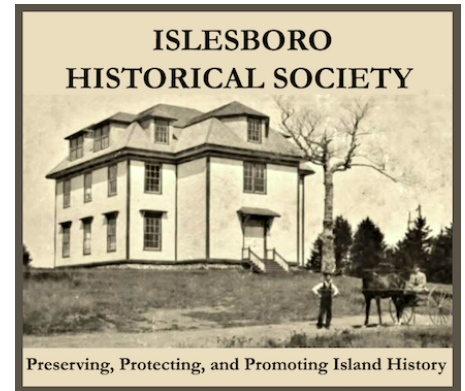


# Islesboro Historical Society

## Spring 2023



Dear Friends & Supporters of the Islesboro Historical Society:

This year the signs look favorable for a truly “normal” season, and we plan to offer you a full plate of activities and events. First off will be the return (finally!) of the Island Talent Show on June 21. Consider this your first notice to start perfecting your acts. Our other June event will be a student art show, extending from June 21 through July 2 in Pendleton Hall, with an opening reception on June 7.

The museum opens with an extended schedule on July 1. You can visit Wednesdays through Sundays, 12:30 to 4:30 pm; Mondays and Tuesdays we’re closed. Please contact us if you’re interested in volunteering in the museum!

This year we’ll host two art shows, one in July and one in August, each extending over a two-week period, plus a three-day Arts & Crafts Show. Please note that the opening reception for each show will be on the Thursday before the Friday opening. We hope to feature both new and familiar artists, as well as to highlight our campaign to raise funds for the digitization of our collection of audio and video material.

Our first evening program, “Evening with Island Elders,” will be held on Friday, July 14. If you were at last year’s version of this event, you won’t want to miss this evening of stories and reminiscences from some of our most treasured residents. Other scheduled evening programs include an update on island geology by Taury Smith and a talk by IHS past-president Doug Welldon on Islesboro resident Elizabeth Ladd, a prolific children’s author and an unforgettable character.

On Friday July 21, IHS board members will host “Behind the Scenes at the IHS.” This special event will include tours of our archives room, an introduction to our genealogy and oral history projects, an in-depth exploration of some of our museum exhibits, and an introduction to our digitization campaign. Taury Smith will lead another exploration of island geology, and I will repeat my walk through Dark Harbor. I’m also planning two walks through island cemeteries, where we will discuss the history of Islesboro families.

This past year we reprinted John Pendleton Farrow’s 1893 *History of Islesborough Maine*. We’re very pleased to have this definitive history of the island during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries again available for sale. Details are on our web site, [www.islesborohistorical.org](http://www.islesborohistorical.org)

Please “follow” Islesboro Historical Society on Instagram, “like” us on Facebook, and visit our web site for the latest news! But the best will be to see you in person this season!

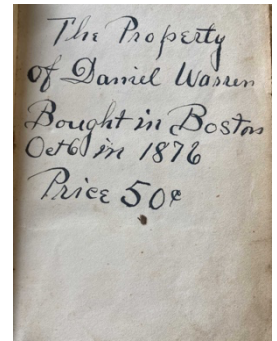
We remain fully committed to promoting and celebrating Islesboro’s history, art, music, and community. Our dedicated board members, volunteers, and your generous financial support make these efforts possible. Our major effort this year will be to begin digitizing the audio and video material in our collections. Audio cassettes and VHS tapes are not safe, long-term methods for preserving these important collections. Converting this material to digital formats will better protect it and make it readily available. We consider this an important priority. Please help preserve and promote the special history of Islesboro by sending a contribution today. On behalf of the IHS Board and more than one hundred fifty members, I thank you for your participation, commitment, and support.

Patrick O’Bannon, President

## From the Archives

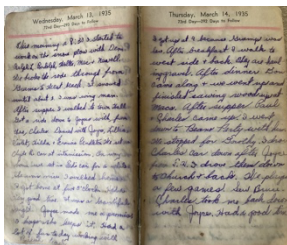
Although Carrie Thomas and I devoted much of last summer to sorting through and cataloging the extensive Marcellus M. Williams bequest of 2021, some wonderful new treasures also passed through our hands.

Barbara Talamo delivered a collection of old books from the Benjamin Moody house. The inscription in the Hymn Book for Christian Worship admonishes: "From B. A. Warren to B. W. Moody Keep this book Stow in a cool dry place away from boilers." (A second sour inscription speaks to the recipient's ambivalence about the gift.)



