



Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Spring 2014
Issue

the Sloop's Log

Editor's Notes

Dear Sloop's Log Readers,

Welcome to the Spring 2014 Edition of the Sloop's Log. We hope you enjoy our presentation of Chebeague in history and in pictures. Below please find the following articles:

- A Letter From the President by Donna Damon.
- Chebeague in 1870 – Making Money on Land and Sea by Donna Damon
- The Chebeague Census of 1870 by Toby Webb
- The Toll of the Sea by Donna Damon
- The Story of John Ross and his sons Who Were Lost at Sea by Donna Damon
- Stories of the Deaths of Benjamin, Mary, and William Hamilton At Sea by Donna Damon
- An Early History of the Chebeague Grange by Leah Webber and Diane Calder
- Articles From the Newsletter of 50 Years Ago by Jane Frizzell
- Stone Walls by Martha O. Hamilton
- Two Stories of Journeys to Aaron's Wharf Road by Nancy Cline and Carrie Ridgeway
- The Bennett Family by Martha O. Hamilton
- Our New Mystery Photo

*Don Munsey
and his assistant
Bill Monroe at
Grange auctions.
c. 1987*

We hope this puts you in an historical mood and that you will join us this summer at the Museum, at CIHCC, and on the road with the House Tour.

Sincerely,
*Susie Stavropoulos and
Jane Frizzell,*
Sloop's Log Editors

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Photo: Jane Frizzell Collection

Although only 19 Chebeaguers identified themselves as farmers in the 1870 Population Census, and despite all of the previously described economic activity, 43 Chebeaguers had farms that were significant enough to be included in the 1870 U.S. Agricultural Census. That is more than twice the number listed in 1860! There were 49 barns on Chebeague so not everyone who had a barn was considered to have a farm! Based on the data Chebeague had a total of at least 7 horses, 14 teams of oxen, 70 milk cows, 52 other cattle, 92 sheep and 34 swine.

To help the reader identify the location of the farm the current owner of the land will be in ().

The value of "all forms of production" varied from Joseph Fisher's \$80 to Henry Mansfield Jr.'s \$1200 (Stavropoulos) and William V. Little-

field's \$1150 (Gilmartin / 50 acres below the Cobbler shop). Both Mansfield and Littlefield paid wages to a hired hand of \$300 and \$150 respectfully. They also had the highest valued livestock. Littlefield's livestock was valued at \$800 while Mansfield's value was \$500. Mansfield operated a store near Indian Island so it is assumed that some of his excess farm products were sold there while it has been reported that he also travelled the coast in his boat selling produce. Perhaps he had the original veggie boat? 16 farmers produced a total of \$1200 of forest products, which is assumed to be lumber. James M. Hamilton, Stephen B. Hamilton (Holmbom) and John Hamilton 2nd (Gwillim) had commercial orchards valued at \$43 dollars. All three were involved with the Hamilton Company store, so it is possible that they sold their apples there. Three islanders combined to produce 215 pounds of wool.

Without exception anyone who had a cow produced some butter. While the average farm made 100 to 150 pounds, several farms produced much more. Littlefield was the leader with 600 pounds, Isaac Strout (Richard Ross) made 400 pounds, Henry Mansfield and William Seabury (Goodman/Levey) made 350 pounds each, while David Hamilton (Coffin) churned 300 pounds. It is assumed that these Chebeaguers sold some of their butter either on or off the island. Potatoes appear to have been another cash crop for some islanders. The average farm produced 25-50 bushels of potatoes but William V. Littlefield, James Johnson (West End Cricks) and David Petersen (corner of South/Cottage Road) each grew 100 bushels! Most farms produced five bushels of peas and beans but again Littlefield led the pack with 80 bushel. Only two Chebeaguers were shown to have income from market

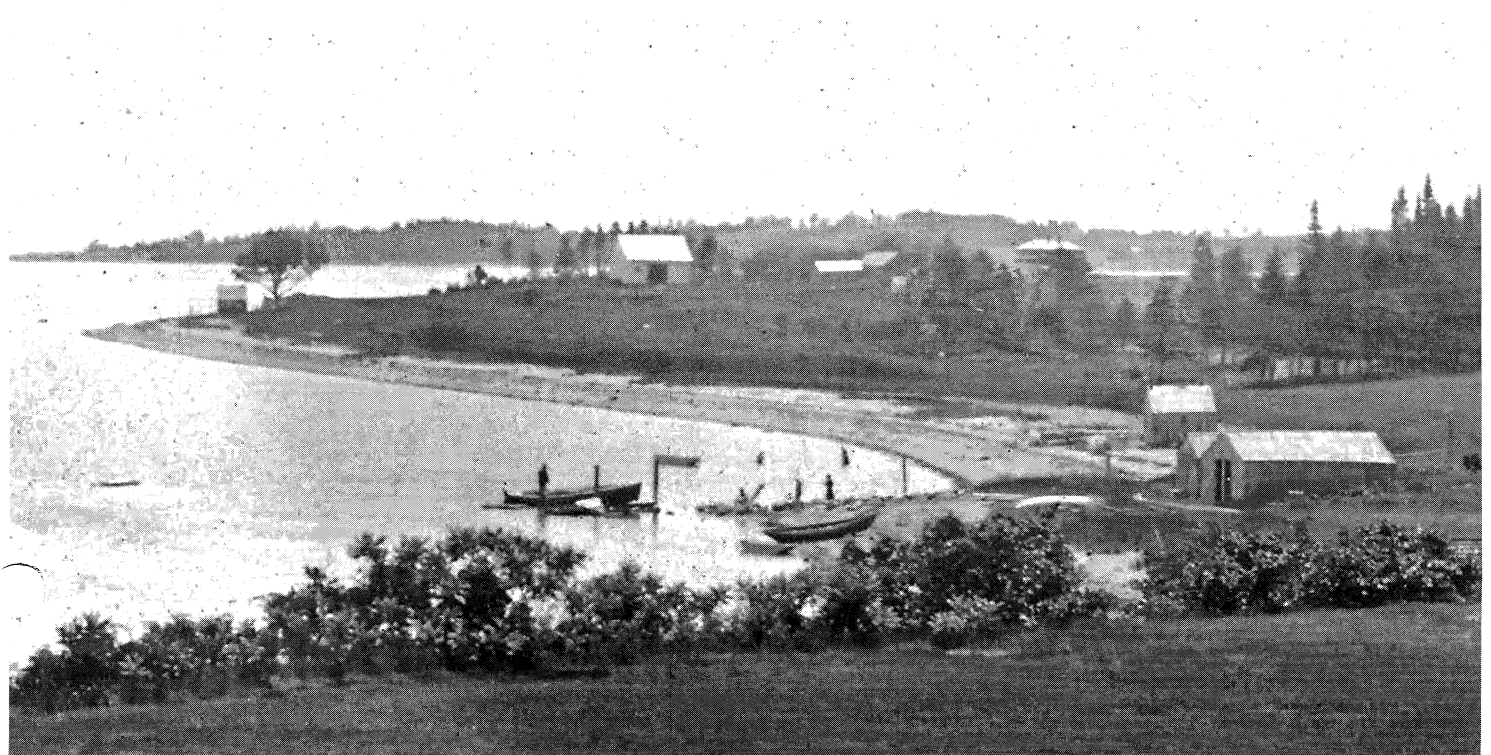
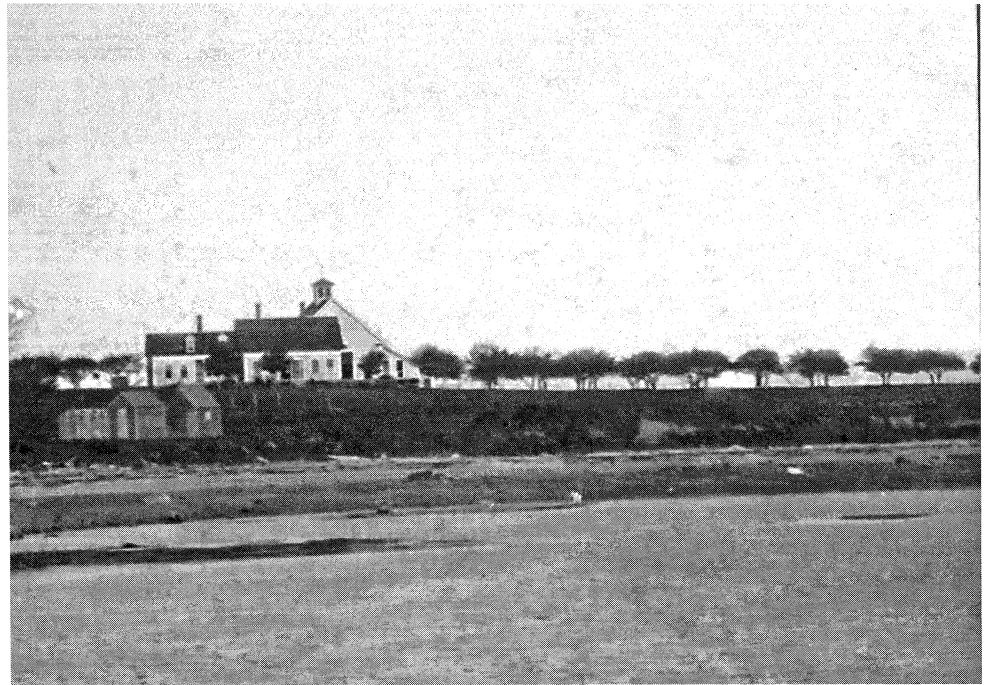
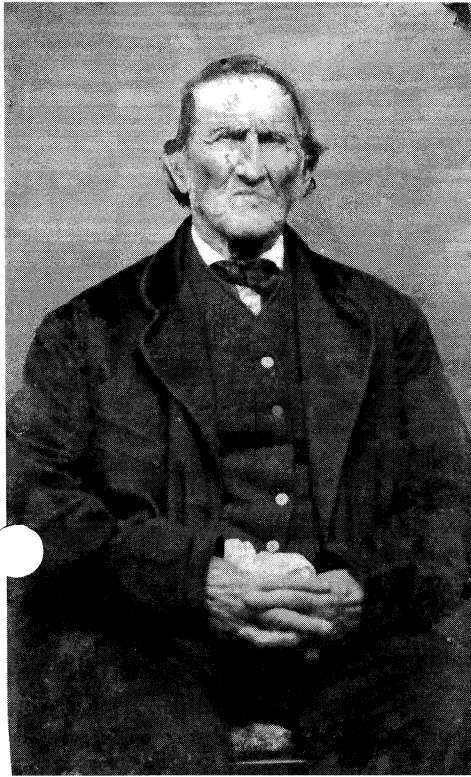


*Left: James Hamilton,
right: John Hamilton's farm,
below: Roses' farm*

gardens. They were neighbors, Abner Hill (Hinchman property) and Albert Worden (Belesca) earning \$100 and \$125 respectively.

