



229 Harrington Rd.  
Pemaquid ME 04558  
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## OBHS Fall 2007 Newsletter

### President's Message

**P** This has been a successful year for the Old Bristol Historical Society. We have had interesting and well-attended summer programs and our membership has grown. Our members are the backbone of the organization and make it possible to present our programs at no charge. Please use the application in this newsletter to join, or write to Jean Anderson, 1298 Bristol Rd., Bristol ME 04539.

The inside of the McKinley School, our clubhouse, was painted by volunteer members in the spring and looks fresh and lively. Our thanks to Pat Landry for donating the paint. Kathleen Gustafson is doing a great job reglazing and painting the old windows, and we will be adding storm windows soon.

Kay Hannah, who has faithfully served as treasurer for four years, has resigned and our new treasurer is Jean Anderson.

We are interested in hearing members' ideas about programs or other activities for the Society. Also, do any of you have old family movies of an earlier time? We might make an evening of these.

As we enter our fifth year, we find ourselves an important resource for the Bristol community and thank all of those responsible.

*Pete Hope*

### Una and the Indians

**U** This is a photo of Una Brackett holding a woven basket given to her by Teddy Attean, one of the Indian children who used to come each summer to Pemaquid Point. Three generations of the family lived in a small lean-to in front of what is now the Bradley Inn, and sold woven ash and sweetgrass baskets. Una befriended them, as she worked nearby at the Pemaquid Hotel.

The Attean name is very distinguished as it was a John Attean, uncle of John, one of the basketmakers, who led Thoreau up Mt. Katahdin & an Attean was tribal representative to Augusta in the early 1900's.

Suzy Collins is gathering information for a major piece on the basketmakers, and would appreciate any info or pictures you might have of these fascinating people. Send to : Suzy Collins, PO Box 123, New Harbor ME 04554; suzycoll@adelphia.net.



### Officers

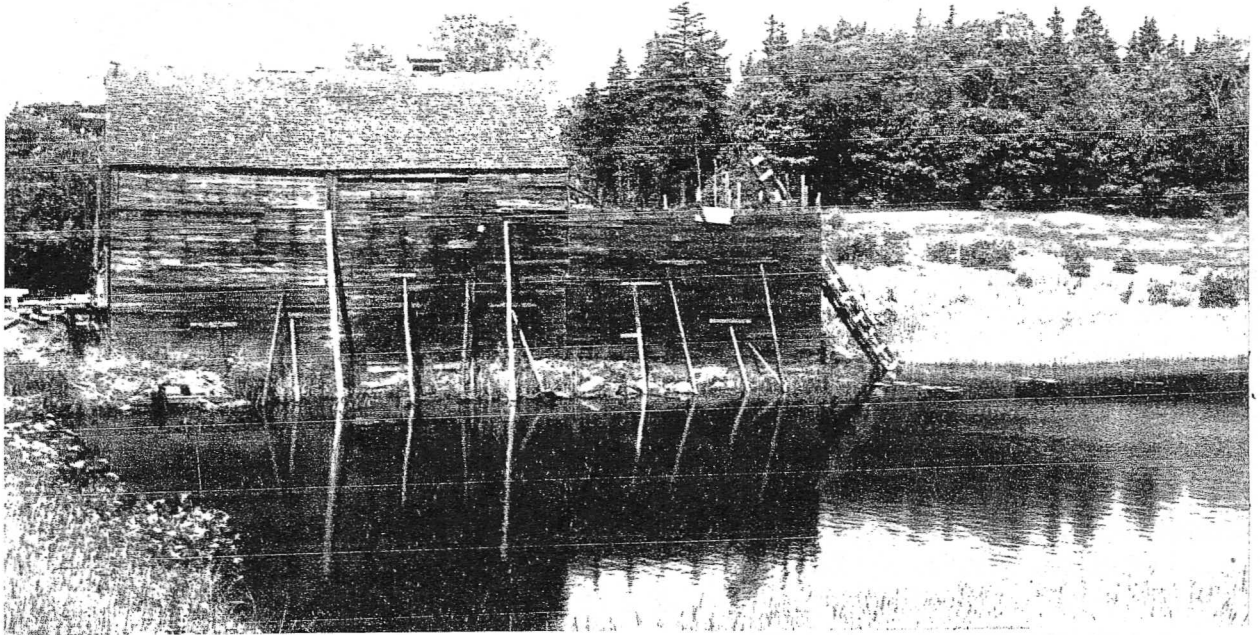
Pete Hope, President  
Pat Landry, Vice-President  
Suzy Collins, Secretary  
Jean Anderson, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Carol Brightman, Publicity  
Jeanne Rottner, membership  
Bob McLaughlin  
Kathleen Gustafson  
Ken Coombs  
RoseMarie Ballard  
Warren Riess  
Judy Hope  
Marilyn Chadwick  
Kay Hannah

### Newsletter

Suzy Collins  
Jeanne Rottner



## **T**he New Harbor Ice House

Dan Thompson remembers when New Harbor had a thriving ice industry. The major part of the business was Cliff Hanna's. As you go down route 32 towards Round Pond, the ice house was on the left, just before the ice pond. When Dan was young in the 1920's, kids skated on the pond just as they do today. The difference was that back then there was no refrigeration in New Harbor and families kept their perishables in ice boxes, metal chests lined with zinc, so there was more action on the pond.

