



THE BEACON

Newsletter of the WELLFLEET HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.wellfleethistoricalsociety.org

Volume XXXIV • Spring 2011

2011 SPEAKER SERIES

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR

June 8 REPRODUCTION OR GENUINE FURNITURE

Rick Jacobson, Furniture and Interiors Conservator

Rick will talk about the identification of furniture by style, age and construction. He is the co-owner of Wellfleet's own Billingsgate Art and Antiques. He was a conservator for Sotheby's and has been featured in *This Old House*, *House & Garden*, and *Architectural Digest*. He will have examples of his work for discussion.

July 13 CIVIL WAR MUSIC

Rick Spencer, Executive Director of the Dr. Asbel Woodward Museum

Rick will present the music of Stephen Foster, George Root, Henry Clay Work, and Daniel Emmett which he will accompany with a 5-string banjo and guitar. You may sing along.

Aug. 10 SECRET SOCIETIES OF THE LOWER CAPE & WELLFLEET

Ralph Desmond, Presenter

Ralph is an historian, past Master Mason and a researcher of the history of the secret societies of the Lower Cape and a fascinating raconteur of his subject.

Sept. 14 AMERICAN SAMPLERS: LITTLE MASTERPIECES: 1620-1840

Henry T. Callan, Antique Dealer, Lecturer, and Appraiser

One of Mr. Callan's specialties is Antique Samplers. He will discuss their history, beauty, variety and role in early education. Some of the local samplers will be available for viewing.

Oct. 12 CAPTAIN LORENZO DOW BAKER, FRUIT TRADE PIONEER

Randy Bartlett, Ph.D, Retired History Professor

Randy will talk about one of the most notable members of Wellfleet history and the person for whom our latest set of period rooms has been named: Capt. L. D. Baker - fisherman, fruit importer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, the father of tourism in Wellfleet.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE ON WEDNESDAYS AT THE WELLFLEET PUBLIC LIBRARY AT 8:00 PM.

WELLFLEET HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

P. O. Box 58 • 266 Main Street • Wellfleet, MA 02667 • www.wellfleethistoricalsociety.org

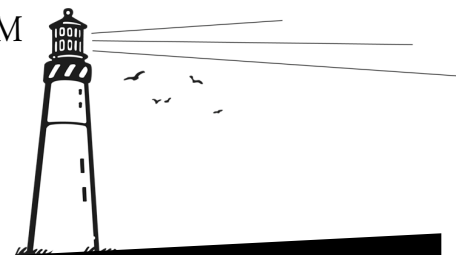
OPEN: June 21 to September 10, 2011

HOURS: Tues. and Fri., 10 AM-4 PM • Wed., Thurs. and Sat. - 1 PM-4 PM

GUIDED WALKING TOURS: Tues. and Fri., 10:15 AM

SELF-GUIDED AUDIO WALKING TOURS ALSO AVAILABLE

Call (508) 349-9157 for more information.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings! It is with great pride that I welcome you to participate in this upcoming season's events... our 60th year of operation. As you read your Beacon, you will see just how much progress we've made over the past year. The new costume room is ready for your visit; the new period garden is about to bloom, the Baker rooms are on their way! None of this could have been done without the help of our devoted staff, volunteers and Board, and I thank them sincerely for their hard work and imagination.



We hope to see you at the Annual Strawberry Festival, held this year on June 19th - Father's Day. The Annual House Tour will be held on Sunday, July 31st, always a grand occasion. Our guided and taped walking tours of downtown continue, and our Wednesday evening FREE lecture series is sure to entertain and inform. Maybe you will join us this year as we once again dance to a live big band, "Sentimental Journey," at the Chequessett Yacht and Country Club. And, of course, our expanded Museum welcomes you, also at no charge. Please make the time in your busy summer to visit us, and

Nor could we succeed without the financial support of our members and, as you will read, our sterling local institutions. We are so very grateful. Please look for your membership envelope within. When you renew, please take the time to write your email address on the envelope. We are trying to build a data bank so as to better inform you of our special events and activities. Until that time, please visit our web site (www.wellfleethistoricalsociety.org) to keep abreast and see some wonderful pictures from our collection.

please be generous when you renew your membership. There is no other institution in town doing the work of preserving Wellfleet's history, your history. Please, help us grow... and make Miss Lydia Doane Newcomb, our founder, proud.

