later owned by their son, Job Doughty and then by Job's daughter, Christiana and her husband, David Doughty. Stephen Doughty, Job's nephew, bought the property in the late 1880's and operated a store in part of the house during the early Twentieth Century. The house was torn down in the early 1930's.

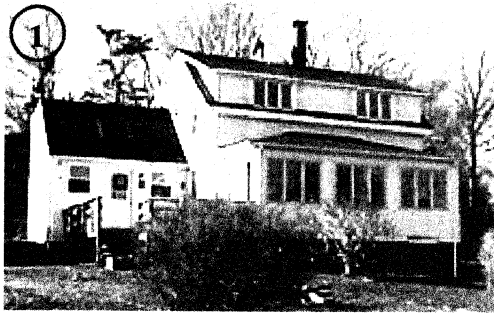
All of the original owners of the houses that



*Rachel Doughty Miller (Ruth Slagle)*

stand today on the shore of Coleman's Cove were descendants of David Doughty. With the exception of the Slowik house, which was built by Cecil and Nettie Doughty Mansfield, all of the original owners of houses now located on Coleman's descended from Job and Lucretia Brown Doughty. Daniel Doughty, son of Job, built the house now owned by the Calthorpes in the 1880's. Father and son, Manley and Richard Dyer built their homes at Coleman's Cove during the twentieth century.

The houses built to the East of the original Doughty homestead were on land that was originally part of the Higgins Farm (now Dayton). Sylvanus Higgins conveyed three small lots of land bordering Coleman's Cove between 1888 and 1891. These would be the only lots conveyed out of the large saltwater farm from the 1840's to the 1950's. Interestingly these lots were bought by three of the children of William and Rachel Doughty Miller. Rachel was a daughter of Job Doughty and at one time she and William owned a house, which sat near the Manley Dyer house. In 1888 John and Mary Ann Miller Calder, ancestors of all Chebeague Calders, acquired the first lot, which was adjacent to the Job Doughty. The McCullum Family now own the Calder house. Lewis Miller bought the next lot in 1891 and eventually built two houses on this parcel. The first house was built with help from his brothers William and Harry for their mother who was then a widow. Ruth Slagle now owns that house. The house was sold in the early 1900's and Lewis Miller built his homestead next door. His son, Albion Miller, lived in the



*Daniel Doughty House (Calthorpe)*

house until his death in 1988. The Smith Family now owns the Lewis Miller house. The third lot was conveyed to Augustus Dyer. At the time, the lot was conveyed, Dyer was married to Christiana

Miller, a sister of Lewis Miller and Mary Ann Calder. She later died and he married her cousin, Margaret York. The Dyer house is now owned by Bruce and Pat Verrill and is rented by Dyer's descendant Deborah Johnson Wilson and her husband, Paul. The Dyer's further subdivided the property when Henry and Mabel Morton Dyer built their house which is now owned by their daughter, Betty and her husband, Peter Johnson. So in



*John and MaryAnn Calder (McCullum house)*



*Miller house today (Ruth Slagle)*

the days before subdivision ordinances and site plan review we find five houses built on what was about an acre and a half of land. But wait a minute. There are actually six houses on this strip of land that was once part of the Higgins Farm! It seems that when the Calder's son Silas, married he wanted to build his house on Coleman's Cove too!. His mother, Mary Ann Calder and his uncle, Lewis

Miller deeded him enough land to build a house in about 1913. Carol Lynn Davis now owns the house.

To complicate matters further the Town of Cumberland laid out a road to Western Landing in 1896 which was located between the top of the bank and the houses. Erosion took its toll on the most congested neighborhood on Chebeague. Albion Miller, born in 1900, said that the bank eroded at least 50 feet during his lifetime. By the 1940's, the road had fallen over the bank and the Cumberland County Commissioners were called in to redefine the road, so what was once front lawns became roadbed.



