

# Isle au Haut Historical Society Newsletter

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*Merchant's Cove 2021, Isle au Haut. Mary Fennell*

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# The Clubhouse, A History by Gordy and Craig Donaldson

## Introduction

The Point Lookout Club (PLC), due to its location and size (and, once, its red clapboards), has long been a prominent feature of the island. Known to most Islanders now as “the Clubhouse,” its story is central to the first era of summer visitors to Isle au Haut. The title, Point Lookout Club, applies both to the building and to the association established by a small group of members in the early 1880s. Over its first decades, the PLC encompassed not only the Clubhouse but a growing number of cottages bound to it by boardwalk. By the early 1900s, the Clubhouse had expanded, offering hotel accommodations and recreation to the public as well as to members. It functioned that way until mid-century when the hotel fell on hard times. Subsequently, it was sold to the Gordon Donaldson family of Lincoln, Massachusetts, thus passing from “hotel” to “cottage”. We are pleased to offer this brief review of the grand old house’s journey and wish to thank Libby and Fred Eustis for their assistance and to Tom Guglielmo for his encouragement.

## The Early History of the Point Lookout Clubhouse: From “Clubhouse” to Cottage.

By Craig and Gordy Donaldson



*Point Lookout Club, circa 1920.*

## The Early History

The original Point Look Out Club, as it was known, was a membership-only organization founded in 1881 or 1882. An entity called the Point Lookout Improvement Company owned the 112-acre parcel at the Point from 1877 to 1883 when [Ernest W. Bowditch](#) and a partner from Belfast purchased it. Bowditch recruited eleven initial members to the PLC, largely from his gentleman friends and associates in the Boston area. Among them were Chas. C. Beaman, F.F. Thompson, John G. Shortall, John Andrew, Eli Chauncey, Sigourney Butler, Chas. F. Adams, H. P. Shortridge, and Edmund Quincy. “Professor Bowditch”, in a 1905 Lewiston Journal magazine article, noted that their ambition was to found a colony “whose summers, at least, should be the ‘simple life’ to the letter.”

In his 1911 Memoirs, Ernest Bowditch recalls using “an old dancing pavilion..., unwisely, as a basis [for their clubhouse and adding] to it, extending it eventually in all directions.” This original building was constructed by Clarence D. Turner and was limited, most likely, to the current living/dining room, kitchen, a portion of the present play room and perhaps six or seven bedrooms. (See undated photo below) In short order, Bowditch and his fellow members built “a permanent wharf...a laundry, freight house, ice houses, water works; [they also] subsidized a steamboat line, established a new post office in the Club House itself and began building roads on the island. Until then, there had been nothing but trails.”



*Original Point Lookout Club, circa 1890*

In those early years, the members likely visited to hunt, fish, boat, and otherwise “rusticate” during the summers. But it soon “evolved”, as the Lewiston Journal put it in 1905, “into the ultra exclusive Point Lookout Club colony... It is decidedly English in all appointments and rules... has a membership of fifteen... and a group of cottages picturesquely situated nearby.” The cottages had been built by some of the “fifteen”, including Bowditch, Thompson, Quincy, Beaman, Butler, and Chauncey, presumably on parcels sold to them by Ernest Bowditch and partners. They were connected to the Clubhouse and waterfront by boardwalks and hosted the growing families of their owners, with most meals, laundry, and other colony services provided at the central Clubhouse. The dining room, commercial kitchen, and additions on the north and east sides were constructed during the 1890s and early 1900s. Additional bedrooms upstairs now permitted the PLC to operate both as a small hotel and as the heart of the growing gentlemen’s club.

These changes took place in a period when the membership of the PLC oversaw the systems and services to the Point Lookout summer compound, but the Clubhouse itself functioned as a public-access hotel, often for friends and acquaintances of PLC members. Ernest Bowditch, in his 1911 Memoirs, provides the best description of the PLC, seemingly at its peak in these early decades:

*Today there is the Club House, with dining-room and kitchen, of sufficient size to accommodate sixty guests; eight cottages, besides servants’ quarters, laundry, freight house, ice houses, waiting room, wharf, steamer, numerous gas boats, row and sail boats, sixteen miles of driving road, two daily mails per day, a livery stable... and the Club House during the season maintains a fisherman, resident physician, a milk farm and kitchen garden. The arrivals at the Club are about three hundred each year.*