Thus while some islanders raised animals, produce, and other products for their own use, several people raised quite a bit more than they could use providing another leg to the island's economic stool. By recording agricultural data

in 1870 for 43 Chebeague farms of various sizes, the Census provides important data on how the islanders used the land to feed their families as well as provide additional income.



Just After the Civil War: Chebeague in the 1870 U.S. Census

By Morrison "Toby" Webb

In a series of Sloop's Log articles, we have been exploring the census of Chebeague taken every ten years by the U. S. Government, as required by the Constitution. The first census, in 1790, counted only eleven households and 69 people on the island. We turn now to the census of 1870, only eighty years later, but with 107 families and 510 Chebeaguers.

Thirty-two of those families and 140 individuals were named Hamilton, up from 106 Hamiltons in 1860. There were 31 Rosses, 30 Doughtys, 30 Littlefields, 26 Webbers, 24 Hills, 21 Thompsons, 16 Johnsons, 13 Rickers, and 10 Bennetts among the familiar island names.

Of the 510 residents, 271 or 53 percent were under 21 years old and 193 were attending school. Schooling started at age 4, as can be seen in the Ross family, number 333, where Lewis B. Ross, age 4, was attending school, but his brother Earnest, only 3, was not. The oldest students were Emma Hill and Lucy Mansfield, both 20. Aaron Cleaves's son Isaac, at 19, was the oldest boy in the schools. From other research, we know that Chebeague's third school building wasn't built until 1871. To accommodate so many children of such disparate ages in only two buildings, children 4-9 didn't attend school in the winter term (December through February); the two dozen boys ages 16 to 19 attended during that term.

One purpose of the census was to count eligible voters: male citizens aged 21 and up. (Women were not yet allowed to vote.) There were 127 adult male citizens on the island.

Among the men, the majority looked to the sea for occupation. There were 50 fisherman, 42 mariners and 5 ship masters, compared with only 19 farmers and three farm laborers. (In 1840, thirty years earlier, 115 men had been employed in agriculture, only 12 in maritime activities.) A generation gap was clearly involved in the choice of profession: the ship masters (Jeremiah, Isaac, Robert and John F. Hamilton and Samuel Ross, Jr.) averaged 38 years old; the farmers averaged 61.

Among the 19 farmers in 1870 were five men, Seth Higgins, 74, George Hannaford, 75, Ezekiel Rose, 54, David Peterson, 48, and William Seabury, 38, who had not been listed as island residents in 1860. As the young men of the island turned to the sea, and as successful stone sloopers began to move to the mainland, men from the mainland began to take over what farming land was available. William Seabury took over the farm of his father-in-law, Benjamin Mitchell, now the Levy/Goodman home. Seth Higgins bought the Orr farm when mariner Stephen Orr moved ashore. The Roses of Rhode Island, who had discovered Chebeague while fishing pogies, found the Nathaniel Long farm to be for sale after Long was lost at sea. (The census shows Long's children living in the homes of Robert Littlefield and Sarah Hamilton.) "The Higgins Farm" and "Rose's Point" are still island landmarks.

Few occupations were available for those who did not turn to agriculture or the sea. James and Stephen Hamilton, the island's two grocers, had begun their business on Hamilton Landing (now known as "the Stone Wharf"). The records of their store are still

available in the Historical Society's archives. Beyond the occupations already described, the island had only nine men with other jobs: three house carpenters, two clergymen (one retired), two day laborers, a postmaster and a "huckster" (peddler.) The only occupation recorded for a woman was Keeping House.

The number of dwellings on Chebeague had grown by only 5 in the prior decade (from 84 to 89). As a result, many dwellings in 1870 had more than one family unit in residence. Usually these were relations, parent and adult child or siblings, but it is interesting to imagine life, for example, in the John Hamilton Jr./ James Mansfield household (286/294-4), with two wives keeping house and nine children under age ten.

Tracking families from one census to another helps us to begin to understand their lives on Chebeague. In 1860, two seaman named "Grunnell" from Nova Scotia were living with the family of Joseph Sawyer, whose wife, Abby, was their sister. By 1870, Charles, a mariner, and Robert, a fisherman, both were listed with the spelling we now know, "Grannell," and both had married and started raising families. Joseph and Abby Sawyer, however, had moved away..

Among the Chebeague households in 1870 were ones headed by Elizabeth Curate and Joshua Curate and two others where the senior occupants were Franklin Curit and John Curit. With different spellings, some have asked whether these were two different families. A check of the 1860 census shows that both Elizabeth and Joshua had been listed with the name "Curit" that year; this is the same clan. (It surprises some to learn that the drive for absolute consistency in spelling family names only came in the twentieth century with registration for Social Security.) For those trying to trace the Curit line further back, it is helpful that both the 1860 and 1870 censuses say that patriarch John Curit, 93 in 1870 and living with Aaron Cleaves Jr., had been born in Maine.

There are other hints about family history in the 1870 census. The first Bowen on the island, Hugh, was listed in the 1860 census as having been born in Pennsylvania, but the 1870 census gives his birth place as Ireland and reports that both his mother and father had been foreign-born. David and Mary Peterson were also born in Ireland. Were these families part of the Scots-Irish migration early in America's history, or of the potato famine crisis in the middle of the 1800s?

The transcript of the original census which follows attempts to record precisely what the census taker wrote, which was not always accurate. He may have misheard a name, or the person supplying information about a birthplace or an age may have been mistaken. Where Donna Damon was able to identify clear mistakes, corrections in brackets have been added. The island residents were not identified as such; these names have been pulled from the larger Town of Cumberland census based upon our general knowledge of island history. To conserve space, columns in the census which offer no new information have been omitted: all people listed were white, none were married within the prior year, none were counted as being unable to read or write or as being deaf, dumb, blind or insane. And none of the adult male citizens had lost his right to vote.

Dwelling	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Father foreign	Mother foreign	Birth month if under 1 year	In School Within 1 year	Male Citizen 21 and up
237	239	Hamilton, Royal T.	26	M	Mariner		200	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Martha E.	27	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Ada C.	6	F	Att. School			Maine			1		
		Hamilton, David J.	8 mos.	M				Maine			Sept.		
		Hamilton, Eliza W.	57	F		1000	500	Maine					
238	240	Bennett, Stephen	31	M	Mariner		400	Maine					1
		Bennett, Caroline A.	33	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Bennett, Julia C.	11	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bennett, Willie F.	9	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bennett, Elsie M.	8	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bennett, Royal H.	6	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bennett, Lydia E.	4	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bennett, Eva M.	8 mos.	F				Maine			Sept.		1
239	241	Hamilton, John R.	35	M	Mariner	500	200	Maine					
		Hamilton, Statira	31	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Eliza J.	11	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Hamilton, Benj. F.	9	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Hamilton, Sherman M.	4	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Hamilton, Addison B.	1	M				Maine					
240	242	Littlefield, Wm V.	27	M	Mariner	800	200	Maine					1
		Littlefield, Prudence R.	24	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Littlefield, Elisha F.	1	M				Maine					
		Hill, Lydia	63	F				Maine					
241	243	Littlefield, William T.	59	M	Farmer	5000	2300	Maine					1
		Littlefield, Susan H.	54	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Littlefield, Darius F.	23	M	Mariner		600	Maine					1
		Littlefield, Ammi R.	20	M				Maine					
		Littlefield, Robert E.	17	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Littlefield, Etta A.	15	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Littlefield, Mayall M.	11	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bates, Eben E.	26	M	Mariner		1000	Maine					1
		Bates, Susie A.	25	F				Maine					
241	243	Hill, David N.	29	M	Mariner		1200	Maine					1
		Hill, Sarena F.	29	F				Maine					
		Hill, Froeland C.	1	M				Maine					
242	244	Rose, Ezekiel	54	M	Farmer	1100	200	Rhode Island					1
		Rose, Sarah D.	41	F	Keeping house			Rhode Island					
		Rose, John M.	23	M	Fisherman			Rhode Island					1
		Rose, Spencer H.	18	M	Fisherman			Rhode Island			1		
		Rose, Robert C. D.	16	M	Att. school			Rhode Island			1		
		Rose, Ezekiel J.	13	M	Att. school			Rhode Island			1		
		Rose, Enoch	12	M	Att. school			Rhode Island			1		
		Rose, Dora	8	F	Att. school			Rhode Island			1		
243	245	Seabury, William	38	M	Farmer	1000	350	Maine					1
		Seabury, Sarah F.	38	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Seabury, Mary A.	13	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Seabury, Emily C.	11	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Seabury, Benj. M.	8	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Seabury, Edgar M.	5	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Seabury, Maud E.	1	F				Maine					
244	246	Curate, Elizabeth	45	F	Keeping house		400	Maine					
245	247	Strout, Isaac	48	M	House Carpenter	700	400	Maine					1
		Strout, Sarah S.	43	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Strout, Franklin P.	17	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Mary M.	14	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Addie A.	12	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Nellie E.	9	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Isaac Jr.	7	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Cora J.	4	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Strout, Alice	1	F				Maine					
		Strout, Ambrose	10	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Upton, David	85	M				Maine					1
246	248	Stowell, Daniel	54	M	Mariner	1000	500	Maine					1
		Stowell, Hannah	53	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Stowell, Olive J.	16	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
247	249	Hill, David A.	72	M	Retired Clergyman	600		Maine					1
		Hill, Susan	48	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hill, George H.	18	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Hill, Fred B.	10	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
247 (?)	250	Thompson, William	41	M	Mariner	300		Maine					1
		Thompson, Lucretia	36	F	Keeping house			Maine					
	251	Thompson, Joseph	68	M	Fisherman	300		Maine					1
		Thompson, Deborah	71	F				Maine					
		Mack, Eliza	42	F	House keeper			Maine					
248	252	Littlefield, Jacob	47	M	Mariner	1500	600	Maine					1
		Littlefield, Elizabeth	45	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Littlefield, Henry	20	M				Maine					
		Littlefield, Martha	18	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Littlefield, John F.	16	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Littlefield, Lafayette	12	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Littlefield, Phiena	10	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
249	253	Littlefield, George M.	24	M	Mariner	1000		Maine					1
		Littlefield, Josephine	22	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Littlefield, Ada E.	2	F				Maine					
250	254	Johnson, Barnwell	55	M	Fisherman	500		Maine					1
		Johnson, Dorcas R.	43	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Johnson, Freeman T.	18	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Johnson, Sarah M.	11	F	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Johnson, Willie F.	8	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Johnson, Eva L.	3	F				Maine					
		Bryan, James W.	28	M				Maine					1
		Bryan, Isabell N.	24	F				Maine					
		Bryan, Ivan W.	5	M	Att. school			Maine			1		
		Bryan, Mary L.	3	F				Maine					
251	255	Thompson, Nathaniel	57	M	Farmer	1000	300	Maine					1
		Thompson, Jane	57	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Thompson, Roswell	32	M	Fisherman			Maine					1
		Thompson, Nathaniel Jr.	27	M	Fisherman			Maine					1