Respectfully,
Kenneth C. Roscoe
President



Miss Lydia Doane Newcomb

WELLFLEET HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Society, founded by Miss Lydia Doane Newcomb in 1951. We thank her for the foresight to realize how valuable it would be to establish a museum whose sole purpose is to tell the fascinating story of our small, complex town. To study the history of Wellfleet is to study the history of our country. Come to the museum to see Indian artifacts, colonial documents, a cannonball fired in the Revolutionary War. Learn how local government was established, see the birth of industry and agriculture and hold the tools our ancestors held. See the clothes they wore. It's all here, and we are anxious to share it with you. Thank you, Miss Newcomb, and to the many volunteers and donors who have kept our museum a beloved and vital institution all these years.

STERLING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

The Wellfleet Historical Society proudly announces that it has received two major grants this year. The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank generously gave \$3,000 toward the rebuilding of the roof over our "East Wing." The Seamen's Bank gave \$25,000 toward the creation of a new room, "Tools of Land and Sea," so in keeping with their institution's ethos. We are tremendously grateful for their funds and their faith in us. Special thanks to our own grant-writing maven, Maura Donahue. She may be writing you soon!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income for 2010 was \$56,237.10 against expenses of \$49,792.37, leaving a positive balance of \$6,444.73. In accounting for the positive balance, we can call attention in part to the establishment of the Baker fund. A generous donation by Tom Baker has assisted in covering renovation expenses for the Baker Rooms on the second floor of the Annex. Checking account funds of \$6,178.11, a balance in the Capital Fund of \$4,019.73, a balance in the Baker fund of \$5,917.07, and a US Savings Bond worth

\$12,892.00, brought the total assets at the end of 2010 to \$29,006.91. Fund-raising efforts are ongoing and encouraging, but our funds are limited and always in need of replenishing – all donations will be gratefully acknowledged!

Respectfully submitted,
Diane S. Galvin, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

The payment for membership to the Wellfleet Historical Society is due now. With this mailing of The Beacon we're including a return envelope for your membership dues and donations. This method of payment will help the membership chairman keep up-to-date and save on mailing costs. These dues and donations play a considerable part in our budget, and will be vital to our Capital Campaign for our new building. We're grateful for your support. The Wellfleet Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. All members with email addresses -- please remember to write your email address on the return envelope, or send it to info@wellfleethistoricalsociety.org so that you can receive notification of special events.

ORDER BOOKS HERE!

Please make checks payable to: **Wellfleet Historical Society**
and mail to: Wellfleet Historical Society, P.O. Box 58, Wellfleet, MA 02667.

Ordered by:

Name

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Telephone

Email Address

Quantity	Title	Cost
_____	<i>The Famous Beds of Wellfleet: a shellfishing history</i> - D.B. Wright @ \$17.95	_____
_____	<i>History of Billingsgate</i> - D. Echeverria @ 10.00	_____
_____	<i>Wellfleet: A Cape Cod Village</i> - D. Lombardo @ \$18.99	_____
_____	<i>Wellfleet: Then and Now</i> - D. Lombardo @ \$19.99	_____
_____	<i>Looking Back at Wellfleet</i> - N. Simon @ \$3.00	_____
_____	<i>A Pictorial History of Wellfleet</i> - J. Stetson/S. Rolbein, revised and updated 3rd edition @ \$14.00	_____
_____	<i>Cape Cod Echoes</i> - E. Rich @ \$8.50	_____
_____	R. Arnold CD: <i>Wellfleet Times 1</i> (41 photos) @ \$10.00	_____
_____	R. Arnold CD: <i>Wellfleet Times 2</i> (59 photos) @ \$10.00	_____
	Please add \$2.50 for shipping and handling	\$2.50
	Total Enclosed	_____

SALT OF THE EARTH AWARD - 2010: JOAN HOPKINS COUGHLIN

The *Salt of the Earth Award* is given to someone who demonstrates service to the community through selfless and tireless efforts. This year we presented the award to our devoted curator, Joan Hopkins Coughlin.

Joan was born and educated in Jamaica (B.W.I.), but her father's family was from Bound Brook, Wellfleet, and they visited Wellfleet during the summer. She is part of the L. D. Baker family. At the age of 16, Joan returned to the United States and attended the Walnut Hill Prep School. Joan received a BFA in Illustration and a BS in Art Ed. from the Rhode Island School of Design, as well as an MFA in Painting from U Mass in Amherst. She taught art in grade school and has been an adjunct design instructor at Smith College and U Mass. Now you can find her teaching summer and fall classes at Castle Hill in Truro and PAAM in Provincetown. Joan goes out of her way in helping and giving of her time to her students. She and her husband, Jack, have owned the Golden Cod Gallery on East Commercial Street since 1964, where they show their artwork. Here in Wellfleet Joan is involved with the Altar Guild at St.