With the Island population at 182 in 1900, the PLC colony played a significant role in the island’s economy and, in the summers at least, social life. Bowditch and his associates had drawn on Islanders for labor and expertise, and their investment in building roads and other community services are

reflected in the growing property valuations listed for Isle au Haut in the Maine Registers of the time. Vrylena F. Gill, in her teens at the time, penned a reminiscence of three summers spent at the Thompson Cottage (now Eustis') on the Point from 1905 to 1907. Her memoir begins with her boarding the train in Boston -- the "B&M State of Maine Express to Rockland -- Leaving 9 p.m." She and her companion departed Rockland early the next morning on the steamer for Stonington where they transferred to "the mail boat" captained by Jasper Chapin. She remembered that "The Club House, a rambling dark red building, was not new then and gave the impression of a certain amount of weatherbeating -- the wide porch that surrounded the whole front of the building had a low railing topped by a flat six-inch board, just right for sitting on, and was nearly always in use."

Miss Gill detailed the comings and goings of boats and visitors, and meals taken in the "shining dining room" at the clubhouse, signaled to cottage-dwellers and roomers by "a waitress ringing an old school bell on the front porch." She and the other rusticators, whether renting rooms at the Clubhouse or staying in a cottage, enjoyed myriad activities, including tennis, picnics, dances, teas, boating, strolling on the boardwalks, baseball games ("the natives against the visitors"), fishing, and "wonderful drives [around the island], with Sam Rich driving the pair of horses in what I think we used to call a buckboard."



*Miss Gill, perhaps, sitting on the Clubhouse porch*

Miss Gill recalled with evident fondness when Jim Rich called upon the summer community to "help round up the 150 sheep he kept on Merchants for a shearing [followed by a lobster bake on the shore]. Then, like all other picnic days, ending with a beautiful boatripe home, whether in a small or big sail boat, a row boat, a canoe, a pea-pod or a dory." The summer season often ended with a gala event advertised on a large poster hand-painted by a resident artist.



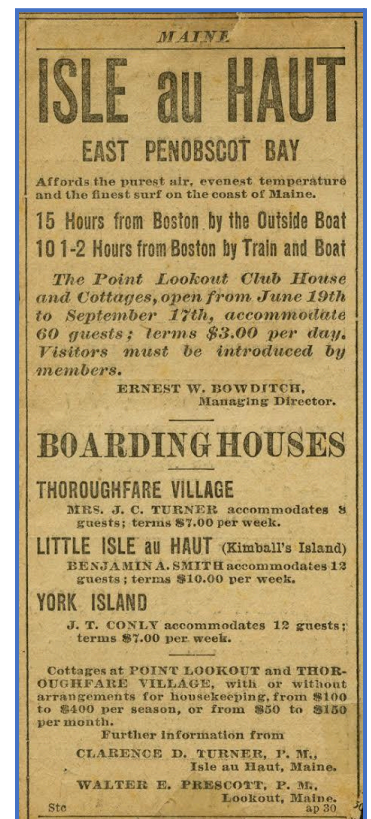
A 1907 poster, announcing a celebration for the dedication of Revere Memorial Hall and Library, hangs at the Clubhouse.

We cannot pin down how many “arrivals” enjoyed the Clubhouse and its services through the 1910s and 1920s, but it appears that it thrived as a hotel, attracting artists and vacationers and serving the needs of the PLC member families who owned the cottages. The Island’s “vacation” economy was clearly shaping the community. An advertisement for “Isle au Haut East Penobscot Bay” appeared in, we think, a Boston paper around this time, enticing visitors with “the purest air, evenest temperatures, and the finest surf on the coast of Maine.” Accommodations included not just “The Point Lookout Club House and Cottages” but also three boarding houses, one on the Thoroughfare and the others on “Little Isle au Haut” (Kimball’s) and on York Island. (see to right)