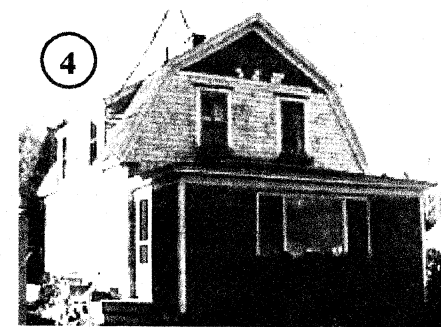
*Lewis Miller house (Smith's house)*



*Gus Dyer House (owned by Verrills)*

Coleman's Cove continues to be a working waterfront. Lobster boats have replaced fishing vessels. Summer people now own some of the houses, but the closeness of the houses reminds us that this hamlet, like so many neighborhoods on the island was once a family enclave. The roots that

Despite the congested nature of the neighborhood and the threat of erosion, which eventually took out all of the fish houses that once sat under the bank, David and Mary Bennett Doughty planted nearly 200 years ago continue to run deep and strong on Chebeague.



*Silas Calder (owned by CarolLynn Davis)*



*Colemans Cove 1999*

## THE PAST

by Kenneth Hamilton

At a recent meeting of the Historical Society ideas were being bandied about... and at the same time bring a few dollars our way. I think it was Donna that thought a big old-fashioned clambake might be fun. I, for one agreed with that thought, but it also triggered a memory of an article I had read in an old newspaper clipping. I would like to share this piece of history with the readers of The Sloop's Log. I am not sure which newspaper to give credit to as only the word Journal was hand written in the margin.

I have copied this article word for word and have no doubt but that it is true. But friends, can you imagine the trouble one would be in today of attempting to move all those beach stones or to remove that much rockweed. We would be locked up for years! On top of that, the mass gathering ordinance would kick in, beach front property owners would be screaming, police uniforms would be everywhere, My oh my, I guess there would have been advantages to have lived in the 1880's!

### Casco Bay's Biggest Clam Bake Held 50 Years Ago

South Portland April 20th, 1934

"More than 50 years ago," said Ambrose H. Hamilton of Mitchell Road, "the biggest clam-bake ever held in Casco Bay was staged at Great Chebeague Island. It was on a St. John's Day at some sort of a Masonic affair. Something like 2500 men from all over New England came to it. Steamers took them for a sail around Casco Bay and landed them at Great Chebeague with sharklike appetites."

"Well, I was a boy at the time and with several others of the Great Chebeaguers was hired to help out. As I recall it we did not get much actual money but a promise of all the clams and lobsters we could eat was something for a healthy and hungry youngster. We brought hundreds and hundreds of stones and on top of these laid large flat rocks. That flat pile must have been 50 feet long. A scow came down from Portland with a load of four-foot hardwood logs. We kept a fire burning on the rocks all the night before the bake and well into the forenoon."

"Finally the coals were raked over smooth and the big junks of half burned wood removed leaving nothing but a bed of glowing live embers. It took a lot of rockweed to cover that. Then the stuff was piled on. More than 3000 good sized lobsters and 150 bushels of clams were used to say nothing of bushel baskets of green corn and sweet potatoes and hundreds upon hundreds of eggs. Everything was cooked to a turn."

"A lot of these men had never seen a clambake and did not know how to eat either clams or lobsters. Many would break off the tail of a lobster and leave the rest. One fat jolly fellow engaged me to show him the ropes and I did. He learned a good deal about eating lobsters and clams and he gave me a \$1 bill when he was thru. After they got thru we boys waded in and it's a wonder we did not burst. Not more than half the good meat had been taken from the lobsters."

*This stereoscopic view card is from Donna Damon's collection. It is of a clambake which took place on Little Chebeague, August 10th, 1876.*



## 2000 PROGRAMS

Sylvia Ross, Chair

The Chebeague Island Historical Society is planning a busy year. We hope you will take time to join us in the fun.