James the Fisherman, sharing her beautiful flowers on the altar. Her home away from the Cape is in Montague in Western MA where she is a volunteer for the Church World Service through her church (St. Andrew's). Joan coordinates the area churches' Kits of the Heart Project, assembling school bags, health kits and layettes for babies.

Most importantly, Joan has been our dedicated curator for almost 20 years! She works all year at it and spends numerous hours, especially during the summer, at the museum. Joan is always available with her cheerful manner, historical knowledge, genuineness, caring and helpful hand. You can usually find her at the museum or gallery volunteering, welcoming questions and continuing the work of her beloved mentors: Lydia Newcomb, Helen Purcell and Helen Olsen.

Joan - you have a "big heart" and a generous spirit. You truly deserve the *Salt of the Earth Award* for 2010. Thank you!



Wellfleet Historical Society
 P.O. Box 58
 Wellfleet, MA 02667

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES, 2010-2011

Officers

	Phone 508-349	Address
President, Kenneth C. Roscoe	9457	Box 825, Wellfleet, 02667
Vice President, Larry Peters	1000	Box 2141, Wellfleet, MA 02667
Secretary, David Wright	6947	Box 486, Wellfleet, MA 02667
Treasurer, Diane Galvin	1001	120 Cottontail Road, Wellfleet, MA 02667
Assistant Treasurer, Betsey Patterson	2282	Box 422, Wellfleet, 02667
Curator, Joan Coughlin	2247	Box 3115, Wellfleet, MA 02667
Curator Emeritus, Helen Purcell	3346	Higgins Lane, Wellfleet, MA 02667

Trustees

Richard Bailey	Susan Gross
Betsy Cole (Honorary Trustee)	Ara Ishkanian
Reuben Cook	Barbara Kennedy
Dr. Lucille Currier	Deirdre Portnoy
Maura Donahue	Beverly Warren

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Drew Gilpin Faust	Julia Stiles
Capt. Thomas Ferreira	Mark Tremblay
Harvey Geiger	Michael Tuck
Baroness Helena Kennedy	Brad Williams

Staff

David Wright	508-349-6947
Barbara Kennedy	508-349-2920

Committees

Programs:	Dr. Lucille Currier	House Tour:	Barbara Kennedy, Helen Purcell and Committee
Membership:	Betsey Patterson	Volunteers:	Susan Gross
Salt of the Earth:	Susan Gross		

OUR THANKS TO THE CAPE COD FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

The Historical Society appreciates very much the winter vault storage for deeds and documents given each year by the Wellfleet branch of the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS TO YOUR COLLECTION 2010-2011

Dear Members, Donors and Friends:

The following gifts to the Wellfleet Historical Society collection are listed with gratitude for the thoughtfulness and generosity of each donor.

Sincerely,
Joan H. Coughlin, Curator

FURNISHINGS ET AL

A pair of iron ice skates, ca. 1890 or earlier, with wooden soles, leather sandal-like upper straps. From **Dottie Dolan, Wellfleet.**



The bottom steps from the metal, spiral staircase at the Billingsgate Lighthouse; fragile and rusted, but a fascinating find by the **brothers Christopher and Peter Johnnet.**

The last tin-lined oyster barrel from The Wellfleet Oyster Co. From **Kathleen Belco, New London, NH, in memory of Vivian and John Belco.**

A child's weathered wooden sled. From **Diane Galvin, Wellfleet.**

A framed description (reproduction) of Wellfleet written by The Rev. Elias Nason, 1873. From **Sandy Wonders, Wellfleet.**

A lovely "Boston" rocking chair used by Sarah Atwood (our lady lighthouse keeper of the Mayo's Beach Lighthouse) and by her relative, Helen Olsen. Given by **Cynthia Olsen Lasker, Waltham and Wellfleet.**

A low relief carved wooden sign, 2' x 2' with a shoe/boot in a central ring: "E. A. Perkins, The Best \$3.00 Shoe for Sale Here." This

sign hung on the "Customs House" building (now the Andre Pottery Gallery on Commercial Street). Given **in memory of David Rose by Katie Rose, Wellfleet and Truro.**

Two gracefully stenciled, cane-seated side chairs of the late 1800s. Given for use in the Annex by **Ernie Bauer, Wellfleet.**

An exquisite set of "Hackefors" china teacups, saucers, tea plates and glass jam jar for use in the "East Wing" annex. From **Brailsford Nixon and Jean Nelson, Wellfleet.**

A small "Souvenir" cream pitcher (Lusterware) with a picture of the Mayo's Beach Lighthouse for a decoration. From **Laura Kozac, Wellfleet.**