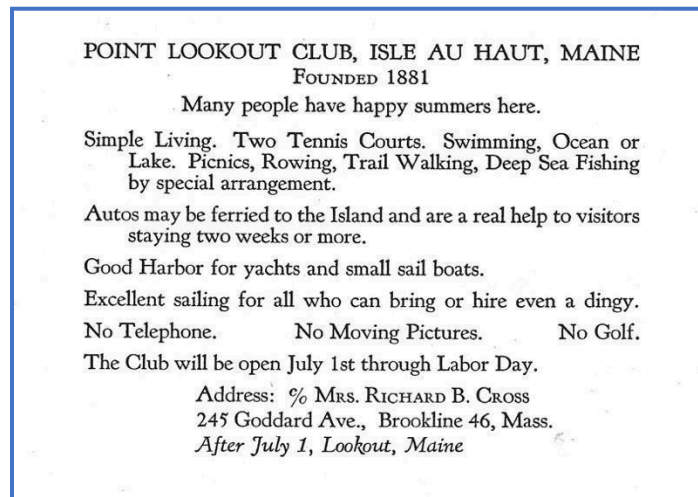
The Maine Register in 1930 listed the Point Lookout Club as a “summer hotel” with Mrs. Ernest W. Bowditch listed as “proprietor”. Also listed that year were “The Old Home House, Mrs. J. C. Turner, Proprietor”; “Small’s [sporting camp], Leon Small Proprietor”; and a second camp, “Eli, Mrs. M. E. Bowditch (Milton, Mass.)”. The island supported two general stores (James T. Conley on York Island and John K. Barter, proprietors), a grocer (Samuel Rich), and two post offices – Isle au Haut (M. Elizabeth Rich, postmistress) and Lookout (Elmer Lufkin, postmaster, located in the east wing of the Clubhouse).

The Depression, the war, and the growing affluence of the nation at mid-century, however, conspired to reduce the number of summer “arrivals”. Despite the PLC’s modest advertising, automobiles, highways, and motels were drawing Americans to an increasingly diverse number of vacation destinations. Brochures for the PLC advertised “Many people have happy summers here” and listed attractions, leading off with “simple living” and, curiously, including “no golf”, “no moving pictures”, and “no telephone”! (see advertisement below) Room rates for the 1956 Season, the last season the PLC was open, listed a room for \$12.00 a day or \$72.00 a week, Breakfast for \$1.25, Lunch \$2.00-2.50; and Dinner for \$2.75-3.50. “House rentals” could also be arranged by contacting “Point Lookout Club” at a Boston address.

Donna Richardson Thorburn worked as a waitress at the clubhouse in 1951, the summer following her freshman year at the University of Maine. In a 2022 interview, she recalled that waitresses were college girls recruited and overseen by a woman who worked at either Smith College or Northfield Academy, maids were girls from the island, and the cook’s regular job was as head cook at Proctor Academy. She remembered the clientele as “very elegant people” who spent their days reading, painting, walking, and on the water. She recalled her time with considerable fondness, including the dances at the town hall to a “live orchestra” when “the big sailing ships were in.” She particularly singled out George and Vera Donnelly, head caretakers for the PLC, for their kindness (and a lobster bake they arranged just for the hired “girls”!).



The Point itself had evolved by this point into a collection of privately-owned cottages (now all equipped with their own kitchens, if not laundries as well). Together, they functioned now as the Point Lookout Associates, Inc. (PLA), a legal entity responsible for services and the general health of the Point summer community. Richard L. Bowditch, in 1947, had granted one-third



*Point Lookout Advertisement*

shares in the ownership of the Clubhouse and colony properties to two other Bowditch heirs -- Sarah H. Bowditch and Elizabeth B. Eustis -- and retained a one-third share for himself. (These same three had, in 1942, donated "about half the island" to the National Park Service to become part of Acadia National Park.) Facing closure of the Clubhouse in 1957, these "partners," now including Augustus H. Eustis who had inherited his wife's share, began the search for an owner who might be willing to revive the old ark as their own "cottage."

### **The Clubhouse from the 1960s**

The Gordon A. Donaldson family had first visited Isle au Haut in 1954, having heard of the "Emerald Isle of the Penobscot" from Robert Linton and Daniel Ellis. Dr. Linton had served as Point physician for a number of summers by then and had attracted his friend Dr. Ellis before word was passed to Dr. Donaldson. Donaldson and his wife Elizabeth (Bisty), with five children and a dog, had fallen in love with the island after renting different Point cottages in August of 1954 and 1955, and The Farm in 1956. By 1957, the PLC hotel was no longer functioning, although basic maintenance, infrastructure, and waterfront services continued for cottage owners who now belonged to the Point Lookout Associates, Inc. Approached as prospective owners by the Bowditch heir "partners", the Donaldsons rented the Clubhouse in August of 1958 -- the first of sixty-five summers, as it turned out. Discussions with the "partners" resulted in the formal transfer of ownership of the Clubhouse and the small adjacent "Maids' Cottage" to the Donaldsons in 1959.



