



Newsletter  
of the  
Chebeague  
Island  
Historical  
Society

Fall 2017  
Issue

### Growing Up on Chebeague

Although the nineteenth century was Chebeague's golden age of commercial agriculture, home gardens and domestic animal husbandry were part of the island's early subsistence economy. Agriculture continues to be an integral part of island culture. While some people may think that raising chickens or a pig and having a backyard vegetable garden is part of the new farm to table movement nothing could be further from the truth!

Many twentieth century photographs show ox teams assisting in road maintenance, chickens running loose in yards, and milk cows posing in family portraits. Receiving a shipment of chicks in the mail was a common occurrence. Many families raised a pig for meat each year and several families owned horses, which were used for plowing gardens, haying, or transportation. Island children were as familiar with driving a horse drawn carriage as they were

rowing a punt. The accompanying photograph taken during the summer of 1943 shows a ten year-old girl taking folks for a ride in her grandfather's carriage. We would love to hear from folks who have memories to share about some of the old wagons and carriages that were still around throughout the twentieth century. How many still exist? We know of a couple, but it would be great to create an inventory! Please email the museum [chebeaguehistory@gmail.com](mailto:chebeaguehistory@gmail.com) or call 207-846-5237 if you have stories to share!

# the Sloop's Log

## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Fall 2017 Sloop's Log. Please read and enjoy. In this issue we will complete our series from our Chebeague Architecture Exhibit. Please also find the following articles:

- A great front page photo courtesy of David O'Donnell and his niece Tonya, with a text by Donna Damon.
- An article from Toby Webb and David Ruscak about Early Ownership of Chebeague.
- Genealogy and the cemetery by Donna Dammon
- A family story and pictures about Emma Ross Hamilton and her husband, Harry, by Donna Damon with inspiration by the O'Donnell family.
- From Christine Auffant a paragraph or two about how the Auffant family came to the island.
- From Donna Miller Damon a genealogical account of how she and her husband Douglas Damon, are related.
- From Laurine Crandall Curtis a genealogical account of how she and her husband, Edgar Atherton Curtis II, are related.
- Our mystery photo series by Donna Damon.

*As always, many thanks to our contributors. We could not do it without you.*

If you receive and enjoy this publication and are not a member of the Chebeague Island Historical Society, please consider joining us. If you are a senior member and are willing and/or able to become a regular member, it would be much appreciated. *The Sloop's Log* is produced at considerable expense to the CIHS. Thank you.

Our address is: CIHS, PO Box 28, Chebeague Island, Maine 04017

Jane Frizzell, editor.



Front Seat: Marianne Webber Brenton, driver; Suzanne Bennett Jackson, side kick, holding David O'Donnell  
Rear Seat: Frank (Bud) Bennett, Dianne Webber Calder, Tom O'Donnell holding Richard Bowen.





the Ligonía claim of Alexander Rigby, discussed below, and secured its authority over Maine as far as Falmouth's eastern line.

King Philip's War between Native Americans and the English broke out in 1675 and all the English were chased out of Casco Bay.

In May, 1680, the Massachusetts authorities sought to resettle Maine and "to rebuild the waste places thereof." A committee was established to grant land to persons willing to buy or improve it. This committee had authority over available land "as well the Island as on the mayne."<sup>3</sup> The island referred to is not named, nor was it named in a June 11, 1680, report the next month from a committee established to set up a new plantation on the northern part of Casco Bay. But that report notes that the best portions of the land granted for the new settlement were already claimed under grants from the first proprietor, Fernando Gorges, and so the Province President had granted the new plantation more land on the mainland "and an Iland next the Sea which we suppose very needful for Incoradginge of fishinge ...."<sup>4</sup>

Was that island Great Chebeague? The strongest evidence that it was is that two of the four committee members signing the June 1680 report were Sylvanus Davis and Walter Gendall.<sup>5</sup> Only 31 days later, on July 12, 1680, Gendall bought from Robert Jordan's sons "one half Part of one Island ... called Jebeague or Gaboag" to the seaward of "Cousen's his Islands". The deed made the expansive assertion that ownership of Chebeague included Little Chebeague: "The sd Island being at high water as two Islands yet altho commonly called Little & Great Gaboag or Jabegue yet is but one Island and the one half thereof is the Property & belong unto" the Jordan sons.<sup>6</sup> On July 23, 1680, Sylvanus Davis was granted Little Chebeague by Thomas Danforth.<sup>7</sup>

Purchaser Walter Gendall died in September 1688 while fighting Indians.<sup>8</sup>

### **Cleeves to Merry**

The island that Gendall bought one half of had other claimants, however. The English Civil War of the 1640s ended with the execution of King Charles I and the rise of Oliver Cromwell. During that decade, and apparently at the urging of George Cleeves, John Winters's nemesis, Alexander Rigby, a republican member of parliament, bought the Ligonía charter from at least some of the surviving royalist proprietors, associates

of royalist Fernando Gorges. Rigby had his proprietorship confirmed by Cromwell's government and then named George Cleeves to be his first deputy for the province. In 1650, ignoring Winters's expansive reading of the Trelawney grant, Cleeves, as Deputy President of the Province of Lygonía, granted to Walter Merry of Boston "all that small island known by the name of Chebage & now by the name of Merrys Island." Thirty-five years later, on June 26, 1685, the grant to Walter Merry having "many times been granted & Assigned from one to another," Thomas Danforth, then the President of the Province, confirmed that Edward White of London was the current owner of the entire island.<sup>9</sup> (One source says that, in 1673, one Robert Thornton had sold the island to Josiah Willes of Boston.<sup>10</sup> This may be one of the many grants and assignments to which Danforth referred.)

But was the land the King's (or Oliver Cromwell's) to grant?

### **Sagawetton and Robin Hood to Cole and Purinton to Boone**

On November 26, 1672, John Cole and John Purinton bought land on the Maine coast "and great Jebege Island" from two Indian sagamores, Sagawetton and Robin Hood.<sup>11</sup> King Philip's War broke out three years later and it does not appear that Cole and Purinton ever inhabited the island they had bought.

Another Indian war, King William's War, erupted in 1690, and again the English were forced out of Casco Bay. When permanent English authority was finally established over the Province of Maine, the pre-war land claims were a muddle and legal proceedings began around 1720 to sort out the conflicting claims. It appears that there was something of a rush to court, with heirs and speculators all asserting whatever claims they could make to capture land in the resettlement of Maine.

In 1720, John Cole's descendant sold his half of the land John Cole and John Purinton had purchased, including "halfe Great Shebage Island," to Samuel Boone of Rhode Island.<sup>12</sup> Purinton's daughters similarly sold parts of their claims in early 1721.<sup>13</sup> It appears that the Purinton heirs sold only portions of their inherited shares so that the new part owners would have standing to make the claim. In 1729, Purinton's daughter, Elizabeth Connor, gave her son Gideon the rest of her claim, with the right to sue to recover full possession of the land her father had bought.<sup>14</sup>

### **Massachusetts General Court to Wharton to First Church in Boston**

Claims to the island had been further complicated by the Massachusetts General Court, the legislature of the day, in 1684.