A child's cream-colored cereal bowl (Ralston Co.) -- "Umm-All Gone." Inside, a satisfied rabbit in a red suit waves his spoon. From **J. H. Coughlin, Wellfleet.**

Eleven handmade rusted nails and a switch handle were excavated on Mill Hill and given by **Justin Rosenberg, Julia and Eliza Sander.**

A hand-operated clothes ringer for wash day from **Diane Galvin, Wellfleet.**

CLOTHING

A beautiful, loose tan silk gown/robe from the House of Worth with delicate, abundant lacework on the bodice and a long, pale blue silk skirt with a tan, deep border of lace worn by Mrs. Arabella Duval Huntington. From her **great-niece Joanna Bradley Fabris, Wellfleet.**

A green bodice/jacket and long skirt (cotton), edged in black with a broad-brimmed hat (also black). From **Diane Galvin, Wellfleet.**

BOOKS

"The Salt Works of Cape Cod" by William Quinn (Parnassus). A very welcome gift. From **Helen Purcell, Wellfleet.**

Two volumes #1 and #2 (signed) by Ruth Rickmers - "Wellfleet Remembered," 1982. A Camp Chequesset songbook, and Everett I. Nye's 1920 compilation, "History of Wellfleet from Early Days to the Present." From **Suranto Stark, Hartford, CT.**

A hardcover edition of David Wright's "Famous Beds of Wellfleet, a Shellfishing History." From **the author.**

A recent Arcadia Publication written by Daniel Lombardo, "Images of America - Cape Cod National Seashore - The First 50 Years." From **Jeff Tash, Wellfleet.**

A 12" x 12-1/2" beautifully designed book, "The 1858 Map of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket" by Henry F. Walling, co-published by On Cape Publications and Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank with many contributions by Cape writers. (The museum has this as a

huge wall map, but now we can appreciate it up close). From **Richard B. Hopkins, Pennsburg, PA.**

A Cape Cod Guide by Donald Wood, "Cape Cod Then and Now." "The Winthrop Papers" (1931) Vol. 2 (1623-1630). "Stormy Weather" by Edith Austin Holton (1936), a Cape Cod-based novel. "North America" by J. Russell Smith (1925). "A Romance of Barnstable" (1909) by Mary Matthews Brady. "Nature Sketches in Temperate America" (1911) by J. Hancock. From **Cherry Avirett, Wellfleet.**

Small cookbooks: "Traditional Portuguese Recipes" by Mary Alice Cook (1983) with photos of fishermen in Provincetown, "The Joy of Shucking," published by SPAT (OysterFest), and "The Mass Appeal Cookbook." From **J. H. Coughlin, Wellfleet.**

Wellfleet Informational Directory, "Cape Cod at its Best" (1954), a Chamber of Commerce publication; history and nostalgia, a demographic gem. From **Cynthia Freeman Lasker, Waltham and Wellfleet.**

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2010-2011 (Continued)

PHOTOGRAPHS, PAPER, POSTAL CARDS AND EPHEMERA

An 8 " x 10" black and white photograph of Mrs. Helen G. Purcell in her Wellfleet garden, given by the photographer, **Nate Johnson, Wellfleet**.

Two daguerreotypes of small children: a boy in Sunday best, a girl, Cora Bell Mayo (1903); and seven wonderful photographs: a man and a boy moving turtles with poles; four people posing on a tipped vessel at low tide; a large, moustached man bundling a sail; men on the flats quahogging ("Daddy Mayo"); a nice photo of the Mayo's Beach Light; a charming young girl in a white dress; a rowboat and a postal card of the new State Road beyond Provincetown with an endearing note from Papa to Betty Foss. From **Robert Semple, Pres., AIM Thrift Ship via Lydia and Alice, Wellfleet**.

A graphic, black and white reprint of the view toward the Railroad over Duck Creek from the hill above the Pierce cottage. From **Helen Purcell**.

A single sheet (folded) Chamber of Commerce publication with a decorative map of Wellfleet inside. (Supportive businesses listed.) From **Barbara McFarlane Wright**, with a welcome note on family connections to Wellfleet.

A handwritten letter (late 1800s) to Arthur Sparrow from W. Rollins concerning some surveying to be done. From **Sophie Crafts, Leverett, MA**.

A typewritten essay, "The Giving Trees," by **Mary Ann Tramutola, Wellfleet**.

A great many "Day Books" kept by Florence R. Rich, patterns for her hooked rugs, her exhibition and class banner, photographs, tools, sketchbooks, articles and albums, as well as a taped interview with Florence (on disc). From her estate, through the kindness of **Janet D. Erickson, Wellfleet**.