*The Clubhouse around 1950s*

The new owners were faced with converting a unique, sprawling, storied “Red Herring” landmark and navigational aide to a habitable seasonal house. Downsizing with a vengeance was clearly in order. But how to do so while preserving the special turn-of-the-century aura, the feel of the old rusticators and the “simple life” they sought overlooking the Bay? How, indeed, to bring the building, still “rambling” and still showing evidence of “a certain amount of weatherbeating,” as Vrylena F. Gill had remembered it fifty years earlier, up to snuff?

Among the first projects was tearing down the east wing. Harold Turner, relative of the original builder Clarence D. Turner, agreed to take on the job. True to Island ways, Harold and his crew carefully deconstructed the wing, salvaging much of the building to be repurposed into any number of construction projects around the Island. Far from being abandoned, the pool table was moved into the old dining room in the main house. The only current remnants of the east wing are two cement doorsteps: one serving as an entrance from the old boardwalk to the Ellis cottage; the other on the driveway circle that served the Lookout, ME post office located in the east wing



*"Re-purposing" the East Wing, circa 1960*

Harold Turner and his crew weren't done, however. They removed a two-story gabled section from the north end of the Clubhouse. Harold also took on the task of repurposing the ice house into a boat house. No longer needed for ice in the age of gas and electric refrigeration, the ice house (see photos below) was conveniently located behind the kitchen at the north end of the Clubhouse, with easy access for kitchen staff through a heavy door connecting it to the kitchen. In true Yankee fashion, loath to destroy the building. It was rolled down the hill to the waterfront, where it was perched on a cradle of rocks. The photo of the ice house starting its forty-five degree descent down the hillside and the recent photo of its safe arrival are proof of the engineering know-how of Harold and his crew.



*Descent of the Ice House, circa 1963*



*The Ice House today in its safe landing spot.*

Completion of these two major trimmings reduced the Clubhouse to its current arrangement: ten bedrooms, six bathrooms, two kitchens (one of which was held "in reserve"), a laundry/storage room, an old dining room repurposed to a game room, a music and reading room, and, finally, the front living and dining rooms. Plus, of course the Maids' Cottage, with three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and living room, just in case the Clubhouse overflowed! Over the next fifteen years, the generator house and incinerator -- the last remnants of the old PLC infrastructure on the immediate property -- were removed.

At the time of transfer of the property in 1959, the contents of the two houses -- beds with linen, wicker and wooden chairs, chinaware, vintage hotel kitchen appliances and cookware, including an ice cream maker and enormous ice box, bedroom furniture sets, a grand piano, a pool table, games, paintings and other decorations, and a full set of hymnals, which were used at Point sing-alongs on Sunday evenings -- were left "as is." Many years have been devoted to sorting through, repurposing, repairing, relocating, and only occasionally pitching pieces of the Clubhouse treasure trove.

The two residences and boat house have provided a steady annual list of maintenance projects over the years. Inspired by island self-sufficiency, the Donaldson clan has gathered for years to celebrate Work Weekends over Memorial Day and Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day. All comers from three generations, plus dogs, have looked forward to several noisy days at which shingling, painting, window replacing, plumbing installing, wood cutting, furniture restoring and all manner of repairs have been accomplished. At strategic intervals, major structural projects such as jacking up a sagging foundation, replacing the large west porch, and installing a steel boat ramp at the boat house have been undertaken by contractors, among whom have been Rob and John DeWitt. The Point Lookout Associates crew has also pitched in, keeping the houses running during the summer season. Crew managers George Donnelly, Bob Turner, Steve Robbins, Bill Clark, and Aaron Stinson and their teams have all become familiar with the quirks of the buildings.

In the spirit of the original "rusticators," many traditional summer activities on the island have persisted over the decades. Most of the old island hiking trails mapped by Bowditch and his friends were explored and cleared during the 1950s and 1960s, usually involving a large squad of intrepid explorers and their faithful dogs, armed with axes, saws, and paint pots for blazes. Most of these trails are now maintained by the National Park Service and hikes of the Ridge Trail and Goat Trail are among the annual rituals. Old memories include fishing expeditions seeking codfish off the Eastern Head with Captain Charles Turner and drop-lining for flounder from Gooden Grant's dory in Head Harbor. Early morning departures with Skeet MacDonald to haul lobster traps off the East Side and clamming on Flake Island or Barter Creek became perennial events. Lobster bakes, often on Merchants Island, provided an all-day outing for most of the Point residents in mid-summer through the 1950s and 1960s, as in earlier decades. Although the old PLC cement saltwater swimming pool is gone, the PLA waterfront continues to offer a rich array of boating, swimming, and tidal-pool exploration, to say nothing of frequent social gatherings at "boat time" every day!