Dwelling	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Father foreign	Mother foreign	Birth month if under 1 year	In School Within 1 year	Male Citizen 21 and up
		Thompson, James	21	M	Fisherman			Maine					1
		Thompson, Dorcas	25	F				Maine					
		Thompson, Eliza A.	18	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Alonzo	11	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Wallace, James	66	M				Maine					1
252	256	Curate, Joshua	35	M	Mariner	1000	350	Maine					1
		Curate, Maria	35	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Curate, Adriana	13	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Curate, William A.	11	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Curate, Lilly B.	7	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Curate, Alice	4	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Curate, Merton	2	M				Maine					
253	257	Doughty, Asa	28	M	Mariner	600	150	Maine					1
		Doughty, Joanna F.	25	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Doughty, Herman	3	M				Maine					
		Doughty, James B.	5 mos.	M				Maine			Dec.		
254	258	Johnson, James	54	M	Farmer	1200	200	Maine					1
		Johnson, Susan	50	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Johnson, George	18	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Johnson, Albert	18	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Johnson, Theresa	16	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Johnson, James Jr.	16	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Johnson, Maria	13	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Millitt, Joseph	76	M				Maine					
255	259	Johnson, Barnwell Jr.	26	M	Fisherman	500	200	Maine					1
		Johnson, Annie	24	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Johnson, Susan	3	F				Maine					
		Griffin, Margaret	57	F				Maine					
256	260	Higgins, Seth	74	M	Farmer	2000	350	Maine					1
		Higgins, Rebecca	49	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Higgins, Adeline	19	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Higgins, Mary	17	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Higgins, Sylvanus	15	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Higgins, Irene	12	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
257	261	Ross, Frederick	24	M	Fisherman	500	200	Maine					1
		Ross, Emily	21	F	Keeping house			Maine					
258	262	Doughty, Job	56	M	Fisherman	300		Maine					1
		Doughty, Stephen W.	21	M	Fisherman			Maine					1
		Doughty, Alvin [Albion]	16	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Elsworth	13	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Eliza	11	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
259	263	Doughty, David W.	23	M	Fisherman	350		Maine					1
		Doughty, Andella	19	F				Maine					
		Doughty, Fred W.	5 mos.	M				Maine			Dec.		
		Doughty, Nancy	56	F	Keeping house			Maine					
260	264	Doughty, David	37	M	Fisherman	300		Maine					1
		Doughty, Christianna	30	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Doughty, Joseph M.	13	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Lucretia	9	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Verdiana	6	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Doughty, Frances	2 mos.	M				Maine			Mar.		
261	265	Webber, David	45	M	Fisherman			Maine					1
		Webber, Caroline	45	F	Keeping house	500		Maine					
		Webber, David E.	22										

Dwelling	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Father foreign	Mother foreign	Birth month if under 1 year	In School Within year	Male Citizen 21 and up
		Hamilton, Nelle J.	1	F				Maine					
304	316	Cloaves, Aaron Jr.	37	M	Mariner	1200	300	Maine					1
		Cloaves, Caroline	36	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Cloaves, George L.	3	M				Maine					
		Cloaves, Charles A.	8 mos.	M				Maine			Sept.		
	317	Curt, John	93	M				Maine					1
		Curt, Clara	66	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Curt, Sewall	22	M				Maine					1
305	318	Hill, David	62	M	Farmer	1500	300	Maine					1
		Hill, Phebe S.	54	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Henly, Matilda	31	F				Maine					
306	319	Hamilton, James M.	38	M	Grocer	1300	2000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Eunice	29	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Clinton	12	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Melissa	10	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Charles W.	7	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
307	320	Hamilton, Stephen	28	M	Grocer	1300	1000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Hattie E.	25	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Cora G.	2	F				Maine					
	321	Hamilton, Jeremiah	33	M	Ship Master		3000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Caroline M.	33	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Albert L.	7	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Fremant	5	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Alice E.	2	F				Maine					
		Hamilton, Lilly	1 mo.	F				Maine			May		
		Hamilton, Lester	1 mo.	M				Maine			May		
308	322	Hamilton, Benjamin	42	M	Mariner	300		Maine					1
		Hamilton, Sarah H.	44	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Clifford E.	10	M				Maine				1	
309	323	Ross, Samuel Jr.	39	M	Ship Master	1500	1000	Maine					1
		Ross, Eliza F.	32	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Ross, Rufus L.	12	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Ross, Leonard	10	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Ross, Mary E.	7	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Ross, Elias S.	5	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
	323	Ross, Elias	42	M	Mariner		1000	Maine					1
		Ross, Susan G.	38	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Ross, George C.	18	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Ross, Erwin L.	3	M				Maine					
	324	Hamilton, Isaac	43	M	Ship Master	1500	6000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Lavinia A.	36	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Julia E.	15	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Flora A.	6	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Edith	4	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Isaac A.	2	M				Maine					
	325	Hamilton, David Jr.	25	M	Mariner		300	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Clara	22	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Charles A.	1 mo.	M				Maine			April		
311	326	Hamilton, Roswell	70	M	Farmer	1000	300	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Serena S.	69	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, William E.	23	M	Farm laborer			Maine					
		Hamilton, Phebe E.	19	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
	327	Hamilton, John A.	35	M	Mariner		600	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Harriet M.	30	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Alexander	10	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Howard S.	5	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Robert W.	3	M				Maine					
312	328	Hamilton, Roswell E.	32	M	Fisherman	700	300	Maine		1			1
		Hamilton, Georgianna	29	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Isabella E.	6	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Almeda	1	F				Maine					
	329	Hamilton, Alfred E.	27	M	Fisherman		500	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Helen A.	30	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Clara M.	5	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Walter W.	8 mos.	M				Maine			Sep		
313	330	Hamilton, Robert Jr.	40	M	Ship Master	1000	500	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Betsey	29	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Alvin J.	16	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Harry	8	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Emma	6	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Laura J.	2	F				Maine					
314	331	Hill, Reuben	43	M	Fisherman	1000	200	Maine					1
		Hill, Mary W.	44	F				Maine					
		Hill, Isaac S.	11	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hill, George S.	8	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hill, Reuben F.	5	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
315	332	Hamilton, John	66	M	Farmer	2500	1500	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Mary	69	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Henley, Hattie E.	13	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
	333	Ross, Edward	31	M	House Carpenter			Maine					1
		Ross, Rebecca J.	29	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Ross, Lewis B.	4	M	Att. school			Maine					1
		Ross, Ernest C.	3	M				Maine					
		Ross, Addie J.	1	F				Maine					
316	334	Hamilton, John F.	35	M	Ship Master	1000	7000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Melissa M.	31	F	Keeping house			Maine					
317	335	Hamilton, Simeon	64	M	Farmer	3000	8750	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Elanor	48	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Alonzo S.	22	M	works on farm			Maine					1
		Hamilton, Mary E.	20	F				Maine					
318	336	Ross, Samuel	68	M	Farmer	1500	3000	Maine					1
		Ross, Julia A.	50	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Ross, George	26	M				Maine					1
		Ross, Eivrah	8	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
319	337	Webber, Benjamin	57	M	Mariner	1500	500	Maine					1
		Webber, Louisa	53	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Webber, Charles G.	20	M				Maine					
		Webber, Mary L.	22	F				Maine					