Gray painted balsa wood and scallop shell-designed pieces used in a "Magic Lantern" production by filmmaker, Milton Cohen, Whit's Lane, Wellfleet, as well as slides of work and inspiration. From **Shirley Lauffer**.

A calendar of the 1930s from the local market, a Camp Chequessett postal card, a Wellfleet historical brochure, and a small book, "A History of the Wellfleet Methodist Episcopal Church" (late 1890s). From **Chip Lund, Wellfleet**.

Annual Reports, Town of Wellfleet: 1896-1923, 1927 - 1928 owned by Doris Casey and Selectman William Tubman, given in an archival box by the late **Doris Casey Alexander, Dennisport**.

Seven very interesting deeds and documents with many familiar names and locations from 1798 - 1910. A gift from **Paula and Sam Agger, Wellfleet**.

A Wellfleet Police pin (plated), 2 1/8" x 1 3/8" (no provenance).

Eighteen postal cards of Outer Cape views, a small pocket notebook containing friends' addresses (mostly "from away") at Camp Chequessett, a newspaper clipping of Feb. 16, 1934, "Ice Field Off Cape - Supplies for Marooned island..." It was a similar ice mass in March of that year that badly damaged the Chequessett (sic) Inn. From **Cherry Avirett** who has given her Camp pin, inscribed, "Cherry Avirett 1935, Veteran."

A very full album of Helen Wallace's collection of the Christmas cards which she designed and hand-colored for the family each year. From her estate.

A drawing of the Oyster shacks bequeathed to us, although no donor.

Six postal cards of varying amounts of postage: (.4), (.5), (.9) and (.13). A (.36) refund from Sears Roebuck Co. and a bill from Simeon Atwood Co. These are from the memorabilia of the late **Joan Berrio, Florida, via Muriel Scott Roby**.

We have received 19 mounted photographs, including ones related to the Stubbs and Nicholson families (Wellfleet and South Wellfleet views); a stereopticon high school photograph, 15 postal cards and a large number of "antique" publications. These were left at the Annex with no donor name. *Please kindly remember to contact your curator or our staff at the museum. The Society very much appreciates your thoughtful gifts to Wellfleet's history.*

The Historical Society received two beautiful rugs for use in the new rooms upstairs in the annex: a 7' x 9' (1960s Moroccan Rabat rug) from **David Wright and Chris Langan, Wellfleet**. A lovely, mellow, oriental 9' x 12' rug from **Maura Donahue and her late husband, James E. Frulla, of West Simsbury and Wellfleet**. These will be much appreciated when the Capt. L. D. Baker Rooms are opened.

Diane and Bill Galvin furnished us with a vintage dining table which had belonged to Bill's mother at her home on Cottontail Road, Wellfleet.

Mark Tremblay has given the Annex two simulated sets of fireplace logs for our two fireplaces in the annex.

"Wellfleet's First Bake Shop", a piece written from her mother's (Esther Reed Baker Wiles) notes about Ms. Sayre's grandfather's (George Pickering Baker) bake shop, perhaps the first on the Lower Cape. Also, her Wellfleet High 1945 valedictory speech, "Our Sunken Town", full of interesting and funny bits of Wellfleet history. And an article from the "Cape Codder" about her father and uncle's childhood days in Wellfleet. From **Marjorie Wiles Sayre**.

Not the least of gifts are the trunks for eventual storage given to the Society collection by **Pat Bartlett, Wellfleet**.

PRAISE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A big round of applause goes out to all the people who gave of their time and energy to volunteer at Wellfleet's Historical Society Museum last year! You were so generous and giving of your talents - whether it was greeting people, disseminating information, gardening, painting, decorating or many of the other areas in which you helped out.

Communities thrive because of volunteers like you, and we want you to know how much you are appreciated! In order to better serve the community, we rely heavily on the support of volunteerism, and we encourage you to invite a friend to join us in our pursuit to be the best we can be.

Our first volunteer gathering will be held on Monday, June 20th, at 10 AM at the Historical Society Museum. The Museum will open Tuesday, June 21st, and will close on Saturday, September 10th. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you,
Virginia Gray

JAN RUTZ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD - 2010: BEVERLY WARREN

This year the Jan Rutz Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Beverly Warren.

Bev has been a very important part of the Wellfleet Historical Society for five years. Her dedication to getting things done is unrelenting. She has been instrumental in working on the Wellfleet Historical Society's publicity, advertising, hospitality and has edited our newsletter, The Beacon. She is always there to give her assistance in all areas of WHS. Bev also volunteers for other organizations outside of the historical society, including the Wellfleet Food Pantry (part of the Lower Cape Outreach Council), the Homeless Prevention Council, and Nauset Neighbors. Bev, thank you so much for all that you do at WHS. You are an invaluable member of our board of trustees.