*The Donaldson "Clubhouse", 2022*

Before island-wide electrification, the generator at the Clubhouse provided juice to the Point twice weekly for two hours in the morning and daily for a few hours after dark (after which any high jinks was conducted by flashlight!). The boardwalks at the Point had a white line on one side to help guide nocturnal wayfarers home. More recently, a sailing regatta and tennis tournament have capped the summer season as in the remote past. Over the years, the waterfront has become busier and the fleet of land vehicles more eclectic. With doctors usually around the Point during the summer, the "Physician's Office" in the back room of the Clubhouse has been activated for an occasional stitching of a laceration. The outdoor shower with a view of the Bay remains popular, even in foul weather.

Inevitably perhaps, the Donaldson occupation of the traditional center of the Point Lookout Club summer colony has gradually made the Clubhouse more a family cottage and less the crossroads of all things PLA. Over the past decade, the building was fitted with new windows and a suit of cedar shingles on the outside. As the shingling progressed, the daunting job of painting them the original Cottage Red loomed until the idea of leaving them unpainted to weather was proposed to eager acceptance -- but only after Billy Barter had been consulted to be sure the loss of red would not create maritime hazards by altering an important navigational landmark. Most recently, after much discussion, the boardwalk which had long guided people onto the Clubhouse front porch was diverted slightly to bypass it. While passing sailors once knocked on the front door asking about accommodations or purchasing ice, an inquisitive "hotel client" has not mistaken the Clubhouse for the Point Lookout Club in several decades.



***The Donaldson Family, Summer 1993***

*Back row left to right: Jonathan D, Lyle Hislop, Lindsay D, Magruder (Craig) D, Benjamin D, Cameron D,  
 Middle row: Elizabeth (Lisl) Donaldson Hislop, Morgaen D, Emily D, Nell D, Abigail D, Cary D, Lydia D. Willie McCormick  
 Short girls midfront row: Kate D, Molly Hislop, Cicely Hislop, Whitney D  
 Front kneeling: Cynthia D, Elizabeth (Bisty) D (1918-2018), Jennifer D, Gordon D Jr  
 Missing and not present were Ned D and Nancy (Beals) D  
 Deceased at the time was Gordon D Sr (1909-1983)*

Despite change, the Clubhouse has remained an important community resource. It is among only a few venues large enough to host annual meetings of the PLA, when the original PLC chinaware for coffee is usually featured. Members of four generations of Donaldsons have taken full advantage of the space for reunions and friends. Longtime renters have returned year after year and have become part of the island scene. Entries in the annual guest books give testimony to the two old buildings' charms, confirming Bowditch's dream of "summers [dedicated to] 'the simple life' to the letter." The old place will continue to welcome all for sunset views of the Bay, chats on the porch railing, and ping pong or pool tournaments, as it has for over 140 years.



*Gordon Donaldson Sr (Boppy) lobstering with Skeet MacDonald.*

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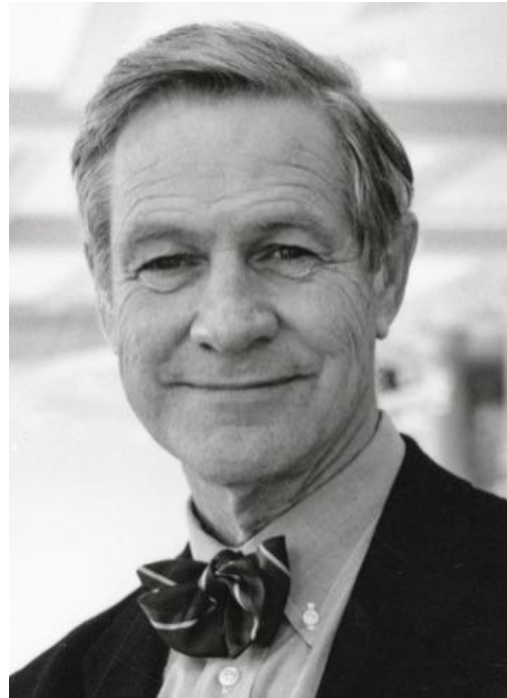
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- Other Sources: Donaldson Family documents, Point Lookout Club artifacts and an interview by Donna RichardsonThorburn of Gordon and Cynthia Donaldson. Lamoine, ME. 2022.