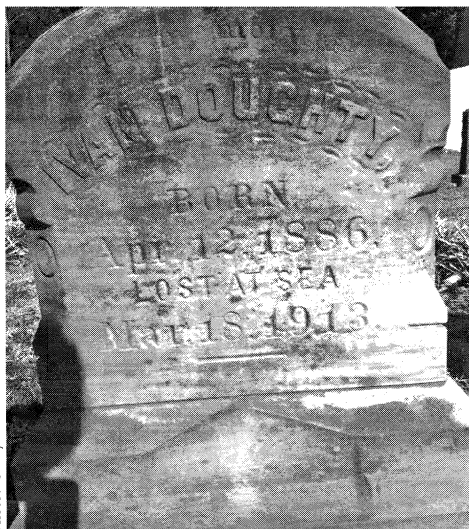
Dwelling	Family	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Place of Birth	Father foreign	Mother foreign	Birth month if under 1 year	In School Within year	Male Citizen 21 and up
	338	Hamilton, Sumner	25	M	Mariner		1000	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Nelle S.	18	F	Keeping house			Maine					
320	339	Soule, Rufus A.	23	M	Mariner	800	200	Maine					1
		Soule, Eunice	60	F	Keeping house			Maine					
	340	Hamilton, Henry H.	23	M	Mariner		300	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Arvilla M.	18	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Ira W.	2	M				Maine					
321	341	Hamilton, Rufus	36	M	Mariner	800	400	Maine					1
		Hamilton, Clarinda	33	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Alma	12	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Ida M.	10	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Mary E.	8 mos.	F				Maine			Sept.		
		Hamilton, James	7	M				Maine				1	
322	342	Webber, Charles A.	41	M	Mariner	1200	150	Maine					1
		Webber, Susan J.	33	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Webber, Charles L.	10	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Webber, Eda J.	3	F				Maine					
		Webber, Millie M.	1	F				Maine					
323	343	Smith, Donald	38	M	Mariner	150	300	Mass.					1
		Smith, Augusta	31	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Smith, Nelson A.	9	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Smith, Clarence E.	6	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Smith, Ira D.	2	M				Maine					
324	344	Hamilton, Edward	30	M	Mariner	600		Maine					1
		Hamilton, Abbie	31	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Hamilton, Mary J.	9	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Ambrose M.	4	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Hamilton, Sarah	71	F			500	Maine					
325	345	Thompson, Charles W.	38	M	Mariner	1500	150	Maine					1
		Thompson, Julia	36	F	Keeping house			Maine					
		Thompson, Ella E.	16	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Emma G.	14	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Louisa A.	13	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Julia F.	11	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Alice B.	7	F	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Charles F.	6	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Thompson, Herman J.	2	M				Maine					
		Thompson, William V.	7 mos.	M				Maine			Nov.		
326	346	Emmons, Edwin	44	M	Post Master	1000	200	Maine					1
		Emmons, Lavina	46	F	Keeping house			Maine		1			
		Emmons, Seward H.	16	M	Att. school			Maine				1	
		Emmons, Hattie P.	12	F	Att. school			Maine				1	

Source: "United States Census, 1870," index and images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed March 16, 2014), Maine > Cumberland > Cumberland > images 27 to 40 of 44: citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M593.

TOLL OF THE SEA MEMORIAL UPDATE

In August 2014 a memorial fund was established in memory of Sanford Doughty to create a memorial to Chebeaguers who lost their lives on a vessel or as the result of a maritime related event. Sanford had great respect for the sea, but he understood the dangers and challenges that all inhabitants in maritime communities face from living on the water. He had lost many family members and friends to the sea. He saw the memorial as a way to remind the community that living on an island and being connected to the sea has its inherent risks. Every time a person passes, whether at sea or by drowning, the community rallies around the family as folks realize that no one is immune. Whether it is a neighbor who dies of a heart attack while moving his boat in a blizzard, a child who falls off a slippery ledge while gathering driftwood, the captain of a sloop that is crushed by a falling block, or the mariner who sails off and is never heard from again, we all feel the loss, and we are never quite the same again.

Maritime endeavors are some of the most dangerous professions because of the unpredictability of the environment, the associated dangers, and physical strain of the work. Even though children raised on an island have been taught to respect the sea, accidents happen. Non-life threaten-



Photos: Cathy MacNeill

ing illnesses that occur aboard a vessel can quickly take a life because of lack of access to medical assistance. Our community has experienced all of these types of losses.

For every loss there have been many, many more close calls. Islanders have survived slipping overboard on ice covered seaweed, falling off the bow of the boat when dropping the anchor, being caught in the warp when setting a stringer, swimming out too deep chasing a beach ball, getting caught in a hauler, being burned by a malfunctioning engine, losing a rudder outside in mid winter, going adrift in a nor'easter, or losing one's way in the

vapor on a frigid winter day. Had fate not interceded, our list would be much longer and the loss even greater.

The CIHS has compiled a list of more than fifty people who were lost at sea, drowned, or died on board a vessel. We are also trying to document each loss. If you know of someone with Chebeague ties that passed away as the result of a maritime event please contact us. If you know the specific details about a loss (date, location, etc) please contact CIHS by writing to PO Box 28, Chebeague Island ME 04017, email Chebeaguehistory@gmail.com, or call Donna Damon 846-5140. We want the list to be as inclusive as possible.

To date more than thirty individuals and families have donated more than \$2500 toward the memorial effort. We will be accepting donations until June when a committee will research and consider various options for the type of memorial and the location. The committee is looking for ideas. Please contact Mabel Doughty, Jackie Trask, Donna Damon, Binkie Boxer, Sylvia Ross, or Pat St. Cyr if you have any thoughts regarding the type of memorial and location. Donations may be sent to the Chebeague Island Historical Society, PO Box 28, Chebeague Island ME 04017. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

**List to date of Chebeague's Toll of the Sea (Drownings and other maritime related deaths)
Please add to this list by giving us more names, dates, and details!**

1800s

Job Bennett
Job Bennett Jr.
Andrew Doughty
Hartley Doughty
Mellen Ross
Alex Ross
John Hamilton
William Hutchinson
William Hutchinson (*nephew*)
Ambrose Hamilton
Nathaniel Long
Mary Pittee
Eliza Pittee
Horace Upton
Mary Horr Hamilton

Benjamin Hamilton
William Hamilton
John Ross Sr.
John Ross Jr.
Ammi Ross
Michael Kennedy
Spencer Rose
Sarah (Bates) Johnson
John Mansfield
Jane Bates
Daniel Doughty
Ebenezer Hill
Lewis Sylvester
Isaac Hamilton

1900s

Warren "Bud" Cowdrey
Ivan Doughty
Royal Ross
Earle Everett Doughty
Melvin Doughty
Ellis Doughty
Sidney Doughty
Sidney Doughty Jr.
Roger Doughty
Manley Doughty Sr.
Charles Doughty
Evans Doughty
Jeffery Doughty
Roger Rich
William Riddle

Herman "Red" Riddle
James Rich Jr.
William Troy
Philip Hill
Emery Ross
Margaret Haskell

2000s

Mark Doughty
Nathan Stewart
Bill Whetham

Documenting Chebeague's Toll of the Sea: Family Folklore, Intuition, Serendipity, and Technology

by Donna Miller Damon

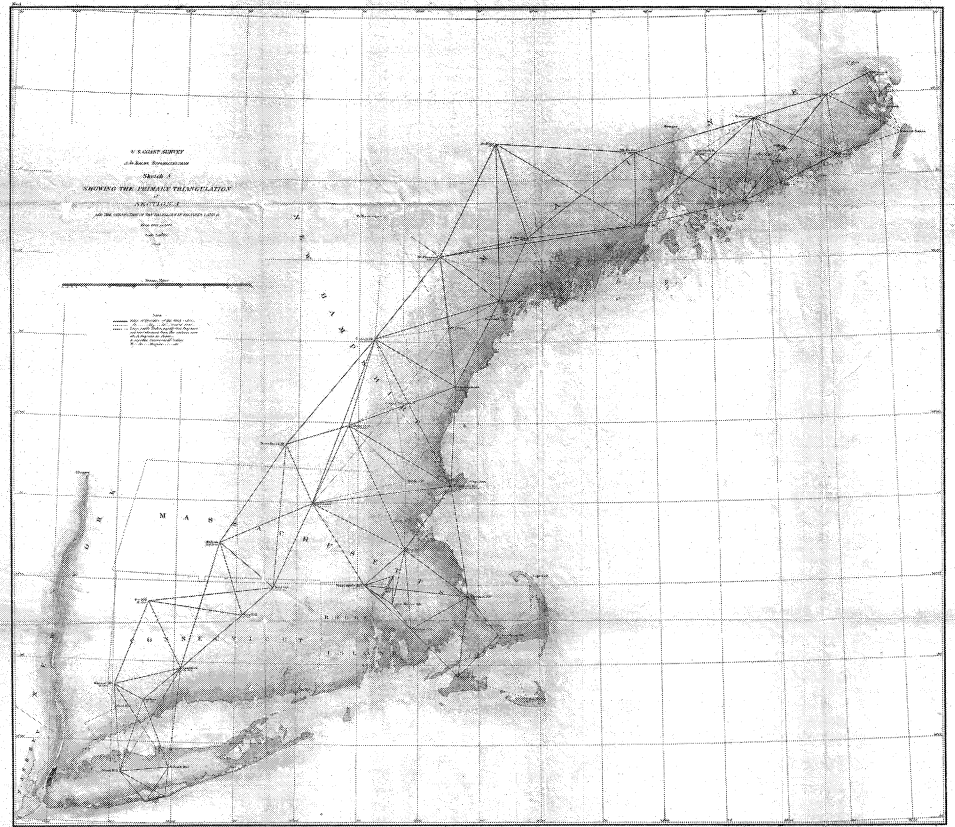
Even though all of the stories associated with the Toll of the Sea Memorial are sad, we feel that these tragedies are part of our island history and should be preserved. In many cases the tragedy reflects the economic or social activities of the era, and many were weather related. Over the past two centuries maritime tragedies have had a significant impact on the Chebeague community touching nearly everyone in some way or another.