In 1680, Thomas Danforth, the Deputy Governor of Massachusetts, was chosen President for the District of Maine by the Massachusetts assembly. His job was to make land grants and to reestablish towns in the area ravaged during King Philip's War, which he did with the help of Samuel Nowell. To compensate them, the General Court in 1685 granted them "for their Great pains & good Service done by order of this Court in ye Expedition & Several Journeys to Casco for which no recompence hath been made them) An Island Called Chebisco Deago in Casco bay in ye Province of Maine Provided they take the sd Island in full Satisfaction for all Survice done referring to the Settlement of ye Province of Maine... "<sup>15</sup>

The island granted to Danforth and Nowell was Sebascodegan. A problem in giving it, however, was that in 1683, Richard Wharton, a land speculator in Boston, had bought Sebascodegan Island from its owner, John Shapleigh.<sup>16</sup> If it was going to be given to Danforth and Nowell, Wharton wanted compensation. The General Court had ordered that 1000 acres be set aside for him. In 1684, a surveying committee set aside 350 acres for him near Maquoit and "on the ysland of Chabeage, six hundred & fiuetý Acres of Land, which is ye half of the sd ysland, there being Imrouement made on the Easterne part of ye sayd ysland; Wee haue laid out the Westerne halfe for Mr Richard Wharton... "<sup>17</sup> Thus, in 1684, the island was divided for the first time into "the East End" and "the West End." The reference to "Improvement" indicates that someone had already begun to occupy the East End, perhaps representatives of Walter Gendall's claim.

In 1686, Richard Wharton pledged eighty pounds plus interest to the First Church in Boston "for the use of the poor of that church." The bond had not been paid when Wharton died. In 1713, Ephraim Savage, the administrator of Wharton's estate, declared that the estate was insolvent, unable to pay all of Wharton's just debts, but, in exchange for Wharton's bond, Savage gave to the Deacons of the First Church, in trust for the use of the poor of that church, "all that Certaine Tract of Six Hundred – Fifty Acres of land being Scittuate on ye Westernmost side of a



Certaine Island Called Great Chebeague Als recompence Island in Casco Bay.”<sup>18</sup> This is the first reference to “Recompence Island” found so far in the records, suggesting that perhaps it was used by Wharton because the Chebeague tract had been given him in compensation for the land he lost on Sebascodegan.

In 1733, the First Church in Boston cleaned up competing claims to the West End by obtaining a release from Samuel Boone, who still asserted ownership under the Cole/Purinton purchase of Chebeague. For a mere five shillings, Boone released his rights to those 650 acres on “great Chebeague or Recompence Island,” but he continued to assert his right to the rest of the island, stating that the 650 acres he was releasing were “Bounded Easterly by lands in Possession of sd Boon and on all other sides by ye sea.”<sup>19</sup> This release ended any claims under the Cole/Purinton purchase to the West End. In fact, Boone does not appear to have pursued his claim to the East End any further.

### ***The West End from First Church to Chandler***

Having established its clear title to the West End, the First Church of Boston sold that land on November 20, 1746 to Zachariah Chandler of North Yarmouth for 400 pounds.<sup>20</sup> Chandler kept one half of the tract for himself and distributed the rest to family members: Jonas Mason, yeoman; Jonathan Chandler, coaster; Edmond Chandler, blacksmith; and Judah Chandler, coaster; all of North Yarmouth.<sup>21</sup> They divided the West End into lots for themselves, establishing many of the property lines – and ancient stone walls - that exist on the West End to this day. (For example, on the western side of today’s John Small Road, 450 feet in from the South Road, an iron rod sticks in an old stone wall. That wall marks the 1746 boundary between Jonathan Chandler and Jonas Mason.)

### ***The East End from Gendall’s Estate to Westbrook to Waite***

Walter Gendall died in the Indian wars in 1688. When his estate finally went through probate in 1721, the court-appointed administrator included Chebeague in Gendall’s property. It was inventoried and appraised on April 25, 1721.<sup>22</sup> Samuel Seabury and Benjamin Allen bought from Gendall’s estate Gendall’s “one full half Part of an Island called Gebeague or Gaboge or however otherwise called ... which half Part of sd Island was formerly the Land [of Robert

Jordan’s heirs] & by them sold to sd Walter Gendall ... & the Indian Right belonging to Jeberenet & was by the sd Indian Jeberenet sold to sd Walter Gendall June ye 6th 1685....”<sup>23</sup> The deed implies that Gendall’s administrator had gotten court approval of this sale, with the chain of title so explained.

With this transaction, John Winters had finally won against George Cleeves. After ninety years, it implicitly extinguished any claims based on Cleeves’s grant to Walter Merry or the purchase by Cole and Purington. The claim that prevailed in the end, Trelawney to Winters to Jordan to Gendall to Seabury and Allen, was the one based in John Winters’s aggressive expansion of the Trelawney grant bounds from 1631.

In January, 1734/5, Seabury and Allen sold their interests to Thomas Westbrook for 800 pounds. It appears that they had been part of the First Church of Boston’s efforts to quit title to the West End, because they described the land they were selling as “The One half of the Island of great Jebeag ... Containing by Estimation about Eight Hundred Acres it being the North Easterly part of sd Island ... according to the Ancient Bounds lately Renewed between the Old Church of Boston and ourselves so as to leave to them Six Hundred & fifty acres ...”<sup>24</sup> Perhaps to resolve the complicated ownership questions, Gendall’s half interest in the entire island had transformed into complete ownership of one half of the island, with the Church owning the other half. Of interest, the East End deed to Westbrook excludes “Fifty Acres already Granted by us to John Stevens where his now Dwelling House stands.”<sup>25</sup> This is the first reference by name to someone in actual residence on Chebeague.

With the efforts made by the First Church in Boston to clear land titles and to mark boundaries, by 1735 the ownership of Chebeague was settled. The Church owned the West End, which it sold in 1740 to Zachariah Chandler, and Thomas Westbrook owned the East End, with a fifty acre carve out for John Stevens.

But there was one more upheaval to come. Thomas Westbrook and Samuel Waldo, both wealthy men, partnered in many land speculation projects around Maine. But in 1743, Waldo turned on Westbrook and won a suit against him for ten thousand five hundred pounds. Waldo levied on the judgment and took almost all of Westbrook’s property, including ownership of the East End of Chebeague.

On April 14, 1760, Samuel Waldo and

others sold Little Chebeague and the Westbrook/Waldo Eastern half of Great Chebeague to Benjamin Waite, the son of Captain John Waite of Peak’s Island.<sup>26</sup> It is in this deed that the exact location of the division line of Great Chebeague was first defined: “Beginning at the South Side at a White pine Tree at the head of a creek in a Place called Duck Cove [now Johnson Cove], from thence North eleven Degrees West across the Island to a heap of stones under the bank on a Point [now Division Point] ....”<sup>27</sup> Benjamin Waite sold the East End of Great Chebeague to John Waite on May 13, 1773.<sup>28</sup>

Over the years, the Chandlers and then the Waites subdivided their property and sold it off. Patriarch Ambrose Hamilton, for example, bought Chandler land just west of Division Point. No Chandler or Waite descendants are known to still own property on Great Chebeague, but all island landowners now trace title of their property back to those two families.