## Nancy and Evans Woollen by Ian Woollen

Nancy Sewell and Evans Woollen III were both born in 1927 and grew up in Indianapolis.



*Nancy Sewell*



*Evans Woollen*

They met at age 12 in Mrs. Gates' Ballroom Dancing class. In college, they began dating on and off. Nancy's roommate at Vassar in 1945 was Jane Murray, whose dad had recently moved his family to Blue Hill, after serving in the Navy along the Maine coast during WWII.

Nancy's first trips to Maine in the 1940s were to visit Jane's parents at Naskeag Point. George Murray worked for the Blue Hill newspaper. According to legend, he helped organize the first Retired Skippers Race.

In 1953, Nancy was living in Moscow, Russia where she founded a school for children of English-speaking diplomats (it still exists). One day, hidden away in the diplomatic pouch, an engagement ring arrived for her. It was from Evans, a young architect, fresh from studying with Louis Kahn at Yale, and working his first job in the office of Phillip Johnson. They moved back to Indianapolis to start a family and his architectural firm. Nancy volunteered in the arts community, and helped to start the Indiana State Arts Commission. She later became a psychotherapist and an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church.

In 1968, Evans and Nancy began making annual trips to Maine, chartering a sailboat out of Southwest Harbor and cruising the coast for a few weeks, including stops in the Isle au Haut thorofare. Onboard, they learned how to deal with the "crisis of the day". In 1971, they decided to move ashore and become summer residents on Isle au Haut.

1971 was a big year for new faces in Head Harbor. It saw the arrival of the Wilsons, McBeans, Guglielmos, and Woollens. They received valuable advice and welcoming support from many islanders, including Archie Hutchinson, Sally Bowen, Tip McCorrison, Miss Lizzie, Noyes MacDonald, Marie Hoskins, Harold Van Doren and, of course, Barbara Brown.

The Yellow House (formerly a Bowen residence) had not been inhabited for a long time, and the rusting cars in the barn and backyard had not run in years. Those first few summers were a lot of hard work, restoring the house and starting Nancy's garden. She hauled seaweed up from the shore for fertilizer. She learned how to replace the 'leathers' in the hand-pump in the kitchen. From back in Indianapolis, Evans mailed out boxes of china and wineglasses, which prompted Nancy to comment, "What does he think we're doing up here?"

Isle au Haut and the Yellow House became a soul-center for both of them. Nancy was a co-founder of the [Ladies Hiking Society](#). She loved the old ways and didn't mind using a honeybucket. She experimented with Euell Gibbons' recipes. Evans designed two houses on the island, for the Archibalds (near the lighthouse) and the Watts-Wurtzburgs (near Sheep Thief Gulch). Nancy and Sharen Wilson (and an un-named third participant, too inebriated to take the stage) won first prize at an early Talent Show, performing a number from the Flora Dora Girls.

While examining an old map, found among documents at the town library, Evans was able to determine that the Yellow House, built in 1905, was actually constructed on the granite-block foundation of a much older dwelling that probably dated to the 1870s.

Nancy passed away suddenly in 1992. Evans lived until 2016. They are both buried here, in the backyard cemetery, among the earlier 19th century residents of Head Harbor. You can find more information about Evans [here](#).



*Yellow House of Nancy and Evans in Head Harbor*



*Nancy and Evans Gravesite in Head Harbor.*

## The History Isle au Haut Ferry Service by Harold van Doren

This article is a synthesis of Tom Guglielmo's interview with Fred Eustis in August of 2023 and my research and experiences from 1953 to the present.