NEW ANNEX PERIOD GARDEN

In September 2010 Wellfleet Historical Society Board Member, Deidre Portnoy -- with volunteer community help and donations from local businesses -- created and organized a cottage garden in front of the Annex on Main Street. Perennials, shrubs, herbs and bulbs, typical of the 1850s, were planted.



New Period Garden

A white picket fence opens to a brick walk leading to an old millstone threshold at the front entrance. This spring we will plant annuals, a few more perennials and install an irrigation system. An educational brochure describing and mapping the garden with plant identification and uses will be available in June.

We'd like to thank Tom Connell for his generous support in memory of his wife Sue, an avid gardener and volunteer at WHS. We also thank The Wellfleet Cultural Council for a \$300 grant toward the historical garden project.

Photo at left by Alexandra Grabbe.

ANNEX GARDEN CONTRIBUTORS

Businesses:

Agway of Cape Cod, Kritty Whyte
Bayberry Gardens, Paul Souza
Crocker Nurseries, David V. Crocker
Crosby Fence Co., Russell Crosby
E-Z-Doze-It Excavating, Dennis McGinn
Fieldworks Landscape, Trudy Vermehren
Gary Joseph, Contractor
Long Pond Landscaping, Kai Potter
Murphy-Nickerson, Dennis Murphy
Pine Point Landscape Services, Frank Corbin

Reinhart Painting, Tom Reinhart
Kevin Rose, Excavating
Saint Aubin Nurseries, Tim McKendree

Individuals:

Dot Oberding
John Portnoy
Caleb Portnoy and Chin Fung Yan
Helen Purcell
Anna Warrock
David Wright

NATIONAL SEASHORE'S PURCHASE ON BOUND BROOK ISLAND



1940s by Francis Biddle, Attorney General of the United States under Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Wellfleet Historical Society welcomes this acquisition that will preserve and celebrate an important segment of Wellfleet's history.



The Cape Cod National Seashore has purchased the Biddle property, located on Bound Brook Island. This property is comprised of ten acres of land, surrounded by the Park, and four buildings, including the Baker homestead, built in 1790, where Lorenzo Dow Baker was born. Nearby is the even older Try House that was used to boil (try) whale blubber to extract the precious whale oil. The estate-sized holding has been owned by the Biddle family since it was purchased in the late



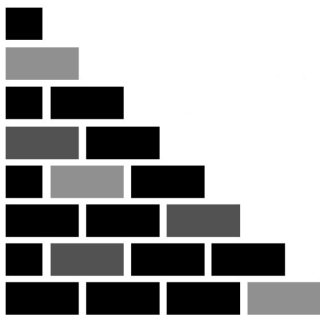
WELLFLEET HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

This drawing, photographed from a souvenir plate by D. Portnoy, shows how the amalgamated building that houses our museum might have looked in the late 1800s. Originally, the structure was built to accommodate the Congregational minister, Timothy Davis, who served from 1808-1830. Later, the building was purchased by merchant P. W. Higgins, who added the windowed section on the left (our original museum section) to be his dry goods store sometime between 1850-1870. From 1909-



1951, this section served as the Wellfleet Public Library. The upstairs briefly housed the Advent Society (the world didn't end as planned) and Town offices. In the 1880s, the original section on the right became a boarding house run by Mrs. Lott Higgins. For many years, this was the residence of Merritt Frazier and family. Today, on either end, you will find the Society museum. In the center section you will find the studio and showroom of artist John Mulcahy.

JOIN IN OUR "BUY-A-BRICK" PROGRAM AND HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF WELLFLEET!



On OysterFest weekend 2010, the Wellfleet Historical Society launched its "Buy-A-Brick" program. In order to pay for renovations and improvements at our new museum Annex, we are asking members of the community to purchase bricks which will be used around the new building as well as around the current museum. A brick may be used to commemorate an event, honor a family member, or memorialize a loved one. By participating, you will help us acknowledge the members and friends of our unique and special community while creating a lasting memory at the same time. Bricks may be purchased through board members of the historical society or through our website at www.wellfleethistoricalsociety.org. During the summer months, purchases can be made at the museum. Price is \$50 per 4" x 8" brick.

JULY 4TH PARADE FLOAT MAYO'S BEACH LIGHTHOUSE



The theme of last year's Wellfleet Historical Society's July 4th float was the Mayo's Beach Lighthouse. The lighthouse was moved in 1928 by the U. S. Coast Guard, but most locals thought it had been destroyed. A couple of summers ago it was discovered on Point Montara, California, just south of San Francisco along the Pacific Ocean coast.