When, in the winter, the ice was being cut, all the kids would walk over to watch the process. One man would operate a gas-powered, portable saw, cutting down about 6 inches and then the block would be broken off. They made an open channel to the ice house and the block would be slid by a car into the ice house.

When Dan was in high school he worked getting the ice blocks up to the ice house. Sometimes he worked inside the ice house, but "that was more dangerous for a kid, with those big two-to-three hundred pound blocks sliding around", says Dan. Each layer of ice was packed with sawdust to keep the ice blocks from freezing together and to insulate it. A lot of hay was put on the top layer.

The ice man was Verge Little. He worked for Cliff Hanna and drove his truck delivering ice door-to-door; also to the hotels and to the fishermen. Russ Brackett handled a lot of fish and needed a lot of ice. He joined Cliff and kept it going after Cliff got out of the ice business. By then, most of the ice was for fishermen, as locals had begun to buy refrigerators.

Munsey, who owned the Munsey House on the hill, had an ice house on the Munsey ice pond down on the Point Road. Maynard McFarland had an ice house on a small man-made pond a little way down the old Long Cove Point Road.

Gradually, ice was less and less in demand and by the 1950's there was no more demand for it. The old building was in poor repair and was finally torn down: the end of another era.

## Lost at Sea

By Leonard Osier

My family experienced a major tragedy, when my older brother, Leuign, was lost at sea during the war in 1942. Leuign was 17 years older than I and I don't remember his living at home. He left home early to work on the water and soon, along with his long-time New Harbor friend, Lewis Reilly, entered the Lighthouse Service, working on lightships stationed out of Staten Island, New York. The first of my remembering him was when he came home on leave. He mostly served on relief lightships which relieved regular lightships when they came inshore for repairs and re-provisioning.

Ordinarily, during the summer, his working schedule allowed him to come home several times for a few days. As a young boy I looked forward to these visits. For a young man from New Harbor he was earning good pay for those times, and he was quite generous with his money. For instance, he had a well drilled for our parents; he bought them a new living room set, their first radio, and other things. He used to toss out coins on the floor for sister, Norma, and me to scramble for. He always wanted a true New England clam chowder when he came home and our mother always obliged. (There were still plenty of big clams in the harbor and Ma was a chowder-maker supreme). He was married to Tade in the early '30's and had two children, Tade and Leuign. (Tade - now Tade Cross - still comes to New Harbor for the summer.) Thereafter, he lived permanently on Staten Island.

When the war came, the Lighthouse Service was transferred from the U.S. Commerce Department to the Coast Guard. Soon after the war began he began service on a weather ship named "Musteget". On August 24, 1942, the ship embarked from Boston enroute to weather station #20, located in the shipping lanes between Newfoundland and Iceland. The ship's last radio report on the weather was on September 9. Thereafter, no report was ever received or contact made. After very extensive attempts to contact the ship failed, the "Musteget" was declared lost with all personnel. German submarines at that time were most numerous in the area. The "Musteget" was a converted freighter with 111 aboard

When I was still very young, I remember Leuign saying that his dream was that he might cap his career as keeper of the Pemaquid Lighthouse. Of course, that dream was not to be realized anyway, as the lighthouse became automated in the early thirties. A long time ago the poet, Robert Burns, uttered an eternal truth when he wrote:

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Lang oft a-gley,  
An' lea'e us naught but grief  
and pain for promised joy."

(The New Harbor Leuign Osier VFW doubles as the fire station).



*Chief Petty Officer Leuign Osier ca. 1932*



## 2008 OBHS Membership Renewal/New Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) wish to pay dues for \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 single membership or \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 family membership

If this is a new application (or you have an address change) please provide:

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_ Seasonal \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Main interest – how I might help \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut this out and mail to Jean Anderson 1298 Bristol Rd., Bristol ME 04539

### Membership and Money Matters

The OBHS has 94 paying members and many honorary members for 2007. This compares with 130 members in 2004, our first full year as an organization. Membership allows us to present our programs free of charge and maintain our clubhouse. Membership is for the calendar year. Dues paid on Oct. 1 or later will be credited for 2008 unless otherwise designated. Dues remain low at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. On-going members should pay now or in the spring of 2008. Dues are the lifeline of OBHS and we appreciate your support. *Jeanne Rottner, Membership, Jean Anderson, Treasurer*