- **Monday, January 17**  
**Time Capsule**  
Bring a favorite article that you would like to include in a time capsule. Discussion to follow.
- **Monday, March 20**  
**Lobster Life Cycle - Pieces of a puzzle**  
Speaker: Diane Cowan, PhD,  
Lobster Conservancy
- **Monday, April 17**  
**Town Reports and old Town Meetings**  
Readings from old town reports: Let's learn when our roads were built and who are selectmen and teachers have been.
- **Monday, May 15**  
**So You Think You Know Chebeague!**  
A challenge for one and all ---  
and a lot of fun! Participate or watch.
- **Saturday, June 17 ANNUAL MEETING**  
presented by Donna Damon  
**The Preservation of Chebeague - Part I**  
The focus will be on Chebeague's economic history - "Making a living, Chebeague style"
- **Monday, July 17**  
**Steamboats of Yesteryear**  
Presented by Jim Millinger  
A second rendition of this very popular program. Narration and slides of many of our beloved steamers, gone but not forgotten.
- **Monday, August 21**  
Presented by Donna Damon  
**The Preservation of Chebeague - Part II**  
Donna will cover the everyday life on Chebeague- "A Window From The Past"
- **Monday, September 28**  
**Portraits and Stories of Old**  
Old portraits and memorabilia of your ancestors should be brought with you to this meeting.
- **Monday, October 16**  
**Do You Know Where They Are?**  
Slides and group discussion of Chebeague cemeteries.
- **Monday, November 20**  
No meeting
- **Monday, December 11**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Donations at free programs  
help defer expenses....  
Thanks for your support!!

ALL WELCOME. . . ALL WELCOME. . . ALL WELCOME . . . ALL WELCOME.

### SUMMER EVENTS !!!



Old Fashion Clambake



Annual Boat Cruise



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 Wixted, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
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 Zaugg, Mr. & Mrs. John V. W.

**Help preserve our Island Heritage by becoming a member!**

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$20.00
Contributor	\$25.00
Supporter	\$50.00
* Life (per person)	\$200.00
Students	free
Senior	\$5.00
**Honorary Life Members	

**Donations to a fund are greatly appreciated:**

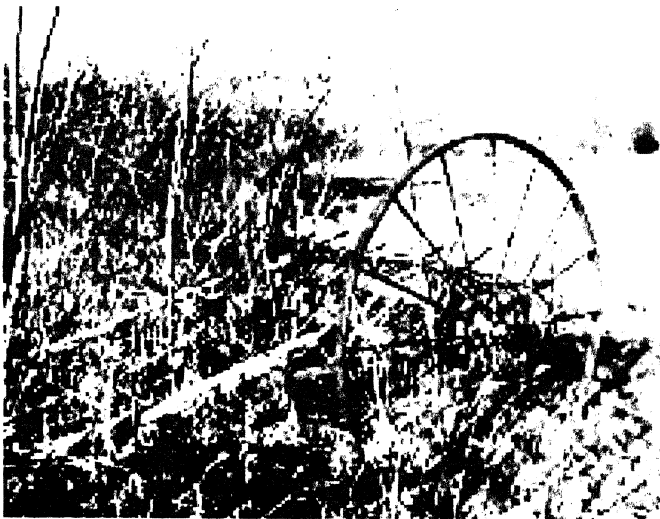
Building Fund  
 Margaret Bates Book Fund  
 Arts & Craft Fund  
 Cobb/Small Memorial Fund