<sup>1</sup> William Willis, *The History of Portland from 1632 to 1864: With a Notice of Previous Settlements, Colonial Grants, and Changes of Government in Maine*, 2d ed. (Portland, Maine: Bailey & Noyes, 1865), p. 63.

<sup>2</sup> *The History of Portland from 1632*, pp. 42, 872–3. Maine Historical Society, York Deeds, (Portland, Maine: John T. Hull, 1887), Book I, Part I, Folio 73. References to “York Deeds” are to the 18 volume reprinting of those early deeds by the Maine Historical Society and the Maine Genealogical Society beginning in 1887. Sometimes the volumes have page numbers, but sometimes, as in this case, they use only the numbers of the original folio.

<sup>3</sup> James Phinney Baxter, ed., *Documentary History of the State of Maine, Volume IV* (Portland: Brown, Thurston & Co., 1889), p. 394.

<sup>4</sup> *Documentary History of Maine, Vol. IV*, p. 398.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 400.

<sup>6</sup> York Deeds, Book XII, Part II, Folio 240.

<sup>7</sup> York Deeds, Book XIII, p. 365.

<sup>8</sup> Charles E. Banks, *Captain Walter Gendall, of North Yarmouth, Maine, A Biographical Sketch* (Yarmouth, Maine: “Old Times” Office, 1880), p. 22.

<sup>9</sup> York Deeds, Book IV, Folio 46.

<sup>10</sup> William Hauk, *Stone Sloops of Chebeague* (Boston: s.p., 1947), p. 143.

<sup>11</sup> York Deeds, Book XII, Part I, Folio 1.

<sup>12</sup> York Deeds, Book X, Folio 29.

<sup>13</sup> York Deeds, Book XIII, Folio 131, p. 388; Book XV, Folio 178, p. 488.

<sup>14</sup> York Deeds, Book XIII, Folio 2, p. 16.

<sup>15</sup> York Deeds, Book VIII, Folio 242.

<sup>16</sup> York Deeds, Book III, Folio 127

<sup>17</sup> York Deeds, Book IV, Folio 23.

<sup>18</sup> York Deeds, Book VIII, Folio 187.

<sup>19</sup> York Deeds, Book XVI, Folio 44, p. 136.

<sup>20</sup> York County Deeds, Book 28, p. 39 (New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston, microfilm F27 Y66.)

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Captain Walter Gendall, p. 26.

<sup>23</sup> York Deeds, Book XII, Part II, Folio 241.

<sup>24</sup> York Deeds, Book XVII, Folio 271, p. 722.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> Cumberland Deeds, Book 2, p. 373.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Cumberland Deeds, Book 8, p. 5.



# DNA, Genealogy, and the Cemetery: How a DNA Match Resulted in a New Cemetery Policy

by Donna Damon

Most folks know that DNA and the internet provide an opportunity to discover long lost kin, but many may be surprised that DNA can be a tool in creating cemetery policy. It may not come as a surprise that many Hamiltons are out there searching for Chebeague genealogical connections. Despite the fact that one researcher had confused her great grandmother's biological and foster parents, Ancestry.com determined that she and I shared as much DNA as second cousins. I looked at the name: Carol Fuller and shook my head. I did not have a second cousin named Carol Fuller. But as it turns out I did have a third cousin by that name. Why did we share so much DNA? Two of my great grandmothers were

her great grandmother's sisters, and we shared several other ancestors.

My newly discovered third cousin, Carol Fuller, was very excited to make a Chebeague connection. It seems that her father, who had passed away, wanted to be buried on Chebeague in the lot of his childless great-aunt, Alwilda Hamilton Sweet. She was a sister of our shared Hamilton ancestors and had been very dear to Carol's father, Emery Osborne Fuller. Carol came to Chebeague to see the lot. She conferred with Ann Thaxter, cemetery superintendent, who referred the issue to the Cemetery Committee. The committee looked around and realized that three of the members were as related or nearly as related to Alwilda as Carol Fuller. While none of them were interested in being interred with Alwilda, they realized that the cemetery needed a policy to

determine what to do about long dormant family plots.

After a couple of meetings the solution seemed fairly simple. A new Cemetery rule was developed that outlined a process, which includes a notice in the Calendar, proof of relationship to lot owner, and an opportunity for other relatives to come forward. Should there be a conflict, it will be up to those folks to work out a solution. Fortunately, no one questioned Carol's right to bury her father on Chebeague.

During the research phase it was determined that neither Alwilda Hamilton Sweet nor her husband actually owned the lot! However, it turned out not a problem, because it belonged to the husband of another sister, Clara Etta Hamilton Ross! Only on Chebeague!

## 1. Solomon Sawyer Hamilton m. Mary Jane Littlefield

- |   |  |   |   |                                       |
|---|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2. Statira Hamilton<br>m. John Ross Hamilton    | 2. Ruel Hamilton<br>m. Huldah Johnson  | 2. Solomon Francis Hamilton<br>m. Lucy Hill | 2. Phoebe Ellen Hamilton<br>m. Silas Hamilton | 2. Alwilda Hamilton<br>m. _____ Sweet |
| 3. Sherman Meade Hamilton<br>m. Alice Edna Dyer | 3. Henry D. Hamilton<br>m. Alice Small | 3. Herman Hamilton<br>m. Fannie Thompson    | 3. Agnes Leavitt Hamilton<br>m. _____ Fuller  |                                       |
| 4. Melba Genese Hamilton<br>m. Ellsworth Miller | 4. Ethyl Hamilton<br>m. Merle Ross     | 4. Ervin Hamilton<br>m. Ellen Bennett       | 4. Emery Osborne Fuller<br>m. _____           |                                       |
| 5. Donna Miller *<br>m. Douglas Damon           | 5. Lewis Ross<br>m. Geraldine Johnson  | 5. Kenneth Hamilton<br>m. Jeanette MacVane  | 5. Carol Fuller                               |                                       |
| 6.  | 6. Beth Ross*<br>m. Gerald Wiles       | 6. Kendra Hamilton*<br>m. Ronald McKinnon   |   |                                       |

\*Cemetery Committee member related to Alwilda Hamilton Sweet and Carol Fuller

Other Descendants of Solomon and Mary Jane Littlefield Hamilton Currently Living on Chebeague  
(Doesn't include descendants of those listed below)

David Miller  
Marjorie Small Munroe

Dianne Webber Calder  
Michael Hamilton  
Douglas Ross

Audrey Hamilton Collins  
Vicki Hamilton Emery  
Jeff Hamilton  
Jason Hamilton  
Everett Robinson  
Gordon Robinson  
Sylvia Hamilton Ross

# Searching for a Missing Maiden

by Donna Miller Damon



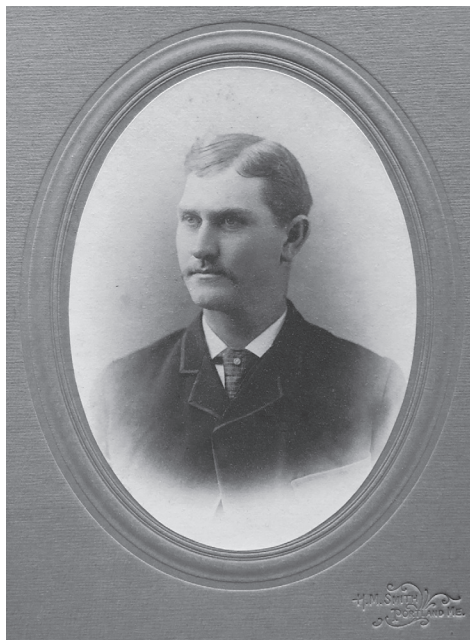
Mary Emma Ross Hamilton

**T**he Museum is always looking for photographs with Chebeague connections. Our goal is to create a data base of everyone who has ever lived or had a significant connection to Chebeague. Thanks to the work of Bill and Carolyn Swan back in the late 20th century, we have a great number of images of people and places associated with the island. The Swanns visited with many old time Chebeaguers and Summer Natives, who lent them photos for copying. But of course, they didn't capture everything and everyone! From time to time we put out an all call hoping that someone has a photo that we need to enhance an exhibit or a Sloops Log article. Such was the case with Mary Emma Ross Hamilton (1863-1936), daughter of Samuel Ross Jr and Eliza Hamilton.