The float consisted of a lighthouse on sand built by Ernie Bauer and Barbara Kennedy. Annabelle Beaudoin sat below the lighthouse dressed in a child's 1930s bathing suit. The sides of the float were hung with a poster of Mayo's Beach Lighthouse in sepia, and a poster of the lighthouse in the new location in California in beautiful color.

Our museum was founded in 1951 so this year's float will celebrate our 60th anniversary with a facade of our building and someone dressed as our first curator, Lydia Newcomb, in a 1950s outfit.

NEW COSTUME ROOM IN THE ANNEX

Another completed area in our museum is our costume room off the kitchen. When Barbara Kennedy first set eyes on the room, the plaster was falling off the ceiling and the walls, and the floor was covered in grime. When the



repairs were finished and the floor scraped, an old mattress in the recess under the stairway was removed, and a stage was built for mannequins to display the museum's antique costume collection. Then, shelves were built for the exhibit of children's accessories, hats, parasols, handbags, fans, muffs and gloves. A Victorian border was added along with matching curtains on each side of the stage.

This past summer Barbara had 1905 Edwardian Tea Gowns on display. They are a better fit on the mannequins than the tiny Victorian dresses were. The mannequins were donated to us through the generosity of the Centerville Museum. We appreciate the kindness of one sister museum to another.

WELCOME TO THE ANNEX

From the inception of the museum collection 60 years ago, Lydia Doane Newcomb honored Capt. Lorenzo Dow Baker's contribution to Wellfleet's history, and the Baker family was generous in giving meaningful artifacts, photographs and papers to the Wellfleet Historical Society. To remember the history (the story) of his great-grandfather, Tom Baker (of Gloucester) gave the society the generous means to repair two and a half rooms on the second floor. When "Belvernon," the former L. D. Baker home on Baker Avenue was sold, Tom purchased from the estate an amazing collection of furnishings et al related to the Captain. These rooms will be open this summer and, as Tom has stated, this collection will be "dedicated to my father and his siblings, the previous generation of Bakers who wished to keep Lorenzo Dow Baker's story in tact." They would be: Thomas Hopkins Baker, Sr., Capt. Reuben Rich Baker, Frederick Hamilton Baker, and Irene Baker Helems.

The Society is indeed grateful to Tom Baker for sharing his family history with us in this wonderful way.

– Joan H. Coughlin

CAPT. LORENZO DOW BAKER ROOMS TO OPEN THIS SUMMER

The story of Lorenzo Dow Baker and his evolution from fisherman to banana pioneer, ship, machine and building engineer and benefactor to Jamaicans, Wellfleetians and even the Chinese has been thoroughly and capably researched and reported by Professor Randolph Bartlett. I was particularly drawn to this story not only because L. D. Baker was my great-grandfather, but because the nature of the business he conducted was done in such a positive, moral way. Newspaper articles of the day from Jamaica and Boston are full of testimonials to his character and his generosity. He pledged the major portion of his profits to be used to improve the social fabric of the people of Jamaica and Wellfleet. He paid his workers a fair wage, built churches and schools and hospitals, sponsored many Jamaicans' education in private schools in New England, and he built the first Theological Seminary for native Jamaicans. L. D. Baker provided jobs, free coal, money for taxes and other needs for the people of Wellfleet when the local economy was in dire straits. Mayo Beach, Baker's Field, Corn Hill Pilgrim Memorial, Provincetown's Pilgrim Monument, and many other public properties and historical sites were made possible through gifts to Cape Cod towns from Orleans to Provincetown. The United Fruit Company was formed by others from the strength of L. D. Baker's business foundation but lost sight of his moral compass and ended up being reviled instead of revered in many parts of Central and South America. Business and political lessons from this story are just as useful today.