## COLLECTIONS

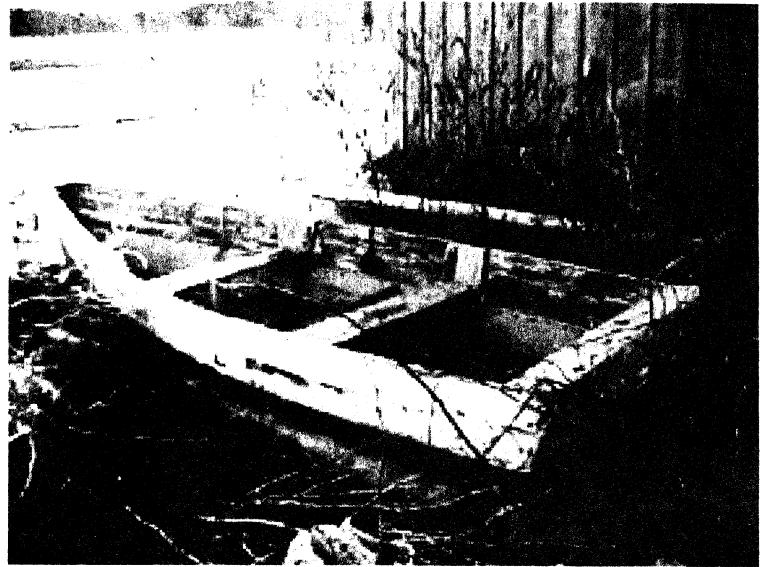
By Jim Millinger, Chair

The Collections Committee is very excited about our finally having a home for the material artifacts which islanders and others have been sequestering in their attics and barns for many years. We will be using the major portion of the garage addition to the schoolhouse as a storage area, and the schoolroom area itself as a place to display these things which were so much a part of Chebeague Island's past. During the past few years, the Collections Committee and its many volunteers under the leadership of Dot Colbeth, Nancy Sharp, and Sylvia Ross, have been recording and cataloging our material holdings and the many written records handed down from past generations of islanders.

In planning for the museum's permanent exhibit, Chebeague's past industries of fishing and farming come immediately to mind, as did the boating (fishing vessels, stone sloops, steamboats, lobster boats, and sardine carriers) involved in getting to the island and carrying out the fishing industry. Farming was a major industry on the island in the past. We are lucky to have many remnants of this way of life from the Higgins Farm, through the courtesy of Alden Hayden and Pommy Hatfield. These include farm implements and tools, and a wagon and buggy.



Shipping, and the era of stone slooping is represented by many diaries and some artifacts. Through the generosity of Ellsworth Miller and his late Cousin Albion we have a good start towards representing our fishing past. We also have a John Small punt. We presently hold materials representing other industries such as the Fenderson clam factory and the post World War II watch factory, as well as artifacts representing the



history of the public buildings on the island. Other businesses for which we have fewer material artifacts but more written materials include the records of the boarding houses and hotels which came into existence more than one hundred years ago in response to the great number of summer visitors who came to the island.

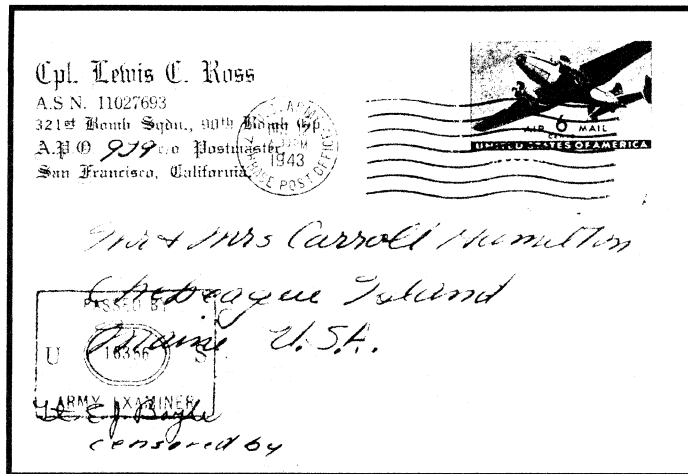
In telling the story of our community we will include aspects of our social, religious, and educational experiences. The role of island women in keeping the community together will not be slighted. We are also on the lookout for things representing Chebeague Island artists and native Americans. When our museum is ready for occupation we'll put out a request for more items. In the meantime, dig around in the attic and start setting things aside which you would be willing to donate to the Museum of Chebeague History at the District 9 Schoolhouse.

### Answers



- a. Late 19th early 20th century the grey building was used as an orphanage.
- b. Isaac Strout
- c. John Ross c. 1817 but part of the house may have been built by a Chandler.