Emma married Harry L. Hamilton (1862-1909) in 1880, and they had four daughters and one son. Harry L. Hamilton was the builder and first owner

of the Hamilton Hotel so when we were preparing for the 2006 Hamilton Exhibit, and then later when we were planning the 2010 Tourism Exhibit, we searched for a photograph of Mary Emma Ross Hamilton to avail. At one point we thought we had found her but realized it was Harry's sister who was also Emma! In the meantime, we contacted several descendants who couldn't help us. But we never gave up.

I am not sure why we began the quest this past summer but we did. I reached out to descendants, David O'Donnell and his cousin Eileen Croudin Horton but had no luck. And then I received a surprise visit from Dave O'Donnell and his niece, Tonya Shevernell. Tonya is in the planning stages of creating a documentary to commemorate Maine's upcoming bicentennial. During the discussion, I happened to mention our search for Mary Emma. She had recently found a photograph of our missing person – her great great grandmother. The following is Tonya's account of finding our missing person as well as her great great grandfather, Harry Hamilton and her great aunt Bessie Hamilton (1882-1974).



Harry L. Hamilton



Bessie Hamilton

It will be of interest to her descendants including the O'Donnells and Arlene Dyer and her extended family!

Here is Tonya's account in an email to me:

*Late Saturday afternoon, September 30th, I walked through the door late in the afternoon to a clatter. It came from the room where my Mom died. (her mother was Diane O'Donnell Shevenell, Dave's sister) I walked in the room. Things were on the floor. Like they had jumped off a dresser shelf. On the second shelf down, there is a picture of the four guys on the roof of the Chebeague Island Inn under construction. I am not sure which version of the Inn it is. (The four men were building the new Hillcrest Hotel that replaced the one that burned in 1924. They include Lincoln Hamilton and Tonya's great grandfather, Ivan Bryan, who oversaw the construction project.) Behind that picture, I*



found the photos of Harry and Bessie.

It really felt like somebody wanted my attention that day. The next day I found the photo of Emma in a box.

I got in touch with David and Molly about a visit a couple days later. They said, can you come out tomorrow?

I said sure.

Uncle David and I went to the cemetery before we visited you.

I thought it was very interesting to see this gravestone...of the three photos that had sort of "presented" themselves. I might have seen this grave at some point in my life, but certainly not in the context of discovering very old photos, courtesy of an inexplicable ruckus in the room my mother died and some subsequent digging.

We are pleased that Tonya was willing to share these wonderful photographs with the Chebeague Historical Society. The CIHS is a great resource if you want to learn more about a Chebeague family. We love helping folks discover their roots and love sharing photographs and family stories. If you would like to share your photos and stories or want to discover your roots email [chebeaguehistory@gmail.com](mailto:chebeaguehistory@gmail.com) or call 846-5237, and we will return the call. Although we are closed for the winter we are happy work out a time when we can help you.



Photo: Cathy MacNeill



Photo: Auffant Family

## HOW THE AUFFANTS CAME TO LIVE ON CHEBEAGUE

by Christine Auffant

Our home is at 31 South Rd. Steve, Christine, Ryan, Jason and their pug, Frank have owned their home on Chebeague since September 2005. In 2016 they moved here full time and are thrilled that both of their sons are in Maine as well. Ryan now lives in Old Town and works as a 911 Dispatcher. Jason is currently a sophomore at UMAINE Orono. It was Steve's Dad, Julio that first brought the family to Chebeague in 1974. Julio had a co-worker that had a home on the island and he and offered it to Julio any time he wanted to use it. So, Steve as a young boy spent several weeks here over the course of several summers. Steve and Christine first came to the island when they were dating and stayed at the bed and breakfast. When their boys were in elementary school the family rented a home on South Road for a week for several summers in a row.

It was during one of these vacations that they came upon their current home for sale. Steve and Chris took a leap of faith and purchased this island home. It has truly been a blessing being able to raise their boys "island style", and Chris and Steve now love to call Chebeague their forever home.

## Would You mind spelling that again?

The English who made their claims to Great Chebeague in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries had no standardized spelling for the place. Instead, they tried to capture the sound of the Native American name they heard. In the deeds that are studied in the accompanying article, the following spellings were used:

Chabeage Chebage Chebeag  
Chebeage Gaboag Gaboge  
Gebeague Jabegue Jebeag  
Jebeeg Jebege Jebeague  
Shebage

# When Was My House Built?

Case Studies, Research Guides and More!

The following 11 pages are part of the 2016-2017 exhibition on Chebeague architecture. Text in this section by Donna Miller Damon.



Photo CHS Collection

## Reuben and Mary Hamilton Hill House (Mike Conroy and Terri Bourke) 1859-1860

### Issues:

The deed from Mary Hamilton Hill's father, John Hamilton 2nd, was executed in 1874. Is that really when the Hills built their home? The property was transferred "with buildings thereon." Were the buildings the Hill's house and barn? The 1860 census shows the Hills as a distinct family unit with real estate valued at \$600.

The researcher must ask, "Was the house built in or after 1874 or was it built in or before 1860." In 1860 the Cumberland assessor recorded that Reuben Hill had a house and lot valued \$350, but he failed to note if it was a new house. The Ross and Hamilton store kept detailed accounts of every thing islanders bought or traded. Throughout the summer and fall of 1859 Reuben Hill

bought nails, window glass, window springs, latches, knobs, and other building materials.

Ross and Hamilton also recorded that Reuben Hill paid Luther Ross, a local builder, \$25 on his store accounts. Photographs document four Chebeague houses that had dentils. No evidence exists that anyother Chebeague houses had dentils. The Hill house is one of the four and has dentils similar to three other houses that were built between 1859- 1862: Robert Hamilton, Jr. (Wilson/Dutton) 1859; Isaac Hamilton (burned) 1861; and Luther Ross (Corson) 1862. Luther Ross died in the fall of 1862, and after his death no other houses were built on the islandwith dentils.

### Conclusion:

While we can't be certain, a strong case can be made that Reuben Hill hired Luther Ross to build his house and that it was completed in the spring of 1860-just in time to be assessed by the tax collector. Hill, like many of his generation built a house on family land years before he had title to the land on which it sat.







