



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Fall 2008

Mission of the Friends:
To Support the Educational Goals and Programs
of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Ogunquit Dory Project



President's Letter . . .

What a year this has been! We have accomplished a lot.

First, we can report that The Museum's Founding Committee completed their charge and created a new Board, "The Ogunquit Heritage Museum." To be consistent, we have updated our name to "The Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum."

And, to preserve and support the Ogunquit Heritage Museum for years to come, we are pleased and proud to announce that we have established an endowment fund. We encourage you to consider donating any amount possible in order to shepherd us into the future.

The Dory Project was the jewel of the summer programs. A special group of dedicated people worked hard to recreate a dory like those built a century ago on the Ogunquit River. Historically, this was the lynchpin of our fishing community. The assembled committee had such a great time planning and working together. We are particularly indebted to: Carol Lee Carroll for designing the dory (amazingly, she drafted the plans from old photographs); then there was Bobbi Treen who obtained grants from the Davis Family Foundation, Kennebunk Savings Bank, the Ogunquit Rotarians and our very own Friends of the Winn House to finance the project; Bob Eager, who was the Master of the project; Chris Woodbury and Paul McGowan; Mike Horn and Bob Winn; Brad Sterl and Pete Woodbury and the many others who spent months painstakingly and lovingly lofting, sanding, cutting, building, painting and learning many things. It was a labor of love for all.

The launching party of the dory was great. Barbara Woodbury moderated the festivities in Perkins Cove. It was all documented by WOGT, the local press and well over 100 revelers. The boat was blessed by Reverend Jeff Patnaude, christened by Bob Eger, and named with champagne as Chris Woodbury and Paul McGowan sailed her into the briny deep. The *W.H. Perkins* will move inside for the winter. Who knows what awaits her next summer?

This year the museum attracted a larger number of visitors. Once again our curator, Barbara Woodbury and her staff have presented wonderful exhibits. The Grand Hotels of Ogunquit peeked memories of many visitors who had worked or enjoyed the elegance of these hotels. Assistant

curator Paula Cummings is a gem who has been giving smashing tours.

The 34th Annual Antique Show went off without a hitch and was blessed with ambitious volunteers to help make it a success. Although the economy played a role in a smaller turnout, the show was terrific with vendors and consumers all happy. We are looking forward and planning for next year.

The year was topped off by the Ghostly Tours with well over 125 visitors along during OgunquitFest weekend. Ghost stories were told in the cemetery and the Marginal Way. The Christmas By The Sea finale will conclude the events of this most exciting year.

We thank you for your support of this fine museum with your financial contributions, your visits and volunteering. Your donations in every way are valued.

Marilyn Eimon, President

*Christmas By The Sea Open
House*

Sat & Sun Dec 13 & 14

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Board of Directors

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Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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Curator's Report . . .

The month of September completed a banner season for the Museum. We spent the summer building an Ogunquit Dory. Many people helped with the operation. The Dory Committee was so enthusiastic—everybody did something for the effort. Carole Lee Carroll set the plans down from pictures. She collaborated with Master Boat builder Bob Eger who gave her some ideas about some of the lines. Our special thanks go to Brad Sterl, who convinced Bob Eger to take on the Dory as a project. We raised \$11,000 in grants. It was built in Bob's shop in South Berwick. The Dory came to the Museum in August for sanding, painting, and fitting. The painters were Paul Mason, Pete Woodbury, Chris Woodbury, Brad Sterl and Paul McGown. The sail did not arrive in time, but Goat Hubbard lent us a *Cricket* sail so we could look like we knew what we were doing!

On launching day, upwards of 100 people lined the dock and watched the proceedings. We engaged the minister from the Ogunquit Baptist Church, Rev. Jeffery R. Patnaude. He blessed the dory and the fleet. We called the dory the *W. H. Perkins*. He then sang the Navy Hymn. He has a beautiful voice and everyone was impressed. Then Bob Eger slammed the bottle of champagne. I hope you saw the wonderful picture taken by Kevin Byron on the front page of the *York County Coast Star*. I think we can look with pride at our great accomplishment. It will be a wonderful teaching tool for the Museum. This was a dream that we had from the very beginning and it came true. So cheers to the committee, who did such a great job!

