



# Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

## Fall 2012 Newsletter

Mission of the Friends:

To Support the Educational Goals and Programs  
of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

### A Conversation with Paul Mason . . .

#### The Halcyon Days



Paul Mason

Meet Paul Mason, who on a recent fall morning, while sitting in the sunlight of his home abutting the Ogunquit River marsh, reflected on his boyhood of almost ninety years ago. "There are two Ogunquits: the little village of the late 1920s and the town of today," he said.

Paul remembers arriving in Ogunquit for the summer with his parents and siblings at the age of nine and returning every summer thereafter until he was called into service during World War II. He returned as a summer resident a few years later as a married man with a growing family and in 1955 he and Wini built their home near the footbridge. This has been their year-round residence since 1993.

As he described the landscape when one came through town, it was vivid enough to picture it as it had been; the main street that housed the post office, the drug store replete with a soda fountain, Crotty's Barber Shop with a beauty parlor next to it, the grocery store and the gas station. On the opposite corner was Maxwell's, where you could buy anything in the way of food stuffs and hardware! And they delivered twice a day! It was a quiet place where many families rented for the summer season. There were only a few hotels and guest houses. And there was Bessie's, the popular night-time gathering spot. When Bessie's closed for the evening, the town shut down. The Ogunquit Playhouse occupied a former garage on Shore Road.

In his early youth Paul spent his days mostly on the town's biggest playground, the beach, playing softball and swimming. The life guards knew everyone by name and the kids were taught to swim. On occasion, the owner of the bowling alley, which was at the beach (now Charlie's), needed help, and as a teenager Paul and his younger brother Bob would pinch hit and set up bowling pins for the generous amount of ten

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*You are Invited . . .*

**Christmas By The Sea  
Open House**

*Saturday December 8, 2012*

*and*

*Sunday December 9, 2012*

*1:00 - 5:00 p.m.*

**Ogunquit Heritage Museum  
Obed's Lane, Ogunquit, Maine**

*Special Exhibits*

*Refreshments*

### Antiques Show & Sale 2012



## President's Letter . . .



*Henry Hokans*

*Dear Friends and Members of The Ogunquit Heritage Museum:*

Your Board of Directors has finished its work for the year 2012, and in the humble opinion of the President of the Board, has done an absolutely outstanding job.

Probably the most visible work, and most valuable for the raising of funds for the Endowment of the Museum, is the annual Antique Show put on by FOHM in mid-September each year. This year saw Pat Dateo debut as Chairman of the Show, with the formidable assistance of Gary Littlefield and Susan Meffert, with Bob Joyner in charge of the advertising booklet, and virtually every member of the Board on deck. Under Pat's firm guidance the myriad details required in putting on this Show were pulled together to make it one of the very best, both for the Friends fundraising, and also the Dealers who are the center of the production. Our additional thanks go to the many volunteers who helped in setting up and taking down all the tables and chairs used by the Dealers under the very able leadership of Gary Littlefield. The Board functioned as a remarkable "team" to see that this event was again a success. Hat's off to them.

The same can probably be as easily said of the work of putting on the Open House which annually officially kicks off the Museum's summer opening and exhibits. Under the direction of Carole Lee the Board again did the job of providing all the details from cookies and napkins to coffee and wine. Once again the main exhibit put together by Carole Lee was simply outstanding.

Changes in the FOHM Board are the resignation of Bob Joyner who joins the town Finance Board, and welcoming to the FOHM Board another of the Museum's Docents, Barbara Hilty. Our thanks also go to Peter Woodbury who continues to edit and produce the semi-annual Newsletter.

Officers of the Board, Henry Hokans, President; Bobbi Treen, Vice-President; Marilyn Eimon, Treasurer; and Sue Michaelson, Secretary were re-elected at the November meeting, and all share the pleasure of serving such a fine Board of Directors. The Budget for 2013 was also approved at that meeting.

*For the Board of Directors,  
Henry Hokans*



**T**he Ogunquit Dory, W. H. Perkins, on display at OgunquitFest, promotes the spirit of the occasion.

### Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee

Carole Lee Carroll, *Chair*  
Gary Littlefield, *Vice Chair*  
Susan Meffert, *Secretary*  
Eva Nudelman, *Treasurer*

Charles Dahill	Pam Lynch (Alt.)
Robin Fagerlund	Stuart Nudelman
Louise Galanes (Alt.)	Peter Woodbury
Susan Levenson	

Barbara Woodbury, *Chairperson Emerita*  
Paula Cummings, *Museum Coordinator (Ret.)*

### Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum *Board of Directors*

Hank Hokans, *President*  
Bobbi Treen, *Vice President*  
Sue Michaelson, *Secretary*  
Marilyn Eimon, *Treasurer*

Benita Braggiotti	Ryna Lipkind
Pat Dateo	Wini Mason
Bob Glidden	Bob Perkins
Barbara Hilty	Gail Trust



### *Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Fall 2012 Newsletter*

Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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## Museum Chair's Report . . .

Once again we just finished a successful summer. Paula Cummings did her usual splendid job of introducing the museum to new guests and welcoming many repeat visitors. She was ably assisted by our volunteer docents Barbara Hilty, Bunny Hart, Jeanine Storrs and Gail Trust. They faithfully dedicated their time and attention to the museum all summer and I am impressed by the work they did and grateful for their help. Our committee is looking forward to working on next summer's exhibits during the coming winter and having a successful summer in 2013. I also wish to thank the Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum for their support and wish you all a festive holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.