## When Was My House Built continued...



All Photos: CHS Collection

### Charles A. and Etta Hamilton Grannell House The Grannell Family 1875-1877

#### Issues:

Charles Andrew Grannell bought a lot from David Hill on Feb. 22nd 1883; he registered the deed in Nov. of that year. When did Grannell build his house? The Town of Cumberland assessed Grannell for a house and a lot in 1880. After Grannell's death his wife, Mary Etta, inherited surrounding lands from her father's, David Hamilton, estate. David Hamilton died in 1893 and his wife, Mary, died in 1897. The estate was not settled until 1911 when deeds were executed. Mary Etta Grannell did not register the deed to her share of the estate until 1916. Reference was

made to the land abutting the Grannell homestead. Grannell was a record keeper, but he did not leave any information about his arrangement with Hill to buy the property. However, Grannell did leave a diary which was saved by his descendants that answers many of our questions and more. To eliminate confusion it is important to know that the ell of the Grannell house was built during the early 1900s when the house became known as the Grannell Cottage, an early summer boarding house. The original house had its gable end to the road.

#### Conclusion:

We may never be able to answer to the questions regarding why Charles Grannell built a house on the land he did not own and







# Moved, Altered or Gone

*Chebeague's Ever Changing Landscape*

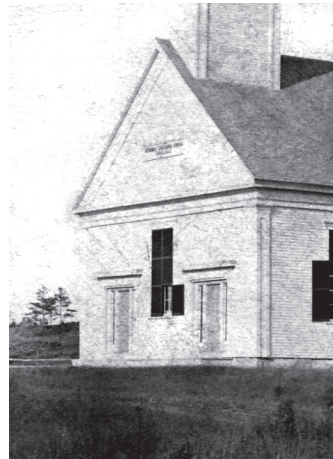


Top to Bottom:  
 John and Jane Hamilton III House c. 1940  
 Built c. 1856 Site near Ridgeway's  
 Ralph Frizzell Oil on canvas  
 Photograph Courtesy of Jane Frizzell

James and Mary Hamilton House c. 1930s  
 Built c. 1804 Site below Island View  
 Louis Leonard Photographer Courtesy of Leonard Family

Johnathan and Elizabeth Hamilton House c. 1910s  
 Built c. 1813 - Site between Wentworth and Malony  
 Photograph Courtesy of Barbara Weymouth Jackson

David and Mary Doughty House c. 1910s  
 Built c. 1814 Site beside McCullum  
 Photograph Swann Photo Collection CIHS



Top to Bottom:  
 Chebeague Methodist Episcopal  
 Church with Original Steeple  
 c.1881 Built 1855  
 Stereopticon  
 Chebeague United Methodist  
 Church Collection CIHS



All photos: CIHS Collection unless noted



Baptist Brick Meeting House c.1910  
 Built c.1829? Renovated c.1910  
 Photograph Swann Photo Collection CIHS



Chebeague United Methodist Church c.1904  
 Steeple addition c.1890s  
 Photo Post Card

George Hicks Photographer Geneva Bowen Collection CIHS



Methodist Protestant Church c.1856  
 Dismantled in the 1890s and rebuilt  
 as Ridgeway's house  
 Photograph Swann Photo collection CIHS



Top to Bottom(L-R):  
 John and Jane Hamilton III House c.1930s  
 Built c.1856  
 Site near Ridgeway's  
 Frederick Komlosy  
 Oil on canvas  
 Photograph Courtesy of Martha O. Hamilton CIHS

Robert and Serena Hamilton House c. 1900  
 Built c. 1828  
 Orchard Cottage East End (Alice Mellin)  
 Roof raised c. 1904  
 George Hicks Photographer CIHS

Benjamin and Hannah Mitchell House c. early 1900s  
 Built c.1804-05  
 Levey/Goodman  
 Addition c.early 1900s  
 Photograph Swann Photo Collection CIHS

Richard and Deborah Hutchinson House c. 1910s  
 Built c. 1807  
 Moved across the road c.1886  
 Photograph Swann Photo Collection CIHS

Nothing stays the same. Change is a constant in our lives and in the life of a building. While the definition of "modern" changes over time, it is human nature to try to keep up with current trends. Stoves replaced fireplaces; bathrooms replaced outhouses and so on. Chebeague homes have met many fates from being destroyed by fire to being razed because someone wanted something bigger and better. Some homes have been abandoned and eventually fell into their cellars.

Old houses in various stages of decline have often been the subject of artists and photographers. Those same individuals have also captured well preserved buildings that have since been transformed or disappeared completely.

This exhibit is indebted to those photographers and artists of the past who were inspired by Chebeague's built landscape as well as islanders such as Cathy MacNeill who continue to chronicle the Chebeague we know-for future generations. Many future Chebeaguers will only know about "our present" because of Cathy's work.



# The Thompson Littlefield Hamlet

## 1850~1890

Island Homes: Evolution of the Domestic Architecture of the Thompson~Littlefield Families 1805~1880

*Text in this section written by Suhail and Leila Bisharat*

**A**t the center of Chebeague is a surviving nucleus of houses that retain the building features typical of the island's early settlement as well as those that evolved during the economic prosperity of the mid to late nineteenth century. Here we can trace the way settlers built, using the techniques and materials for shipbuilding, and then how their children changed styles.

Boats came first in their investments, then barns and sheds on land. Initially, cape-style houses provided simple shelter around a central chimney until seafaring and farming provided sufficient income and leisure time to join in the building fashion of Greek Revivalism that swept the United States during the nineteenth century.

William Thompson, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, married Sarah Long, and settled on Chebeague. They were here as early as 1810, when the family shows up in the Federal census. Their daughter, Mary, married Captain Enoch Littlefield from Wells in York County. In 1815 William Thompson and Enoch Littlefield purchased 15 acres together on Chebeague from James Johnson and divided the land in half between the two of them. William and Sarah Thompson's house still stands at 96 Littlefield Road, with many of its original materials and architectural features intact. Enoch and Mary Thompson Littlefield built their home on the opposite side of the stonewall that divided their homesteads. This nucleus grew as they, their children and grandchildren expanded their holdings.

**H**ouses changed over time responding to family demands, budget and fashion. The house styles progressed from William Thompson's early cape-style homestead, built around 1805, to the more elegant Greek Revival homes built by his children and grandchildren. Barns, like ships, were larger than houses and were essential during the nineteenth century, but only Nathaniel Thompson's barn survives unaltered, up the hill at 75 Littlefield Road.

By 1890 the Thompson~Littlefield descendants had created a hamlet of houses, with barns, sheds, cart roads, a church, and a family burying ground. While the sloops, barks, and schooners that they and their children shared no longer exist, some of their homes, boatbuilding tools, reused ship timbers, barns, and farm implements have survived to help inform us about the lives of Thompson and his descendants



**William and Sarah Long Thompson House, c. 1815.**  
(now Suhail and Leila Bisharat)

The house of William and Sarah Thompson, like its Cape contemporaries in the early nineteenth century, had a center chimney and several fireplaces. The foundations were made from local field stones. Constructed by mariners (William Thompson sailed as far as Portugal from his home on Chebeague), the house was built using shipbuilding techniques; a ship's "knee", which gave a boat its strength and flexibility, can be seen bracing a corner of the house frame.