The stories of many of the tragedies have been passed on from generation to generation, but over the years details have been lost. Sometimes all it takes is a nugget, a detail, a clue, intuition, or just plain serendipity to discover the missing pieces. In this issue of the Sloops Log we will begin a series of stories about these tragic losses. Two disasters took place nearly twenty years apart but impacted multiple generations of the same family. In each case three people were lost. These are stories that came down through my family. From early childhood I heard the tragic stories. My mother told the story of my great-great-grandfather, John Ross and his two sons froze to death after a shipwreck, as well as the story of Ross' grandson and my great-great uncle Benjamin Hamilton, his young wife, Mary, and cousin, William Hamilton who drown when their dory was swamped off Long Island. No one in the family was sure when these events occurred. The Stone Sloops of Chebeague gave an approximate date for the Ross tragedy but never even mentioned the Hamiltons' saga. So I was faced with the challenge of solving mysteries that had occurred more than a century and a half ago.

Captain John Ross, Ammi Ross, and John Ross, Jr. 1834

John Ross and his two brothers, Samuel and Walter, moved to Chebeague in the early 1800s, and each of them married a Hamilton granddaughter. John married Dorcas Hamilton, and in 1817 he bought the house now owned by Richard and Priscilla Ross. John Ross was a mariner who made frequent trips between Portland and Boston transporting various cargoes. The story recorded in William Hauk's Stone

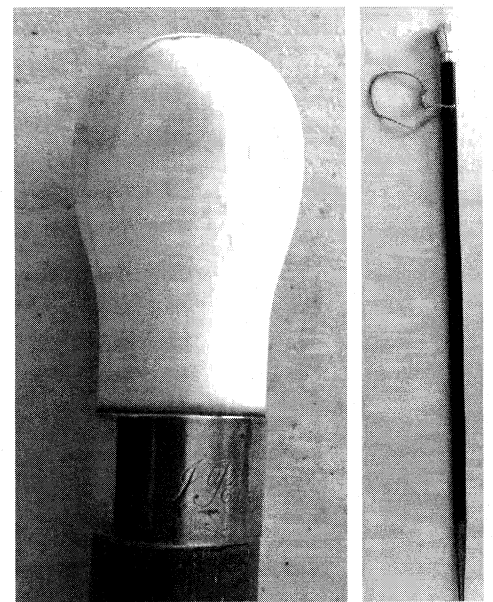
Sloop's Log 11



U.S. Coast Survey 1864

Sloops of Chebeague is that sometime in the 1850s he and two sons were wrecked on Graves Ledge outside of Boston and were found clinging to the mast and froze to death. This horrific story was passed on without much detail. After consulting the Census and the Assessors records it seemed if the dates were wrong. Deeds confirm that Dorcas Ross, a widow, sold her farm in the late 1830s. John Ross is listed in the 1830 Census so contrary to Hauk, whatever happened to him must have occurred in the 1830s, but when?

The next clue came from a family heirloom. Waneta Hamilton Cleaves had a cane that had once belonged to John Ross who was her great-great grandfather. It had been given to her grandfather, John Ross Hamilton, who was his namesake. John Ross Hamilton was born in 1835. Was he born shortly after Ross was lost? Family lore stated that the cane was made from a piece of the Constitution aka Old Ironsides. The cane, now in the collection of the Chebeague Historical Society, has a silver band



John Ross cane

near its ivory top with J Ross etched in one side and an etching of Old Ironsides on the other. How did he get the cane and when? While chaperoning a field trip to Boston, I visited the Constitution Museum and came upon a room filled with numerous

Spring 2014

styles of canes made from the Constitution. I discovered that when the ship was over hauled in the early 1830s, Isaac Hull, who had captained the vessel during the War of 1812 and was, then in charge of the Boston Naval Yard, had canes made as gifts for esteemed friends and colleagues. In the nineteenth century especially, canes were seen as symbols of prestige and power; a cane made from Old Ironsides wood was especially desirable. Did Ross know Hull or did he buy the souvenir on a trip to Boston? The frigate was hauled out between June 1833 and June 1834. A similar cane currently offered in an on line auction has a November 1833 date inscribed so the canes would have been available then. Did the Ross tragedy occur as late as 1833-34? From time to time I Googled John Ross on the off chance that there might be something about him on the Internet. I checked ancestry.com – nothing. But I didn't give up. That is an important lesson in this article. In this digital age new materials are being scanned and put on the WEB everyday. Families are cleaning out attics and contributing materials to local archives. People are scanning photos and documents and making family connections on Facebook and Ancestry.com, and there is always something new popping up on eBay. Last winter I happened to notice that some Boston death records had been uploaded to Ancestry.com so I typed in John Ross and voila – I got a hit! At first I was disappointed when I found that the John Ross listed was only 17, but then I saw cause of death- frozen! Could this be one of the sons? Portland was listed as the place of internment. Coincidence - or had I found the right person? I scanned the records but found no mention of any other Ross deaths. What about the father and other son?

I had a lead so it was worth pursuing. This young man had died on February 14, 1834. It was consistent with the date of the cane. That was enough for me! I was off to the Portland Public Library's Portland Room and the newspaper microfilm. On February 19, 1834 the Eastern Argus reported:

Deaths –In Boston, on Friday 14th inst. John Ross, of this city, aged 17. He was one of four persons taken from the wreck of the schr. Chancellor, of this port, badly frozen, - and last but one of the survivors.

So what happened to the other three? Chebeague lore had only identified Captain Ross and his sons. Who was the fourth sailor? Back to the microfilm I went in search of the rest of the story! Methodically I started from February 19th and went backwards. The February 5th Eastern Argus reported:

Tuesday 4th – Ar (arrived) schr (schooner) Ocean, Long (captain) Boston, sundry mdse (merchandise). (The remains of Captain Ross and his son were brought here from Boston for internment, in the Ocean.)

I wanted to know more so I continued to go backward. On Monday, February 3, 1834 the Eastern Argus provided the details that had been lost for generations.

MELANCHOLY. The ship Brunette, Fales, (captain) from New Orleans as Boston on Saturday last (February 1), having on board Capt. John Ross, his two sons and a Mr. Rand who were taken off the schr Chancellor, hence for Boston on Wednesday last, in lat 41.25 – long 68 and all of whom were badly frozen. The eldest son of Captain Ross died within an hour after being taken on board the ship, and Captain Ross died at two o'clock on Saturday morning. The two remaining persons are badly frozen, one of whom the younger Ross, cannot recover. The Chancellor sailed from this port (Portland) on the 21st ult. laden with wood struck on a ledge same night, received much

injury and was driven to sea nearly full of water. When fallen in with the Brunette, had 3 of water on her cabin floor.

Based on this account it appears that John Ross, his sons, and crewman Rand were adrift for more than a week before the Brunette found them! If the story that has been passed down is true, and they hit Graves Ledge outside of Boston Harbor, they must have drifted about southeast 162 miles as the crow flies putting them some where in the Atlantic due west from Cape Cod more than half way to the continental shelf! The vessel took on water after hitting the ledge but did not sink due to the cargo of lumber. Apparently it suffered other damage that crippled the ship and made it impossible to maneuver into port.

It is difficult to imagine what happened during that week adrift as four men battled for their lives as they faced the wind, waves and storms of the Atlantic in mid winter. How long did their supplies hold out? Were they able to keep a fire going? Were they standing in water most of the time? Did they pile up lumber to try to keep dry? Did they see any vessels in the distance during that week? Had the Brunette come upon them days earlier more of them might have survived?

They were about two days out of Boston when they were picked up, the vessel surely encrusted in ice. Family folklore has it that they were clinging to the mast. The fact that they were all alive after a week is



John Ross House. Pictured here the Isaac and Sarah Upton Strout Family c.18805.

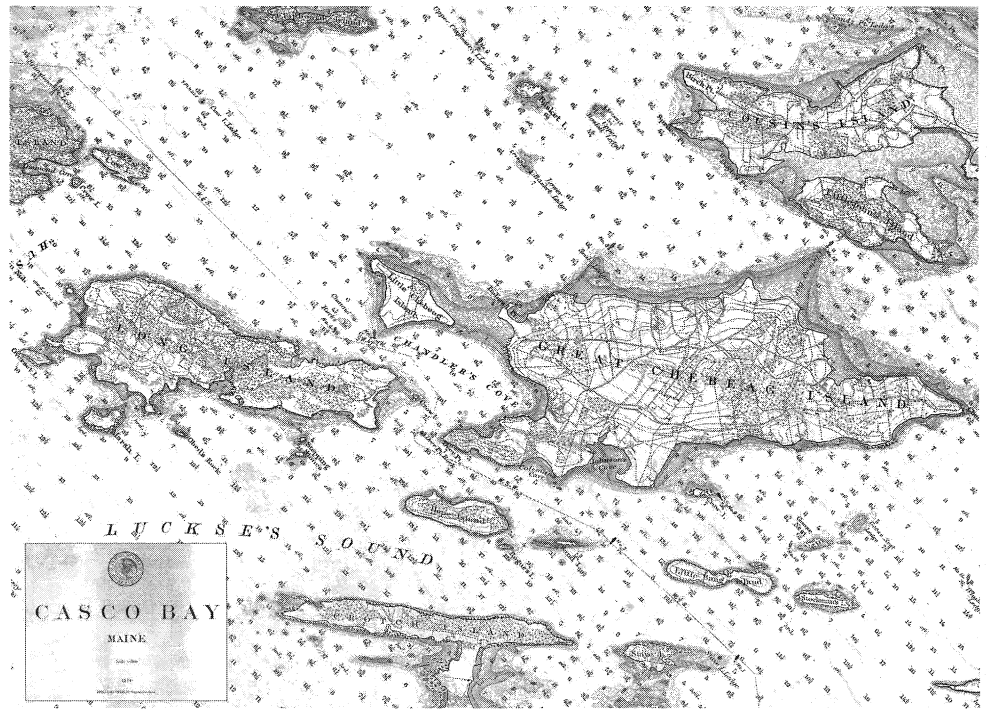
amazing in itself. Ammi Ross, the eldest son was the first to pass followed by his father, Captain John Ross, a couple of days later. Young John, 17, though not expected to survive when they were picked up, lived until February 14 – 24 days after they hit the ledge! And who was Mr. Rand, the only survivor? That may remain a mystery for the ages.