Hymn Book for  
Christian Worship,  
2nd ed., 1854

An 1874 list of supplies for the keeper of the Grindle Point Lighthouse was posted from Nova Scotia with nary a hint as to how it arrived in the sender's possession. The five-page document is signed by Seth H. Higgins, keeper of the lighthouse, and by William Wright, master of the delivery vessel *Fern*.



Henry Colcord's 1935  
diary

Among other accessions is a small diary kept by Henry Colcord for 1935, which came to us courtesy of Deborah Ann Bailey. Henry kept this diary conscientiously for the entire year. His first entry begins, delightfully, "This new year came in with a party at my house."

Dorothy Stevens generously donated a framed oil painting by Gretchen Dow Simpson and a framed art photograph by Phyllis Frame. From Anita Tiffany Dunford, we received evocative summer photographs of Dark Harbor circa 1930, the albums handed down by her mother, Priscilla Whitten Potts Tiffany.

Linda Graf, John Mitchell, and Margie Mills discovered pictures and cards and articles, the records and keepsakes of island lives. One small gem in this assemblage was a snapshot of Shirley Beckett, postmaster, sitting on the steps of the Pripet Post Office. In addition to her name on the verso, a note reads "Keep on smiling. August 1936."



Shirley Beckett at the  
Pripet Post Office

Our archival work—cleaning up and editing existing records—continued through the fall and into the cold days of winter and early spring. Carrie has been indexing our long-held scrapbook collection so that the many notebooks will be more easily searchable. She's turned up some fun items, including a 1979 article on a log splitter constructed from odd bits and pieces. We are trying to find out if it is still in use on the island. Finally, in a happy collaboration, Carrie and Linda Graf have spent many hours with Olivia Lenfestey, taking photographs of Lighthouse Museum artifacts for Liv's entries into our online catalog.

Carlisle Knowlton Rex-Waller  
Archives and Collections

**Islesboro Historical Trivia,**  
courtesy of John Mitchell  
What was the *Hippocampus*?

## Get Involved at the Historical Society

IHS has a full summer planned. The museum will be open with new hours, and we are happy to be continuing our art shows. To keep things running takes many hands. We are seeking volunteers as docents both to sit the shows and to welcome visitors to the museum. You don't need to have an extensive knowledge of the island to be helpful, and we do provide a brief training session. If you are interested in volunteering either as a docent, an art show helper, or both, please contact Jennifer West by email or phone: [westmaine@gmail.com](mailto:westmaine@gmail.com) / 207-837-3191. This is a great opportunity to learn about the island as well as to meet others on the island!

## 2023 Islesboro Historical Society Schedule

***Building open Wednesday through Sunday 12:30-4:30pm***

May 24	IHS Board Meeting (9:30-11:30am)
June 7	Student Art Show Reception (3:15-5pm)
June 20	Talent Show Rehearsal (6-9pm)
June 21	IHS Board Meeting (9:30-11:30am)
June 21 – July 2	Student Art Show
June 21	Talent Show (7-9pm)
July 1	Museum Opens
July 6	Art Show Reception ( <b>Thursday</b> 5-7pm)
July 7 – 23	Art Show
July 8	Dark Harbor Walking Tour (9-11am)
July 14	Evening with Elders (7-9pm)
July 15	Cemetery Walk (9-11am)
July 19	IHS Board Meeting (9:30-11:30am)
July 19	Evening Program (7-9pm) – “Islesboro Geology – Still Rockin’” (Taury Smith)
July 21	Behind the Scenes at IHS (5-7pm)
July 22	Geology Walk (9:30-11:30am)
July 27	Arts & Crafts Show Reception ( <b>Thursday</b> 5-7pm)
July 27 – 30	Arts & Crafts Show
August 3	Art Show Reception ( <b>Thursday</b> 5-7pm)
August 4 – 20	Art Show
August 5	Cemetery Walk (9-11am)
August 16	IHS Board Meeting (9:30-11:30am)
August 16	Evening Program (7-9pm) – “Islesboro’s Unforgettable Elizabeth Ladd: Author, Farmer, Naturalist, Character!” (Doug Welldon)
August 18	Possible Repeat of Behind the Scenes at IHS
	Museum Closes
August 26	Searsmont Street Band Dance at the Brigham Orchard (6-9pm)
September 20	IHS Board Meeting (9:30-11:30am)

### ***Trivia Answer:***

The *Hippocampus* was passenger boat that ran between Warren’s Landing, Castine, and Belfast during the 1940s and 1950s. Arthur Ladd was the captain, and Clarence Gray the deckhand.



338 Main Road, Islesboro, ME 04848

207-734-6733

[www.islesborohistorical.org](http://www.islesborohistorical.org)