*Ship's knee brace*



All photos: Cathy MacNeill unless noted





Photo: CIHS Collection

**William and Susan Ross Littlefield House, c. 1846.  
(now Joan Phipps)**

Enoch and Mary Littlefield's house is gone, but their son William T. Littlefield prospered and owned large farms on both sides of Chebeague as well as leading his family in stone slooping. He built his home overlooking the bay and Bangs Island, where he summered his livestock. The Chebeague Island Boat Yard's pier is built on the remnants of Littlefield's stone wharf. The Boat Yard cove was known by older generations as "Uncle William's beach." The house was originally connected to a large barn by a series of outbuildings, as is common in New England but was rare on Chebeague. Built around a central chimney, some of the features are similar to the Thompson house of the previous generation. Of special note are the nine-over-six windows, the sidelights by the door, and the Federal-style fan over the front door, the only fan known to have been built on Chebeague in that period.



William Littlefield is pictured above (center with white beard) in 1896 with several family members including his second wife and several of his children.



*William and Susan Littlefield House c. 1947  
Joan Phipps  
Built c. 1846  
Frederick Komlosy Watercolor  
Photograph  
Courtesy of John Howe  
CIHS*



**George W. and Eviline Grimes Littlefield House, c. 1855  
(destroyed by fire)**

The most ambitious of the Thompson/Littlefield descendants' houses no longer exists. Fortunately, a photo survives, taken about 1905, some sixty years after the original house was built. The original owner, George Washington Littlefield, was a son of Enoch Littlefield. Like his brother William T. Littlefield, who lived down the hill below him, he prospered with his schooner and sloop shares. The house stood close to his father's home and the Littlefield burying ground. Only the well and some fruit trees survive in the Littlefield Woods.

The name "Temple House" has been given to this form. The gable ends seem to rest on monumental two-story pilasters. Each one is treated with prominent returns at the top, connected to a broad entablature that runs along the sea-facing front of the house. The shafts of the columns have a deep recess, making them appear especially prominent.



## The Thompson Littlefield Hamlet continued...



**Nathaniel and Jane Johnson Thompson House, c. 1857.  
(now George Bates and Carolyn Shultz)**

The Nathaniel and Jane Thompson House is typical of the Greek Revival houses that were built on Chebeague in the 1850s. It had the exterior symmetry of a Cape with decorative elements reminiscent of Greek architecture. The center hall plan with chimneys on either end indicates that stoves had replaced fireplaces. Pilasters are found on either side of the door and on the corner boards. The extended entablature runs across the length of the house. The visible foundation is granite. The house was painted white to resemble a Greek temple.

The Thompsons' granddaughter Edith and her husband Wesley Bates, a son of Eben Bates and Susan Littlefield, bought the house and made major architectural changes. These included adding an ell and a wrap-around porch as well as additional chimneys, interior oak paneling and a croquet lawn. From its perch on the hill, the house had views of the islands in the bay.



*Sloop's Log* 16



**Nathaniel Thompson Barn,  
c. 1852**

William Thompson's son Nathaniel built his barn before he built his house. In the barn, he used building techniques similar to those used in his father's home, but at a much larger scale. The structure is made of hand-hewn timber and uses mortise and tenon joining. Roman numerals were cut into the beams as they were shaped to aid in assembly. Known as an English barn because its main door is on the side rather than at the gable end, the barn had haymows on either side of its double entrances, easing the unloading of hay wagons from the nearby fields. Sheep and oxen, and later a horse, occupied parts of the main floor.



Photo: Cathy MacNeill



All photos: CHS Collection unless noted



**Eben and Susan Littlefield Bates House, c. 1878  
(now Dugliss-Hall Family)**

Eben Bates, whose early days were spent whaling, went to sea with William T. Littlefield and then married the captain's daughter Susan. Like some other Chebeague mariners, Bates was also a master builder. He built an addition to the Nathaniel Thompson house and may have built his own home as well. While this Bates house retains many of the Greek Revival elements, there are clear signs that this was a home built in the 1870s rather than the 1850s. The etched glass in the front doors is a late-century detail and, by the 1870s, nine-over-six windows had been replaced by six panes over six. (see below)

George Hicks's photograph captured Eben and Susan Bates, their grandsons, daughter-in-law and her parents in front of the house. Bates collected the whale bones and made the sailboats in the foreground of the photograph, which endeared him to a generation of children who were fascinated by the curios.



**The Littlefield/Thompson Hamlet  
from the Sea**

Another George Hicks photograph, taken from Crow Island, shows much of this family development. George Washington Littlefield's large Greek Revival home stands in the upper right. His brother William's connected house, sheds and barn are in the center.

The cart road in the photograph that connected these houses still exists. It runs through the Littlefield Woods and continues by the Adams house, across what is now South Road and continues downhill by the Crossman-Knight house, past the William T. Littlefield (Phipps) house, and ends at the boat yard beach. Much of what seems familiar to us in the middle of Chebeague today originated with the Thompson and Littlefield families as they grew and built.

Photos: Cathy MacNeil





# Blazes and Bulldozers

*The Fate of Many Chebeague Buildings*



*Top to Bottom*

*Jenk's Sunnyside Hotel c.1890 Joshua and Annette Jenks Burned c.1893 Site near Paul Cleary*

*John Morse Store c. late 1890s AKA Ross and Hamilton or Hamilton and Company Built pre 1850 Burned c. early 1920s Stone Wharf*

*Golden Cross Hall c. 1909 Site of present Hall Built c. 1926*

*Top to Bottom:*

*Samuel and Amy Ross House c. 1920s Built c. 1827*

*Site of Holman's house Burned in the 1930s*

*James and Mary Hamilton House c. 1910 Second house built by them c. 1824 Site left side of Cordes Road Torn down in early 1900s.*

*Solomon and Mary Jane Hamilton House c. 1930s Built c. 1839 Razed to make way for Gilmartin house*

All Photos: CHS Collection



# SEVENTH COUSINS ONCE REMOVED

## *The Buckfield Damons and Chebeague Hamiltons*

by Donna Damon

Someone once said that genealogy was a great hobby because it didn't take much room to store hundreds or thousands of names. Of course those of us who revel in research know that shelves piled with notebooks, cabinets filled with files, libraries stuffed with primary and secondary source materials – and the bane of my existence – stacks of random pieces of paper waiting to be matched up with the appropriate file or notebook, come with the territory!

My interest in genealogy came from my parents who taught me the names of my ancestors and passed on the stories they had heard from their elders. While immersed in local history at home, it is interesting to note that although I spent nine years at the Chebeague School, no one ever mentioned that most of us were related to each other. When cold weather came and we learned about the first Thanksgiving, no one told us that we all had ancestors who were there!

My husband should have known that he was in trouble when nearly on in our relationship I started questioning him about his ancestry and tracing his roots. He wasn't much help. Unlike me, he had never much paid attention to those who came before him. When I asked him his grandmothers' names he responded, "Grammie and Mammie" - not what I wanted to hear! We lived south of Boston when we were first married so I became a frequent researcher at the Boston Public Library and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. It wasn't long before I discovered that I had married into founding families of the majority of Massachusetts' coastal towns! Doug's family was much more interesting than mine. Although I found no connection to my Mayflower ancestors, I did find that several of his relatives came over on the same boat! As time went on I found that he was also descended from the New York Dutch, some of whom left for



New Brunswick during the American Revolution. Closer to home his ancestors had been Portland hatters, land developers, and well-known abolitionists, who were personal friends of Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. Since the 1780s his Damon kin had lived in Buckfield, Maine, where they created a genealogical telephone pole similar to the one that evolved from my Hamilton ancestors on Chebeague. (Our son Tom lives in Buckfield and is amazed at how deep his roots actually run in the Oxford hills, as he makes kinship connections.)