How did this tragedy affect the community? Did they know that the vessel was missing during the week it was a drift? How did the widow, Dorcas Ross find about about the fate of her husband and two sons? Did any of the family travel to Boston while young John lay dying? Where are they buried? Dorcas has a stone in the Chebeague Cemetery and several unmarked graves are nearby. But the burial records from that era have been lost. We know that John Ross' daughter, Eliza Hamilton, named her oldest son born in 1835 after her father. Today Ross has at least 24 direct descendants living on the island. In fact several members of the CIHS Board are connected to John Ross including Ken Hamilton, Sylvia Ross, Marjorie Munroe, Donna Damon, Joan Robinson, and Suhail Bisharat through his wife, Leila. Other island descendants include David Miller, Leon Hamilton, Bob Brown, Doug Ross, and Beth Wiles and their families.

Had they not been found and had Rand not survived, the story of the loss of the Chancellor and the Ross family would have been another saga of a vessel that left Chebeague never to return. The Eastern Argus' "Shipping Intelligence" column is a valuable resource for anyone researching local maritime history. But narrowing down the time period is essential to finding the proverbial needle in a haystack!

Benjamin Hamilton, Mary Horr Hamilton and William Hamilton

I first heard the story of Great Uncle Benjamin Hamilton, grandson of John Ross, and his young bride Aunt Mary when we were steaming by the Stepping Stones off Long island in my father's lobster boat. My mother had heard the saga from her father who in turn had heard it from his father, who was Benjamin's brother. My mother didn't know when it happened but she did know that it was in the winter, and it happened in a freak snow storm. She thought that they had just been married on Long Island and were heading back to Chebeague to start their lives together. She said they were found with the hands clasped together on a partially sub-



U.S. Coast Survey, Casco Bay Maine 1870

merged dory. I was overcome with sadness whenever my mother told the story.

Periodically, I would scan microfilm of Portland newspapers or Cumberland death records hoping to be lucky but it was a real needle in a haystack! By using the Census records and Cumberland's assessor's records I was able narrow it down to the early 1860s. But that was as far as I got until about 15 years ago when I received an invitation on Christmas Eve to speak at St. Joseph's convent in Portland. I agreed, and a couple of months later I gave my "Chebeague Slide Show". I was picking up after the talk when a woman came up to me papers in hand. She told me that she had read that I was speaking and took the day off from work to attend. (That in its self boggled my mind!). She went on to tell me that she had a family mystery and hoped that I could help. She had a great Aunt Mary who had been drowned with her husband and his cousin between Long Island and Chebeague. She wanted to know his name and what happened. I was speechless. Talk about serendipity! She knew about the story from the Long Island perspective! But more importantly she had dates and identified a third victim. She also told me that the bride and groom were buried on Long Island.

My intuition regarding the time period had been correct. Now I had to verify her facts. I knew that there were no stones for Benjamin and Mary in the Chebeague Cemetery. Who was the cousin? In those days it was not uncommon for a Chebeaguer to have 50-70 first cousins! Where to start? I

went back to the 1860 Census and checked out the families of Benjamin's aunts and uncles. He lived where Mark McGee lives and his Uncle Simeon Hamilton lived "next door" in what was Charlotte St. Cyr's house. Once again intuition paid off. Simeon had a son, William, who was 21 in 1860 – the same age as Benjamin. I headed up to the cemetery to check out the large obelisk on Simeon's lot, and there I found a son William who had died January 25, 1861! The next step in my journey for facts was going back to the newspaper microfilm at the Portland Public Library. Sure enough, I found the story...in fact I found several versions of the story!

For generations family members on Long and Chebeague heard the sad tale of the newly married couple who were drowned on January 25, 1861, when they were caught in a freak snow squall after leaving Long Island on their way back to Chebeague.

On Long Island the story goes that the tragedy occurred on their wedding day, but the Chebeague version contends that they had been married previously and were just returning from a visit. The Long Island version explains that they left from the beach in front of the Horr house, which faced Chebeague, whereas the Chebeague rendition has them leaving from the front side of the island. Both stories had them wrecked near the Stepping Stones, which are small nubs surrounded by breaking water located on the outside of Long Island. So what really happened?

Portland's three newspapers gave conflicting versions of the story. The Eastern Argus

reported that the tragic event happened on a Friday, which is consistent with the date on William Hamilton's gravestone in the Chebeague Cemetery. The Argus reported that:

William, Benjamin, and Mary Hamilton of Chebeague Island, having been on a visit to Long Island, started in a boat from the latter place at half-past one o'clock to return home. At half past 3 o'clock Mr. Green, who had been gunning, discovered the boat capsized. The bodies of William and Mary were found, but that of Benjamin had not been discovered on Saturday.

The Portland Transcript's story goes like this:

On Saturday last, as Benjamin and William Hamilton accompanied by the wife of the former were returning from Long Island to their home on Chebeague Island, the boat was swamped by the ice, and all three were drowned. The bodies of the woman and one of the men have been found. Mrs. Hamilton and her husband had been married but about three weeks.

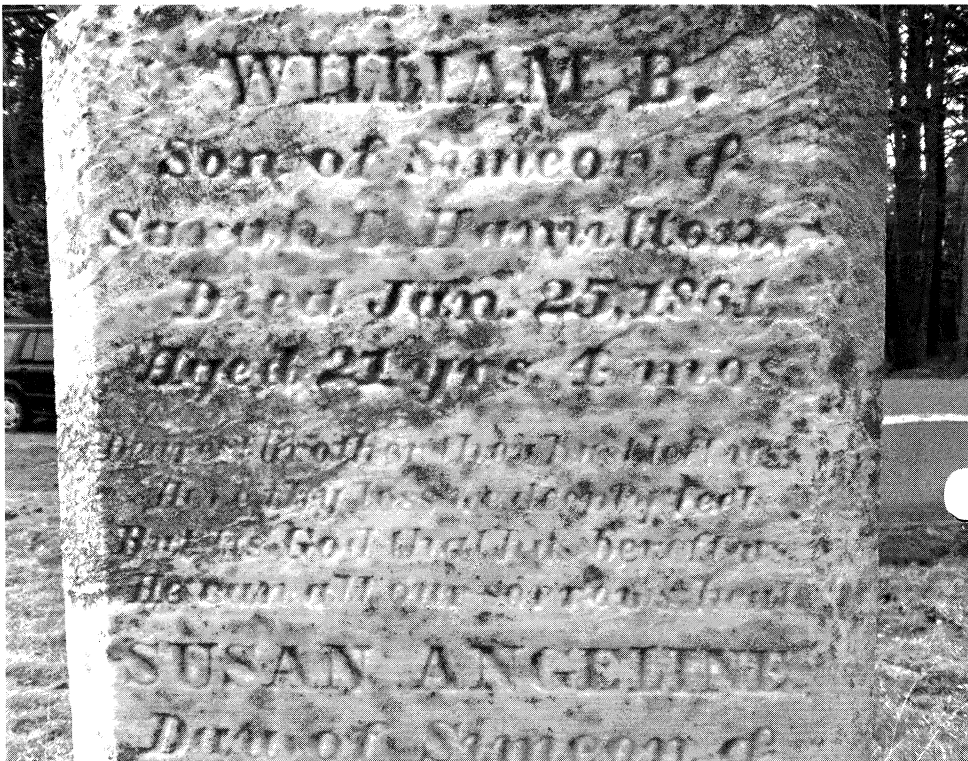
Finally, the Portland Advertiser reported that the drowning was on Saturday morning and that the accident occurred:

When rounding a point their boat grounded out on a bar, and the boat was swamped by the ice... The bodies of Benjamin and the woman were subsequently recovered.

So what really happened and when? We'll never know for sure because of the conflicting reports, but there is a sand bar that connects Long Island and adjacent Crow Island, and it is in the vicinity of the Horr's beach. William Hamilton's grandfather's house was located directly across from the Horr's in Bennett's Cove on Chebeague. Were they swamped there and drifted to the Stepping Stones or were they found by Crow Island sand bar? Were all three bodies

Close up of grave of William Hamilton.

recovered? Gravestones have been found for William Hamilton on Chebeague and Mary Horr Hamilton at the Apple Tree Cemetery on Long. But what of Benjamin Hamilton? A remnant of the base of a broken stone is next to his mother's stone in the Chebeague cemetery as well as one near his wife's on Long. His grand niece contended that his body was found. Because of the various accounts and the lack of specificity, we will probably never know for sure. However, thanks to the family legends that kept this story alive this tragic event has not been forgotten.



Photos-Cathy MacNeill



Photos-Cathy MacNeill



Photo-CIHS Collect

HIGHLIGHTS OF 13 YEARS OF THE CHEBEAGUE ISLAND GRANGE

from the notes of Leah Webber

Photo-Diane Calder Collection

Stanley M. Libby, the Principal of Chebeague High School called a meeting on November 19, 1951 at the High School building (now the Town Garage) to organize a Grange – 34 interested people came and by authority of Deputy Littlejohn the obligation of the First Degree was administered to those present.