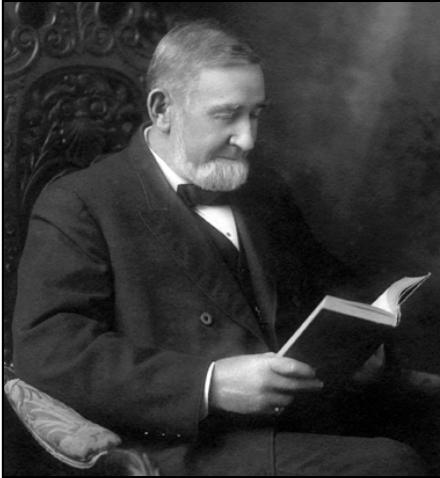
There are many artifacts from the Victorian era that help flesh out this story to make it real, and over the generations these objects have been scattered far and wide. I have been fortunate enough to bring some of these things together through auctions from eBay to Christie's in New York and from estate sales and antique sales of families on Cape Cod. The objects include many photos, books and some paintings of Victorian life in Jamaica and on the Cape, large portraits of the Baker and Hopkins families and principals of Boston Fruit and United Fruit Companies and a large ship model of the steam schooner Lorenzo D. Baker. There are family artifacts from Belvernon, some of L.D. Baker's books and letters, wooden and iron pieces of the schooner Telegraph collected by an official of the UFCo, and the very large, Victorian painted safe from the office of the Lorenzo D. Baker Company. The Wellfleet Historical Society has expressed an interest in these items as they fit in with their existing collection. A part of the new Annex seems like a perfectly appropriate place to house these things in a setting similar to their original locations. The artifacts have been hidden away for many years in many places and viewing them brings to life the ingenious, hard and interesting lives of the Victorian era Cape Cod Yankees.



Belvernon

– Thomas Hopkins Baker, Jr.

LORENZO DOW BAKER: FRUIT TRADE PIONEER



Capt. Lorenzo Dow Baker

The life of Captain Lorenzo Dow Baker (1840-1908), Wellfleet fisherman and banana entrepreneur of the late 1800s, is shrouded in misinformation. Statements to the effect that he brought the first load of bananas to the United States and (regarding the US-Caribbean banana trade, anyway), “boldly went where no man had gone before,” are often incorrectly seen in print. Perhaps the most significant example is the almost universal affirmation that Baker founded the United Fruit Company.

Historically, it is closer to the truth to say that Dow Baker’s first encounter with bananas, had no advanced planning; it was pretty much luck. In fact, he was a lucky man in general. He would have frowned and replied it wasn’t luck--God was up there, heeding his prayers. If so, the connection was pretty solid. During almost thirty years of hard, dangerous work, Baker wasn’t drowned at sea in his leaky schooners (or steamers, later on). He didn’t die of the many tropical fevers he contracted. Hurricanes didn’t wipe out his banana plantations, either (Jamaica

only got hit by one between 1879 and 1899). Also, during economic hard times he didn’t go broke because he had friends and business associates with money who kept the wolf from his door, so to speak.

To say the least, Baker’s career in the fruit trade was eventful. According to primary source materials, it began in 1870, after delivering a cargo of supplies to a gold mining company in Venezuela. En route home, he stopped in Jamaica to investigate cargo possibilities for his schooner, the *Telegraph*, which was in ballast. Among other fruits, he included some bananas. Back to the US, the profit he realized from selling them tweaked his canny “eye-for-the-dollar.” However, Baker was a cautious type and it was almost ten years before he made the transition from fisherman and coaster to full-time fruit trader. Moving his family from Wellfleet to Jamaica in 1881, he founded L.D. Baker & Company. In 1885, L.D. Baker and Company expanded to become The Boston Fruit Company, a partnership with his mentor, Jesse H. Freeman of Wellfleet, and a man from Beverly, Massachusetts, named Andrew W. Preston. During the decade of the 1880s, Baker tackled the challenges of procuring, transporting, and marketing the highly perishable banana; his successes helped to make it an available, affordable commodity in the American marketplace, and did much to create the “groundwork” for the Twentieth Century US-Caribbean Fruit trade as well.

Point of fact: Lorenzo Dow Baker did not create the United Fruit Company. Quite the opposite--he opposed its formation in 1899. Although he was President of Boston Fruit at the time, he did not plan for it to happen, nor did he fully understand the dynamics of what was occurring. Andrew W. Preston and other ambitious and rapacious men in The Boston Fruit Company, were responsible--not the elderly, ex-schooner fisherman from Wellfleet. It is safe to say, however, that Dow Baker’s calling in the tropical Caribbean helped to make possible the formation of United Fruit Company, and most certainly earned him a forgotten place in New England’s maritime heritage.



The Chequesset Inn

Lorenzo Dow Baker was a fascinating and entertaining Wellfleeter, whose life spanned a period of time from abolition in pre-Civil War New England to the dawn of the Twentieth Century. He witnessed America’s industrial growth; the transition from sail to steam; and the introduction of electricity, the telephone, flying machines, and the automobile. In 1871, when he brought the first specific load of Jamaican bananas to Boston, they were a rare and highly priced specialty item; by the end of his life, the yellow fruit was a commonly purchased commodity throughout much of the United States.

– Randolph Bartlett, Ph.D, Retired History Professor