Years ago I gave up the idea of ever finding a genealogical connection with my husband's family. From time to time I made new discoveries on my tree or his, but I knew that I had gathered all of the low hanging fruit. As new sources came on-line I added a few twigs to the trees. One day I was sitting at the computer trying to get inspired to begin a writing project (another way to describe procrastinating) when I decided to track

down the aunts and uncles of Deborah Soule Hamilton (wife of Ambrose). I knew that her father, Jedidiah Soule, and at least two of his brothers had migrated to Maine from Duxbury, Massachusetts. (This is how the Soules and associated families from Yarmouth, Freeport, and Chebeague are connected.) I wondered if any of his other siblings had moved to Maine. The Soule family is well documented so it didn't take me long to find the family. As I scanned the family I discovered that a sister, Alice had descendants in Turner and Minot, Maine. I learned that Alice had married Barnabas Perry and among others, had a son named Dimon – a unique name I thought – or maybe not! I had seen that name once before. I hauled out my notebooks and there it was...Dimon Perry, son of Barnabas and Alice (? I hadn't known her last name at the time) Perry. Thus Alice Soule Perry, sister of Jedidiah Soule, my fifth great grandfather, was Doug's sixth great grandmother.

So after forty years of searching we discovered that we were seventh cousins once removed. Thus the intertwining of the roots of Buckfield Damons and Chebeague Hamiltons began on the South Shore of Massachusetts rather than on the coast of Maine.

## How Donna and Doug Are Related

Douglas Edward Damon  
Donna Lee Miller

Donna Lee Miller  
Douglas Edward Damon

Clifford Leroy Damon Jr.  
Clarissa May Titus

Ellsworth David Miller  
Melba Genese Hamilton

Clifford Leroy Damon Sr.  
Isabelle Adelaide Gould

Sherman Meade Hamilton  
Alice Edna Dyer

William Edwin Damon  
Ella Stiles

John Ross Hamilton  
Statira Hamilton

Jonathan Chandler Damon  
Bethiah Thatcher Damon

Benjamin Hamilton  
Eliza Webber Ross

Jonathan Damon Jr  
Bethiah Barker Perry

James Sawyer Hamilton  
Mary Webber

Barnabas Perry  
Patience Thatcher Josselyn

Ambrose Hamilton  
Deborah Soule

Dimon Perry  
Abigail Cushing

Jedidiah Soule  
Tabitha Bishop

Barnabas Perry  
Alice Soule

Moses Soule  
Mercy Southworth

Moses Soule  
Mercy Southworth

\*Edward Southworth  
Mary Pabodie

\*Edward Southworth  
Mary Pabodie

Constant Southworth  
Elizabeth Collier

Constant Southworth  
Elizabeth Collier

\*Edward Southworth  
Alice Carpenter

\*Edward Southworth  
Alice Carpenter



Photo: Crandall Family

## 10th Cousins Once Removed

by Laurine Crandall

Imagine end of summer in Tryon, North Carolina. The year is 1997. It's hot! All my dad's able-to-gather relatives are in attendance at his family reunion. Two years from now, many of us will meet on Chebeague Island. Why? Because it's cooler? True, but that's only part of the story...

My father Louis Crandall descends from an ancestor shared with Deborah Soule who married Ambrose Hamilton. However, in 1997, I had no clue about this Chebeague connection. I understood that my husband Ted's great grandmother Edith Hamilton was born on the island but what did a New England ancestor like Edith have in common with multiple generations of Michigan farmers? Then my brother David handed out his freshly compiled FamilyTree research....

Stifling a yawn, I considered my elder brother to be predictably pedantic. I didn't appreciate the scope of his project since I hadn't yet developed an interest in genealogy. He had meticulously organized lists of names and dates in three-ring binders, one for each head of family. As I confabulated non-stop with relations while simultaneously passing around appetizers and helping myself to a fair share of chiles rellenos, I possibly thanked my brother, but maybe not. Some members of our clan used to live in Mexico and a nephew was visiting from his current home in Nicaragua so please picture a pitcher of margaritas in this scene next to a tray of chicken wings. Hmmm, I was happily catching up with cousins, henceforth to be referred to as CUWC, an all-time -any-time healthful activity!

"Hey," Ted said after extricating himself from our group. Maybe because I wasn't listening he repeated, "Hey!" Sometime later, and I dare not say how long in order to preserve any nuance of credibility as family historian, I processed his initial statement and it clicked:

"You and I share some of the same ancestors according to your brother's research," he said, "Alden, Soule...."



**A**mazing! I was floored. My copy of our black notebook has since become a cherished possession worthy of packing and ferrying back and forth to Chebeague every summer. Although my infatuation with anything Chebeague began well before Ted became Harbormaster in the early 1990s, discovering our shared kinship certainly heightened my interest in island genealogy.

Ted descends from two of Chebeague's earliest settlers Deborah Soule and Ambrose Hamilton while I share ancestors with Deborah. The gist of this story is Ted and I (aka known on family trees as Edgar

and Laurine) are 10th cousins through Constant Southworth and Elizabeth Collier or 10th cousins once removed through William Peabody and Elizabeth Alden. Deborah Soule is Ted's 5th great-grandmother and my third cousin seven or eight times removed depending on from where one starts to figure.

Perhaps listing pedigrees will clarify our connection and who knows, you might recognize names of your ancestors listed below in one of these columns or both!

Edgar Atherton Curtis II (1944-)  
Laurine Virginia Crandall (1947-)

Laurine Virginia Crandall (1947-)  
Edgar Atherton Curtis II (1944-)

Edgar Atherton Curtis, Jr. (1918-2001)  
Elizabeth Ann Killeran (1919-2007)

Louis Merle Crandall (1921-2005)  
Maurine V. Sharpe/Barbara Mendenhall (1922-2011)

Edgar Atherton Curtis (1890-1946)  
Beatrice Anna Palmer (1895-1975)

Merle Simmons Crandall (1892-1944)  
Gladys May Bullis (1893-1976)

Oakley Chester Curtis (1865-1924)  
Edith Leona Hamilton (1865-1933)

Frank Richmond Crandall (1862-1906)  
(2nd)Ella Amelia Yerkes (1864-1922)

Isaac Hamilton (1825-1885)  
Lavina Albertina Chase (1833-1903)

David Freeman Crandal (1827-1873)  
Caroline Simmons (1828-1913)

John Hamilton 2nd (1804-1875)  
Mary Webber Henley (1801-1872)

Richmond Simmons Jr. (1806-1862)  
Hannah Wheeler Simmons Wheeler (1809-1908)

James S. Hamilton Sr. (1778-1869)  
Mary (Polly) Webber (1776-1825)

Richmond Simmons (1774-1845)  
Eleanor Sears (1780-1866)

Ambrose Hamilton (1735-1795)  
Deborah Soule (1744-1825)

Alden Sears (1739-1803)  
Phebe Walker (1748-1830)

Jedediah Soule (1720-1761)  
Tabitha Bishop (1718-1766)

Judah Sears (1699-1766)  
Mary Paddock (1714-1733)

Moses Soule (1669-1748)  
Mercy Southworth (1672-1729)

Judah Paddock (1681-1770)  
Alice P. Alden (1675-1744)

\*Edward Southworth (abt 1644- Bef 1727)  
Mary Peabody (1648- Aft 1727)

David Alden (Abt 1642- Bef 1719)  
Mary Southworth (Abt 1654- Bef 1719)

\*Constant Southworth (1612-1678)  
Elizabeth Collier (1618-1670)

\*Constant Southworth (1612-1678)  
Elizabeth Collier (1618 -1670)

\*Edward Southworth (Abt 1590-Abt 1620)  
Alice Carpenter (Abt 1590-1670)

\*It appears that all four of the related husbands and wives go back to Edward Southworth and Alice Carpenter.