Officers were elected as follows: Master, Stanly Libby; Overseer, William Hill; Lecturer, Ruth Libby; Steward, Clyde Bowen; Assistant Steward, Larry Bennett; Chaplain, Isabelle Mansfield; Treasurer, Suzanne Bennett; Secretary, Leah Webber; Gatekeeper, Richard MacCormack; Ceres, Sarah Webber; Pomona, Ivy Walker; Flora, Gladys Bennett; Lady Assistant Ward, Roberta White; Ex. Com. members (were) Lewis Ross, Alden Brewer and Waldo Crafts.

On November 27, 62 visiting Grangers came to the Island Hall and conferred the 3rd and 4th Degrees on 56 members. The Grangers represented were Forest City, New Gloucester, Presumscot, Highland Lake, Oak Hill, Cape Elizabeth, Stroudwater, Saccarappa, and Bauneg Beg. Forest City Grange presented us with our gavels and staves and Cape Elizabeth gave us our sashes and a Bible. It was a gala evening with over a hundred people in the Hall.

Our next step was to find meeting place. We asked permission to use the Parish House and it was granted. In 1952, a Juvenile Grange was formed with 18 charter members, and Sister Ellen Hamilton was their Matron. In 1954, the Grange sponsored a game night once a week under the supervision of Brothers Small and Brewer. The same year, Lucy Hill gave us our present Bible and Brother Libby hooked our rug for us. We voted to build a kitchen on to the Parish House. The materials cost us \$422 and the Grange men did most of work.

In 1955, we bought 2 pitcher pumps and 2 well points toward putting the water into both the Parish House and the Island Hall. By May of 1955, we were in the red to the amount of \$144.



Later in '55, Brother Libby made a new altar and we dedicated it with the proper ceremonies. In the same year, the Selectman of the Town rejected our offer of \$500 for the purchase of the former High School building at Central Landing – but in July, we re-entered our bid and it was accepted. The final payment for it was made in October 1957.

In April of 1955 the Grange was legally incorporated. Two new station tables were made and the next year two dining tables were built. The same year, we put on a special supper at Hill Crest Hotel, preceding our meeting, and 205 visiting Grangers attended. We realized \$98.24 for our treasury and that same spring we earned \$150 from our cemetery work. This was our first year to present the Memorial Day program.

In 1956, the Youth Committee originated a game night once a month for the young people under direction of Sister Byrle Dyer. That year was a busy one. We worked hard with the committee advertising the Island at the Hartford Show – do you remember those

hundreds of little pillows which we stuffed? We participated in an all-out effort to save our High School and in trying to check the Casco Bay Line's rises in freight and passenger rates. That year we entertained the Falmouth Boy Scout Troup for a dinner.

The next year we started sponsoring the Girl Scout Troup under the leadership of Sister Brewer. We put on a food sale for the benefit of the Church treasury and realized \$35.70 from the same. In 1960 we purchased out stainless

steel table silver and a new 50 star flag for the Grange Hall.

We have given hundred of hours of our time on the various bridge projects-- and for several years, we participated in the "Toys for Tots" campaign, sending many toys to the Marine Corp. for renovations. We have never refused a call for financial help on the Island and, through our efforts, three Island boys were able to obtain loans for school from the Educational Aid Fund of the Grange.

No doubt I have missed some of our activities which should have been mentioned, but I am sure that many things I have written may have been forgotten by some and that you enjoyed having them recalled to you. I only hope this Grange #576 may be as successful in the next 13 years as it has been in the past 13. I am sure we all remember many happy times together.

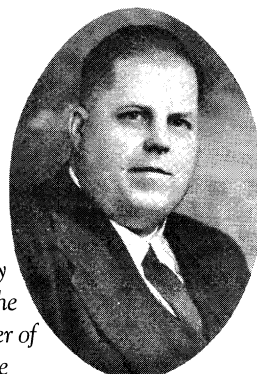
Leah Webber, Secretary

Fast forward to 2014...

Leah was Secretary of the Chebeague Island Grange for more than 20 years. She was extremely proud of her Grange connection. Most of you are aware that the Grange is no longer holding regular meetings because of low membership. We, the members, are attempting to make decisions regarding the future of Chebeague Island Grange.

We will keep you posted.

Dianne Calder, daughter of the Secretary



Stan Libby was also the first Master of the Grange

Principal

STANLEY M. LIBBY

CHEBEAGUE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1964 ~ 50 YEARS AGO

Below please find some selections from the Chebeague Newsletter of 50 years ago - March 1964.

Earle Doughty was then president of the Chebeague Island Council, Inc.

Times were quite different then, and the residents of the island had not long ago learned that their long campaign to obtain a bridge to the island had been defeated at the ballot box.

The question then was, "Where do we go from here?"

This a great question for us all as we move ahead fifty years later.

Jane Frizzell

CANDID REFLECTION ON THE DEFEAT OF THE CHEBEAGUE ISLAND BRIDGE BILL

We don't know the author of this editorial.

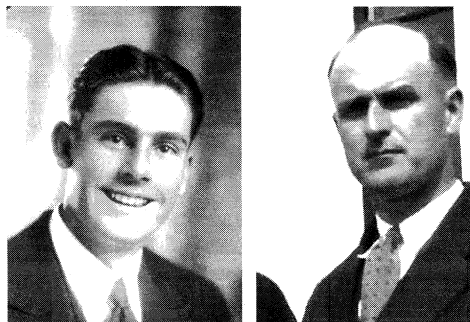
In spite of the convincing weight of precedent to the effect that once a bill calling for a bond issue is placed on referendum, the people of the State seldom if ever vote against it. The Chebeague Island Bridge Bill was defeated in November by an overwhelming majority of the voters in a statewide referendum.

Whether this defeat means the collapse of a dramatic seven-year struggle toward a practical and feasible solution of our educational, economic, and social problems remains to be seen.

It seems fairly obvious that in spite of assurances of sympathetic support from over fifty thousand registered voters from all sections of the state during the campaigns for signatures, (voters) were unduly influenced by the publicity tactics employed by the Maine Good Roads Association.

Perhaps we underestimated of the persistent exaggerations uttered blandly by the opposition on television, over the radio, and in the press. Perhaps we might have carried out a more positive publicity program designed to expose the falseness of the claims made by the opposition and to inform the voters of the real facts.

In spite of this unfortunate set back, the fact that remains that the construction of a bridge connecting Chebeague Island with the mainland might well be the keystone to the economic development of the whole Casco Bay area. Where do we go from here?



*Earle Doughty,
1964 President of
the CI Council*

*Archie Bowen,
1964 Master
of the Grange*

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND GRANGE WINS STATE HONORS

*This article seemed an appropriate follow up to
Di Calder's History of the Grange.*

In a statewide contest sponsored each year by the National Grange and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, and designed to promote community service, first prize was awarded to the Chebeague Island Grange.

*The article goes on to describe many projects
from the previous year.*

Officers for the current year (1964) are as follows:

Master, Archie Bowen
Overseer, Waneta Cleaves
Lecturer, Raymond Hayward
Steward, Harold Cleaves
Assistant Steward, Waldo Crafts
Chaplain, Isabelle (Dotty) Mansfield
Treasurer, Dorothy Hayward
Secretary, Leah Webber
Gate Keeper, Albion Miller
Ceres, Helen Miller
Flora, Lida Small
Pomona, Ruth Burgess
Lady Assistant Steward, Diane Calder
Executive Committee: Ralph Small, Mabel Hill, Rita Bowen

MARRIAGES

In this 1964 Newsletter

Mary Elizabeth Webber to Peter Gomez
in Portland.

Banu Hassan to James KomLosy
on Chebeague.

Judith St. Cyr to Emery Doughty
on Chebeague.

Audrey Hamilton to Richard Collins
in South Portland.

Lena Sidelinger to Bruce C. Hamilton
in Falmouth.

Priscilla Pierce to Lawrence Bennet
on Chebeague.

Elaine Martin to Douglas F. Symonds
in Mass.

ISLAND NEWS BRIEF

One of many in the Newsletter

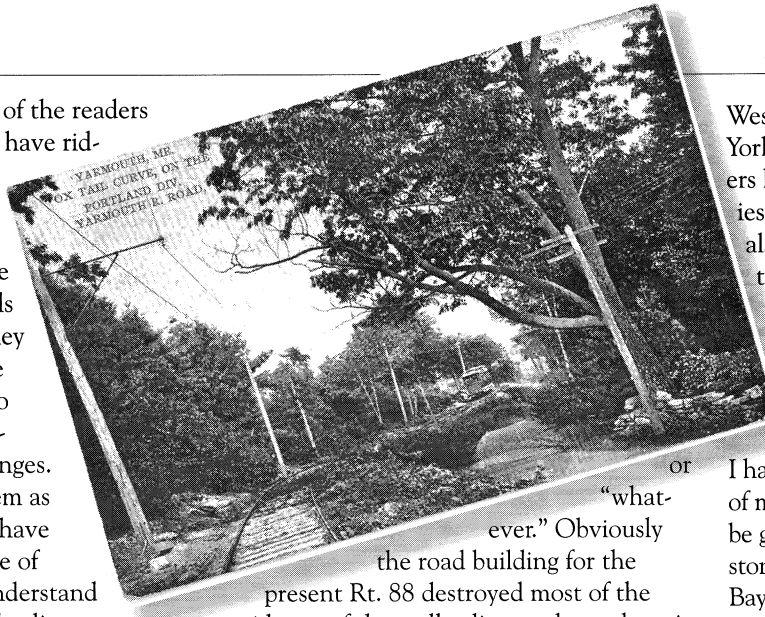
During the past month, Alden Brewer has been reconditioning the original wharf at the Boatyard site. The heavy preliminary work on the 120-foot long new wharf is all but completed and the decking over should be finished by April, weather permitting. The wharf will be 20 feet wide. At high tide there will be about 10 feet of water at the outer end of the wharf. This will make it possible for boats to tie up at the pier. Thus a start has been made on a long-range plan for a first-class marina for Chebeague.