*Carole Lee Carroll*

*Carole Lee Carroll*

## Accessions . . .

### **Bobby Brazer**

An antique hand-made anchor known as a killick which was used by the dory fishermen in Perkins Cove

### **Ellen Dannert**

Three original photos of Ogunquit Village from 1946  
2 Binders containing records from the Ogunquit Heritage Museum and The Winn House Restoration Committee

### **Kenneth R. Johnson**

A binder of postcards collected and reproduced by him which features the Ontio Hotel

### **Mary & Richard Littlefield**

Esther Littlefield's Wells High School Diploma from 1934  
Gravestone rubbing of the John H. Littlefield tombstone from the Littlefield Cemetery  
Copy of an article about Ogunquit's first men's club which includes a picture and list of the members  
Program from the Class of 1949 graduation exercises at Wells High School  
Program from class night of 1949 at Wells High School  
Manuscript about the Hoyt family by Elliot Merrick

### **Paul and Wini Mason**

Framed antique map of Wells, Wells Village and Ogunquit

### **Audrey Miller**

2 Books written and illustrated by Peggy Bacon  
2 Brochures from the Ogunquit School of Painting and Sculpture

### **Patricia Pope**

11 snapshots of Ogunquit Beach after 2009 storm

### **The Rocray Family**

A framed watercolor by Ogunquit artist Chris Ritter of President Gerald Ford with 2 York Militiamen who served as his Honor Guards during his 1975 visit to Portsmouth

### **Brad Sterl**

Binder with 1981 town charter and the 1976 zoning rules  
Memo from Phil Clark concerning the renaming of the Dorothea Grant Common  
Reproductions of photos of Letitia Street's House and E. R. Hoyt's home, "Fieldstone"  
Copy of 1959 deed to Brad Sterl from Joan Mattei

### **Jeanne Wallace-Ferron**

Reproduction of a photograph of the Baptist Church Fire of 1941  
Reproduction of a photograph of Joel Perkin's horses working behind the church parsonage

### **Russ Whitney & Jim Roberts**

Reproduction of a photograph of the Dan Sing Fan back staircase

### **Betty Williams**

A Wells High School Photo of the class of 1934  
A book titled *The Dunaways of Virginia*  
1978 *York County Coast Star*  
4 Colonial Inn Menus

Program for the Wells High School  
Graduation Exercises of 1918

Dance Card from the Grand Ball at the Atlantic House in Wells in 1883

Wells Beach postcard - 1945  
Booklet, *Ogunquit Losses of 1927*  
Booklet, *Christian Endeavor*

The Perkins/Littlefield verse by Dana Perkins and a descendant of Edmund Littlefield

Manuel, *Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry* -1911  
Book, *Planning for Maine's Inland Fish & Wildlife* 1986-1991

Pamphlet, *Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund*  
6 Envelopes of Correspondence with the Maine Dept. of Fish & Wildlife concerning efforts to protect the piping plovers

### **Jeanne Young**

Extensive research on the homestead of William Winn and documentation of his arrest in Cuba by the British in 1855 for slave trading

Three photographs of the Winn House circa 1931

A photograph of the beach circa 1931

A photograph of Main Street in Ogunquit circa 1907



*A Conversation with Paul Mason . . . (from page 1)*

cents a string. “I remember when the local softball team (which included Tony and Nick Sideris) was invited to play the Ogunquit Playhouse actor’s team organized by Buddy Ebsen. I had the fun of being the pitcher against the opposing pitcher, Buddy.” You could also find Paul at the Cove where you could witness the fishermen unloading their tuna catch of the day or watch the artists in front of their easels.

Back then there was a range of magnificent sand dunes, enormous in height which were regarded as an important part of the beach. There were beach parties and bonfires regularly on the dunes. They also provided protection from the winds and became a gathering place to meet friends and make new ones. And Paul says as an adult, “even after my house was built near the footbridge, we’d sit in the dunes and it was there that we met a man who seemed to be reading and studying scripts there during the days. We started visiting with him and became good friends. It was Montgomery Clift.”

“I remember many farms, fields and green spaces when I summered over the years. The combination of men going to war and working at the Navy Yard made the business of farming difficult. When the war ended in 1945, the development started as people began to sell off their land; and today on many of these sites are now hotels, motels and restaurants. Delightful places like the restaurant Barbara Dean’s, Graham’s Hotel, the Dan Sing Fan tea room, and the Whistling Oyster—I remember with nostalgia. Once the liquor laws changed in the ‘60s, the place became a boom-town!” Paul says today there are approximately 46 liquor licenses issued in this four square-mile town.

Paul was amongst the group that formed the Winn House Restoration Committee—the forerunner of the creation of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. He also worked long and hard as a founding force behind the Wells-Ogunquit Senior Center when the need was clear that this was becoming a growing retirement community.

“We have a very distinct heritage. We want the



*Center of Ogunquit in 1946. (Courtesy of Ellen Dannert)*

many short-stay tourists to know about our history. Newcomers to Ogunquit still think it is the serene place I remember. And compared to all the growth in other places, it still is. As the world changes, Ogunquit is less a ‘way of life’ than a ‘getaway.’ The contributions of the community to the arts, the theatre colony, the fishing industry and shipbuilding are well known but I wanted to share my remembrances with the travelers so they may feel Ogunquit as it used to be. They can see this by visiting the Ogunquit Heritage Museum which protects our stories.”

*Written by B. Treen*

## OgunquitFest - October 2012



## Endowment Contributions . . .

In Memory of **Harriet and George Smith**  
Susan Meffert \$100

In Memory of **Blanche Staples**  
Robert Bragg \$100

In Memory of **Dr. Jack Gallagher**  
Georgiana Gallagher \$100

In Honor of **Norman Brazer**  
Architect of Millstone Manor  
Marcia and Norman Brazer, Jr. \$100

In Honor of **Harry Wilcott**  
Leslie Wilcott-Henrie \$50

**Unnamed Endowment**  
Katherine Drisko \$30