Our Dory committee members were: Carole Lee Carroll, Bob Winn, Paul McGowan, Brad Sterl, Mike Horn, Chris Woodbury, Pete Woodbury, Bob Perkins, Bobbi Treen, Paul Mason, Gary Littlefield, Bob Eger, (Master Shipbuilder), and Barbara Woodbury, chair.

Assistant Curator Paula Cummings' reported that attendance and donation figures for September were much larger than last year. She has done a wonderful job and I am hoping she will be with us next year. She has mastered the museum special software package, 'Past Perfect,' and now it is my turn! By the way, she loves her job!!!

— BAW

Antiques Show and Sale Sept 13-14 . . .



Above, Roger Pheulpin displays antique silver and jewelry. At left, Show Manager Susan Meffert, standing with Treasurer Bob Joyner. Seated, left, volunteers Wini Mason, and Enid Topchik. The two-day show was attended by over 400 enthusiasts.

Ghostly Tours Oct 24 . . .



Top, a ghoulish Barb Woodbury tells of a young mother, Caroline Moody who had lost two infant children and for many years after her own death could be 'seen' wandering the cemetery in search of them. Maryann Stacy portrayed Caroline. Later, by the ocean on the Marginal Way, Pete Woodbury told of the Wreck of the Barque Isidore. Below, Robin Fagerlund speaks of the Rev. George Burrows who was a hanging victim in the Salem witchcraft hysteria.

We Remember Blanche...

We continue the series of interviews with the late Blanche Hutchins Staples, beloved docent, story teller, teacher and major contributor to the Winn House. These recordings were carefully transcribed by Bill and Judy Baker for the Ogunquit Heritage Museum in 2004 and 2005. Look for more in future Friends Newsletters.



Blanche H. Staples

School Daze

I went to the Ogunquit School. That was built a little before 1900. When I first started I was about four years old. There was no transportation. We had to walk, which was over a mile from the entrance to Perkins Cove. It was only a one floor

school then. There were two rooms, four grades in one room, and four grades in another and only two teachers, so one teacher taught four grades. My teacher was Mrs. Sholy.

After I left the school, I went to Gorham Normal School which was two years then and then they added a third. So I decided I was going to go to a third year. I had only \$75 which I had earned in the summer and my father said, 'You go for as long as the \$75 lasts, because,' he said, 'they can never take what you know in your head away from you. And then we'll see what happens after that.'

When I came home I had a job at the Stevens District—District 6—which is a one-room school. I had fourteen children. There were six grades. Some grades were missing. Of the fourteen, seven of them were Stevenses from two families. We had no running water, but we had a stove, with a long, long stove pipe, and that did a lot to heat the room. Of course we had outhouses, and I never had to go out and supervise a child outside, because most of the children had grown up together, and the older kids took care of the younger ones.

Our curriculum consisted mainly of reading, writing, and arithmetic, there was not much. If you taught any history, it was usually in connection with one of the holidays. We did have a music teacher who came once a week. But we hadn't more arts, and not social studies as you know it today; we taught a little geography, which I knew very little about because I had never left the state of Maine.

Well, yes, I had been to Boston once when I ran

away and went to up there! I didn't really run away; I just skipped school with a friend, but that was my first experience going out of state.

Teaching there was really a marvelous experience with the children. The ones who had to stay to lunch—the Stevenses went home—but the ones who walked to school, they took turns bringing soup, and we put it in a kettle on the stove at recess time; by noon time the soup was hot and we all had bowls of soup, hot lunch! I was probably the first local school teacher to serve a hot lunch!

I had one little boy named Harold Stevens who was just darling; he had bright blue eyes, and blond hair that stuck out straight all over his head. Harold went home to lunch to his farm; we hadn't even had our lunch when he came back, and announced—he always said, 'Oh God, Miss Hutchins!' I said, 'Harold Stevens! You didn't have any lunch!' He said, 'Oh God, Miss Hutchins! I had 'taters, and cake, and God, Miss Hutchins! Was them taters good!' He was absolutely precious; they were all such great kids.

After I taught in the rural school, I came down to the Ogunquit School and by that time it had become a two story school. We had four grades. I started out with first and second grade, then they



Early photo of the Ogunquit Village School

added a sub-primary, so I had sub-primary and first grade. Somebody must have had three grades, because there were many kids who left at eighth grade. When they became 16 they could leave school, and quite a lot of them would think about leaving because they couldn't go on to high school.

So! That's my early career.

(Continued next issue)