Stone Walls

by Martha O. Hamilton

Martha O. Hamilton Postcard

I am sure that most of the readers of this publication have ridden on the CTC bus on Rt. 88 to the parking lot in Cumberland. Have you noticed the stone walls that follow that route? They have always fascinated me and I have been pleased to see that so many have survived recent property changes. Some people have left them as they were built and some have rebuilt them to fit the style of their architecture. As I understand it, they also mark the trolley line that ran from Portland to Bath in the early 1900's. Sometimes when the Bay was frozen over in winter some hardy Chebeaguers were known to walk over to the mainland and take the trolley to Portland for dinner



“what-
ever.” Obviously the road building for the present Rt. 88 destroyed most of the evidence of the trolley line as shown here in a postcard which shows the line and road at about the present Westcustogo turnings. Stonewalls were originally property boundary markers and as such are always historically important. On our ride through

Western Massachusetts and upper New York last fall I was imagining the early farmers leaving walls that marked the boundaries of their property in colonial days. They also served as a convenient way to use all the rocks the farmers plowed up to clear their fields.

Chebeague has several stonewalls that are historically important, and, unfortunately, some that were built more recently by raiding the original ones. I have a very short gathering of stones back of my so-called garden. I thought it would be great to have a stone wall made from stones collected from different islands in the Bay. Ray Hamilton became interested in the project and brought me several, but I did not mark which ones came from where. The best examples of original walls can be seen at Higgins farm, Littlefield property and who knows who built the walls around the Golf Club Cemetery? Look but do not touch!

How We Came to Chebeague... New Residents on Aaron's Wharf Road

COMING TO CHEBEAGUE...

by Nancy Cline

In the past five years, I've come to understand that many on this island, whether year-round residents or summer folks, have deep-rooted connections, often spanning generations. I simply came for a weekend, fell in love with Chebeague, and had the great good fortune to end up in a little cottage on Aaron's Wharf Road.

The story began in June 2008, on a Friday the 13th, always my "lucky day". I was visiting with Nancy Maull and first saw the island through her eyes (and as you may know, she is an artist, always observing colors, shapes, and light patterns). Nancy and I worked together at Harvard and she would so often speak of Chebeague as a very special place. An island? I really could imagine what was so alluring that she would pack up her bags on a Friday morning, spend hours on the highway, to have only two days on an island. What could possibly be so special? Curious, I finally



Photo: Nancy Cline

Nancy Cline
on right.

the shorelines, and unwinding from the frenetic pace of Cambridge... And then, after a gorgeous sunset, there was a dark, blue-black sky with stars glittering like tiny diamonds, showing off the constellations... and all this beauty

agreed to a visit.

On that Friday, Fran Calder's taxi transported us to the east end-- but it was more than a short ride -- it was a lively introduction to what wildflowers were in bloom and where to look for them! Blessed with a sunny day and gentle breezes, we were soon out and wandering the length of the island on foot --looking for those wildflowers, listening to birds, watching the waves lap

was accompanied by a sizeable convoy of eiders happily burbling away along the shoreline. I began to see the attraction. But, by Sunday heavy rains had arrived and the ferry back to Cousins was filled with gloomy, drenched riders. Once back at work, I chose to remember the sunny hours of my visit. I also found myself returning to snippets of conversations, recalling a sense

of pride as people spoke about the town library, the Grange Hall, the Commons, the Rec Center, the school, or the fire department. Newly independent, Chebeague was coming into its own as a town.

A few weeks later I returned for another visit... and that launched my quest to find a place of my own on the island! At first, it seemed an impossible challenge. There were not many properties on the market, and showings had to be fitted in around renters. I happened upon an email message I had written right after that visit, naively outlining my requirements: a small place (both the building and the property), a traditional cottage, ideally close to the ferry landing, not right on a roadway, and ideally near some neighbors who are around a lot (as in year-round neighbors). Well, looking back, I came very close on all fronts -- 9 Aarons Wharf Road is one of the smallest plots on Chebeague, it is a 15 minute walk to the Stone Pier, it is definitely an old

place and it feels like a "traditional" cottage (Donna Damon confirms it was once a small barn, moved across the lane where it became a "house"), it is somewhat off the main road, and most of all, it has neighbors!

However, on July 20th, I was not alone in my interest in the property... there were others looking that very same day. But the moment I saw the view from the upstairs window, and watched the Islander glide into the dock, while the breeze rippled the colorful wildflowers in the adjacent meadow, I knew this was the place I had envisioned as mine. Anxious, but driven, I put in my bid before leaving that day. And, fortunately, it did work out... a few weeks after first laying eyes on Chebeague, I was committed to making it my "summer" home.

When I moved in that September, I realized I actually knew a few people on Chebeague... Bob Hunt and Irene Winter were Cambridge friends who welcomed Nancy Maull to Chebeague several years earlier, and I knew Jane Leonard from the sale of

the property... but there were not many others. I was stepping off into an unknown, drawn to the calm pace and the incredible beauty of the island, but also trusting that this was a place where I could be accepted as an individual, make new friends, and contribute, in some small measure, to the community.

And that "neighborhood" that I wanted? I got it. I was across the lane from Doug and Gina Ross who took me under their wings and introduced me to so many people and helped me understand the richly layered history of Chebeague and its families. Then, five years later, when they moved to South Road, it was my turn to welcome Matt, Carrie and Morgan Ridgway to Aarons Wharf Road...

Donna Colbeth was the first to give me a copy of Rachel Field's poem, "If once you have slept on an island" and those lines could not be more true. Since finding Chebeague, I've never been quite the same.

COMING TO CHEBEAGUE...

by Carrie Ridgway

It's a question I have heard a lot and have given ample thought to. How did we end up here? I guess the story starts when we moved to the Portland area. Matt and I had just ended numerous years of working on traditional schooners with high school and college students, when we decided we wanted to move ashore. We chose the Portland area, but didn't see ourselves as city folk. Our good friends lived on Peaks Island, where we found a rental and settled into "island life". We loved the island, but less so, the bedroom community of Portland feel that came with it. We loved the rugged back shore, and walking through the woods, and the skating pond, and all the natural beauty Peaks offered, but we never felt a sense of community or a sense that Peaks existed on its own, it was, and is a part of Portland.

We chose to move off the island, buying a house in Cumberland. We thought that being five miles inland would not feel far from the water, boy were we wrong about that! In our first years in Cumberland we drove to Popham to get our ocean fix, and both of us worked on the water. When Morgan, our son, was born, we quickly felt as though getting to the ocean and the water was very difficult. Our solution: buy a little sailboat. We did this, and we love our boat, but where do you put a boat? Is there public access in Cumberland? No, not really. The



Matt and Carrie Ridgway with their two children.

police looked at us like we were crazy when we asked. Of course, they do give boating permits, but almost exclusively to those that live and own property on the water. "Go to handy boat, or Portland Yacht Club, or Freeport" is what we were told. We both felt frustrated that we lived in a town that bordered the water, but did not have any real good public access.

Our friends from Peaks, in the mean time had moved out to Chebeague and were renting a winter rental. We visited on numerous Halloweens to meet young people and young families who lived on this beautiful island. An island that didn't feel like a bedroom community to the city, an island that had its own town center and feel. An island where there are young people who are motivated to live in the community, create a life on the island, rather than having it be a get away from a high power job in the city. We walked the roads, and loved how little traffic there was, the beaches were free, we could put our boat in the water. Matt was convinced Chebeague was the place for us. I was more hesitant. We had just had a baby

and had just finished working on our house in Cumberland. We took another trip to Chebeague and visited the rec. center and the school. The sense of community was strong in the buildings and in some more people that we met. The decision was finally made, we threw caution to the wind, put our house in Cumberland on the market and within 3 months had moved to Chebeague.

INVISIBLE DESCENDANTS

by Martha O. Hamilton

One of the prominent early citizens of Chebeague was the Rev. Stephen Bennett. They used to say that when he preached on Chebeague, they could hear him on Long Island or vice versa! He married Rachel Soule and they had fourteen children. So there are many descendants still living here. Strangely enough the only Bennett in the current phone book is not a descendant. Many Chebeague cemetery stones, like the one shown here, bare Bennett name. Not as visible by name are the 30 to 40 descendants now living on the island.



Photos-Cathy MacNeill

Mystery Photo ~ Fall 2013

The Fall 2013 Mystery Photo taken September 21, 1929 stumped just about everyone. The photo is of the Chandler's Cove Field area. Much more land was cleared extending

over to where the Belvin Cottage is located. The stonewall, visible in the photo, is now deep in the woods! The cow grazing in the background belonged to Ed Jenks or George Higgins and may have actually been a bull.

Many people were fooled because there is no wharf across the cove. The Chandler's Cove Wharf was not built until World War II, more than a decade after the picture was taken.



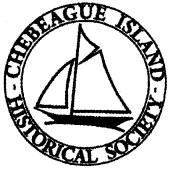
Sept. 21, '29



The Sloop's log
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Newsletter
of the
Chebeague
Island
Historical
Society

Spring 2014
Issue

Mystery Photo

The house pictured still stands but the barn burned in 1915. Send us a note or email if you can identify the house. Extra credit if you know who lived there in 1881-2 when the photograph was taken! Email history@Chebeague.net or call 846-5140 if you have a guess.

the Sloop's Log