# LETTERS HOME



Dear Aunt & Uncle  
October 2, 1943

Guess I'd better include the pig in this letter. Probably by the time this reaches you he'll be pork chops. Everybody back home seems to be buying up live stock, planting victory gardens & becoming real farmers. With all the fish of the sea, fowls of the air and clams on the beach I'll never have to worry about you going hungry.

If I wasn't so lazy I could look in my diary & tell exactly how many letters I've received from you people since I last wrote. The diary is only about two steps away but in this country we do very little unnecessary walking. Anyway, your letters are appreciated. I read them all over & over again so keep up the good work. Your last letter came over in only twelve days, not bad service at all.

Latest reports from the home front say that Floyd is home on furlough. I'll bet you were some pleased to see him come in walking through the door. I've heard alot about his new home in Texas & should imagine it might be a nice comfortable place. I'm glad he's still in the states & hope he can stay there a good long time.

I've been on a furlough also but wasn't quite as lucky as Floyd. Had me quite a time though. My only regrets is that it didn't last for the duration. By the looks of the good war news that time will soon be here when every day will be a furlough. Hope then we may all realize when we have happiness and are well off. Guess it takes something like a war & being away from home to put us back on the right track.

If my letters still come to you few and far between think nothing of it. I'll just be sleeping instead of writing - not in the least bit lazy you understand.

Lots of love,  
Lewis



## Joins Air Force



Lewis C. Ross, 22, of Chebeague Island, who recently enlisted in the ground force service in the U. S. Army aviation division. He has been assigned to a Southern training field. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Merle E. Ross of Chebeague, and was engaged in house construct'on work with his father. He attended Gorham Normal School.

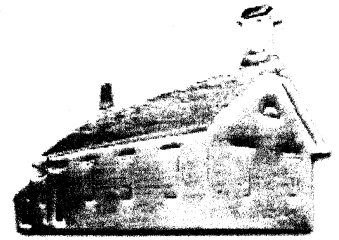


## New From the Gift Shop

by Joan Robinson, Chair

This coming Summer, Year 2000 we will be pleased to offer a beautiful royal blue and white cotton afghan of Chebeague Scenes. Price will be approximately \$50.00. This fund raiser will go towards the Building Fund. We still have the following articles for sale:

School house pins, magnets, or ornaments	\$10.00 each
Pilot cracker pins	\$ 8.00
Note cards (8 per pkg)	\$ 6.00
Post cards	.50 each
	\$ 2.00 (for 5)
Posters	\$ 3.50
Original Quilt	
Stockman Island Quilt	
by Shirley Burgess	
Magnets*Island Scenes	\$ 3.00/ea
Magnets*Special order 3 of your picture	\$10.00



(add \$2.00 shipping and handling)



## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Historical Society will again publish the Annual Newsletter, formerly published by the Island Council. As last year, it will be edited by the team of Dave Hill, Bev Johnson and Mac Passano. All the organizations of the Island have been asked to prepare summary reports of what has happened during the past year. There will be lots of photographs included as well. This attractive and useful record of Chebeague Island life will be available for only \$6.00 on or after the July 4th parade and picnic. Pay for it now with your annual dues and you can pick up your copy "hot off the press" at our sales table at the picnic, or have it sent to any address in the U.S. (include \$2.00 for shipping and handling)

## Chebeague Island Historical Society Trustees and Officers 1999 - 2000

\* Shirley Barker \* Suhail Bisharat \* Richard Bowen \* Sue Burgess \* Nancy Chamberlin \*  
\* Donna Damon \* Louise Doughty \* Jane Frizzell \* Jennifer Hamilton \* Ken Hamilton \* Jill Malony \*  
\* Jim Millinger \* Marjorie Munroe \* Mac Passano \* Joan Robinson \* Sylvia Ross \* Nancy Sharp \*

Newsletter Staff - Beverly Johnson and Jill Malony

Any correspondence should be sent to:  
Chebeague Island Historical Society, PO Box 28, Chebeague Island, Maine 04017

**THE MUSEUM SHOP**  
**LOOK FOR OUR TABLE AT ISLAND EVENTS**  
**AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**



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