(Alice Carpenter came on the *Anne* in 1623 and married (2nd) Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth. Descendants of their 2 sons are half sibs of our ancestor Constant so we relate to these Bradfords but do not descend from Gov. Bradford.)

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All four, Donna and Doug Damon & Laurine and Ted Crandall, go back to the *Mayflower* thru John Alden and Priscilla Mullins and, George Soule and Mary Buckett. Mary Buckett and Alice Carpenter came on the *Anne* in 1623.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Donna Miller Damon

**T**he Sloops Log has recently published several illustrated articles about the Stone Wharf. Readers might wonder if there is any more information or photographs of one of Chebeague's most familiar landmarks to be unearthed. The answer is yes on both counts!

Ann Kendall Holmbom recently loaned us some account books from Hamilton & Co., the business that operated a general store and salt clam bait business on the wharf during the nineteenth century. Ann is the great-granddaughter of Stephen B. Hamilton, one of the owners of the company. We were excited to find that one of the ledgers that covered 1885-1886 provided the financials for building what the Hamiltons recorded under "w" for wharf. Wharf, Hamilton & Co.

The account comprised three pages and listed the names of eight stone sloops that worked on the project. It also includes the names of many Chebeaguers who worked on the construction. In some cases the Hamiltons noted that the sloops were carrying grout (blasted rock to create the base on which the wharf was built). Individuals were also paid for "work on the wharf".

**T**here is currently much discussion about conceptual repairs and renovations proposed for the Stone Wharf that range from about \$3,000,000 - \$17,000,000. Over the past fifteen years the Towns of Cumberland and Chebeague have invested nearly \$1,000,000 in repairs and upgrades. So how much did the Hamilton's Wharf, which came to be known as Hamilton's Landing, actually cost? Based on the company records the structure, including dredging which was nearly one third of the expense, cost \$3,335.53! Yes, that is it! \$977.24 was paid to the Plymouth Rock, which was the dredge! Vin-alhaven's Bodwell Granite Company received about \$350 for the exterior stone! The next Sloops Log will include a detailed description of all the expenses. Pretty good stuff.

But what about the name? How many of you talk about the Stone Pier, while your neighbors call it the Stone Wharf? For generations most folks called it the Stone Wharf. Only a handful of examples of pier being used can be found before the 1970s. So why has "pier" become so prevalent? Well, the theory is when an off islander bought the store on the wharf they dubbed it, Stone Pier Variety. But despite protestations by many old timers - the name caught on even with old time Chebeaguers. There have also been holdouts (such as this author) who has had to debate the definitions of wharf and pier! But now we know that the original owners and builders thought it was a wharf and recorded the same for posterity.

**W**ill this definitive evidence stop the debate? The essential question: When do we hold on to tradition and when do we let it go?



*Seventh tee before 1928*



*Amphibious biplane*



*Dr. and Mrs. Rogers of Littlejohns at the 4th Tee*

All Photos CHS Collection





Floyd and grandfather  
Henry Decateur Hamilton



## Spring 2017 Mystery Photo

by Donna Miller Damon

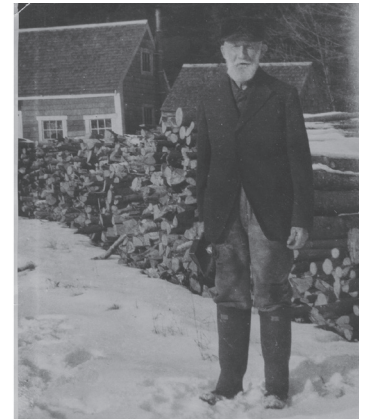
Chris Doughty was the first to correctly identify the most recent Mystery Photo as the shore between Fenderson Road and Walker Road. Many people confused it with Springettes, which has been frequently photographed and painted. Springettes is located in front of Ashcroft and is tucked in between the two cottages pictured to the left of the cove (Hale and Ash). It is not surprising that it is the better known of the two because it had more fish houses and remained a fishing mecca much longer. The photograph is believed to have been taken by George Hicks after 1905. The steamboat is thought to be the Aucocisco I steaming toward Fenderson's Clam Factory Landing.

The Cove, as I call it, is a gem where I learned swim and spent many pleasant summer days watching Ethyl Ross dig clams. It is thought that most of the ledges on the right of the photograph are all that remain from a much more substantial shale formation that was blasted by Chebeague Stone Sloops to be used as the foundation for wharves and breakwaters on the Maine Coast. At one time the Cove was owned by James Hamilton Jr. whose home sat below the Slow Bell. Over time his daughters Lavinia Hamilton Merriman (Marks) and Deborah Hamilton Bucknam (Passano-Howe), conveyed their home and land to others. Brookwood Lane meanders along what was originally a well-trod path from South Road to the shore through an open field. Ruel Hamilton bought the Merriam homestead, and he and his sons Henry, Horace, and Herbert built their fish houses on the shore below the house. The 1943 photo of Herbert Hamilton was taken in the cove. Admiral Willis Cleaves moored his sailboat in the cove between the Walker and Miller fishing boats.

The cove remained part of the island's working waterfront long after the fish houses had been abandoned. The picture shows Ellsworth Miller (right) and others painting Bill Miller's sardine dories in the 1950s. Many fishermen took their boats ashore in the Cove to clean and paint the bottoms. Bob Walker's fish house (left) is still standing but was not there when the mystery photo was taken! The Cove now abuts the land of Karen Craparo, Beth Wiles and Doug Ross, the Smith family, and the Kerns.



Herbert Hamilton



Ruel Decateur Hamilton



Ellsworth Miller (right) and others painting Bill Miller's sardine dories in the 1950s.  
Bob Walker's fish house (left)





The Sloop's log  
Chebeague Island Historical Society  
P.O. Box 28  
Chebeague Island, ME 04017

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# *the Sloop's Log*

Spring 2017 Issue

Fall  
2017  
Mystery  
Photo

Newsletter of the Chebeague Island Historical Society



Photo CIHS Collection

Please give us a call at 846-5140 or email [chebeaguehistory@gmail.com](mailto:chebeaguehistory@gmail.com) if you can identify the Fall Mystery picture. We would love to have you share any special memories that you may have relating to this photograph.