Mail had been delivered to Isle au Haut since the 1850s or so, even by rowboat, as mentioned in [George Wasson's](#) "*Sailing Days On the Penobscot*." Lacking definitive information, I believe that around the end of the nineteenth or beginning of the twentieth century, the contract for mail delivery to the Island from Stonington was put up for bid every four years. As it was considered a good source of income, it was hotly contested. Jasper Chapin, Charles Hamilton and Capt. Charles Turner were among those awarded the contract during these early decades, but from the late 1930s onward, Stanley Dodge, Sr. obtained and kept it for the following thirty or so years. The first boat he used was the *Dirigo*, later sold to Captain Charles Turner. He and his first wife, Julia Dyer Dodge, lived in the house downtown currently owned by the Bergen family. Fred mentions meeting Julia on the Point dock when she came to pick up the mail for delivery downtown to Miss Lizzie's post office. In 1954, Julia passed away.



*Stan Sr and Julia Dyer Dodge*

Until the mid 1950s when the town landing was built and the bar between Kimball's and the main island dredged, the mailboat landed at Point Lookout's private dock and was moored off the Collins Beach at the northern end of the Thorofare. Any local needing to board the boat from town had to go down to "the skids" and get rowed out to the mailboat. "The skids" was an assemblage of poles in a ladder-type configuration, maybe with some planks attached as well, that you would "skid" your rowboat up and down on at low tide, half tide or whatever. This conglomeration was anchored by poles driven into the flats down below the schoolhouse.

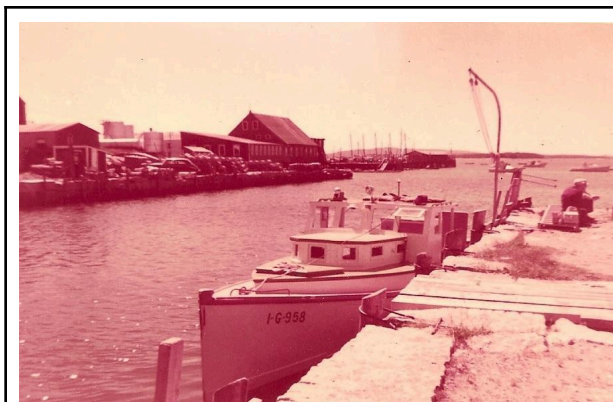


*The Skids. Note: Revere Memorial Library in the upper left.*

In Stonington, prior to the 1960s, if there was enough tide, passengers were picked up and landed at Webb's dock. There was no float there, only a vertical ladder, at times very slippery and you had to be in pretty good shape to make it up or down. To me, it's a wonder someone didn't fall off and get hurt. If the tide were too low, Stanley took the boat over to the Atlantic Avenue Hardware dock which did have a ramp.

In the 1950s, Stan's boat was the *Fundy*, a "Novi Boat" built, logically enough, in Nova Scotia. She was a narrow lobster boat, about 38 feet or so long and Billy Barter and other old timers have said she was quite "springy" and "worked" in rough weather. This boat has the distinction of having Robert Bradford, later governor of Massachusetts fall overboard en route aft from the bow. No injuries suffered, thankfully. Ultimately, Stanley got into trouble with the Feds in violation of the Jones law by using a foreign-built boat for U.S. government service. So, in 1959 he sold her to George Prescott and bought the *Ile*, built on Little Deer Isle by Albert Hardy. The *Ile* was a forty-footer and very solid, intended for use as a dragger. As you might imagine, this boat was built to withstand extraordinary stresses associated with the usage.

In the past, the Point had its own boats for transportation to and from the mainland, including the *Daydream*, *Tango*, and *Circe*. Additionally most Island families had their own boats so there was minimal passenger traffic. After Julia's death, Stanley moved to Stonington and in 1957 married Adeline Harriman, who had the Cap'n's Quarters motel there. She and Stan wintered in Florida and talked up the beauty of Isle au Haut to get more trade for the motel and the mailboat. It worked. Before the 1960s, Isle au Haut had very few summer people aside from those at Point Lookout and minimal Park visitation. Within the next few years, word got out on a national level about how special the Island was and suddenly, it seemed that everyone wanted to come to the Island.



*The Fundy about 1954*



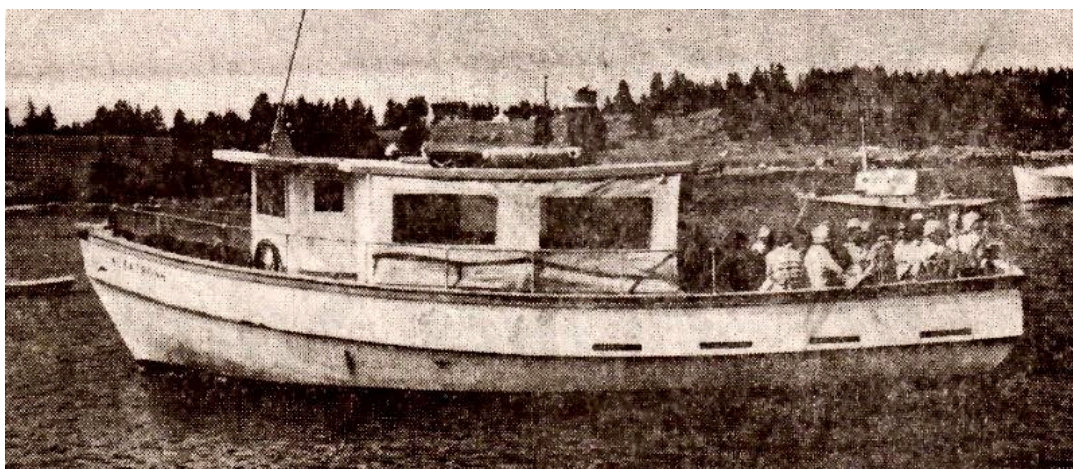
*The Ile*

It is important to note that until Stanley started to commercialize the mailboat, its primary justification had been the mail contract, not passenger service. Back then, carrying the mail was far more lucrative than carrying passengers. I remember in the 1950s, it only cost half a buck each way. Others say it was less than that, especially if you gave Stanley a hand with the freight.

*Editor's Note: For those of you with a FaceBook page see the [Island Advantages cover story on Stan's retirement](#).*

In the 1960s, the Park had only one ranger and until 1970, when several shelters were constructed at Duck Harbor, there were no facilities for camping. Bar Harbor was also under siege from the hordes and no effort whatsoever was made to control the influx on Isle au Haut. Day trippers were walking through town, making off with fishing gear "souvenirs," etc. Park visitors, totally lacking information or direction, frequently trespassed on private property. It was a particularly egregious situation. A floating dock at Duck Harbor wasn't built until 1978.

Islanders wanted no part of tourism and appealed to the summer community for help. In 1973, Stanley, now 83 years old, had decided to sell the mailboat business. Fred Eustis, Bob Olney Sr., Charlie Pratt, Jack MacDonald and Pat Tully formed a consortium called The Isle au Haut Company and bought it. When Stan had the business, Buster Aldrich had run the mailboat and he and his brother, George, came along with the deal. In addition to the *Ile*, the consortium got another boat that Stanley had been using since 1970 named the *Albatross*.



*The Albatross from a clipping from the Island Advantages around 1970.*

This was a homely, open boat with a small wheelhouse up towards the bow, looking as if it would be more at home on a sheltered river in Georgia than on restless Penobscot Bay. It had been used down on Cape Cod as a flounder fishing party boat and could carry perhaps 31 people, but not in comfort during rainy or cold weather. The craft was anything but seaworthy. According to Buster Aldrich, "It was like a big bag of winds, it'd

blow around anywhere.” Once, I was on a trip when the engine with no warning stopped dead off Flake Island. Dickie Turner happened to come along and towed the boat to the town landing. Good thing it was a flat day. The *Albatross* was only used a couple of seasons before it was sold. Nevertheless, according to Fred, it was the only boat that made any money because it cost nothing!

From the outset, when the consortium took over the business it decided to eliminate all commercial advertising with the goal of serving the islanders as opposed to encouraging and catering to visitors. However, the island demographics had shifted from being primarily year-round residents to a near majority of “summer people.” As a result, in high season the *Ile* was frequently crowded and sometimes even an extra trip was necessary. Although it was a suitable winter boat, a bigger boat was badly needed.

In response, Buster found a 49 foot wooden boat built by Beale and Bunker in 1967. It was named the *Miss Lizzie* in honour of Elizabeth “Lizzie” Rich, Island postmistress for over 60 years. The *Lizzie* was roomy, able and comfortable in all weather. The *Ile* continued to serve in the off season and as an overflow boat during the summer but finally it showed signs of age. Even with a new engine, it still wasn’t efficient enough to justify worth keeping.



*The Miss Lizzie*

In 1982, the *Ile* was replaced by the *Mink*, 46 and a half feet long, and constructed by Malcolm Pettegrow, financed by Fred Eustis. She was the first boat specifically designed and built for service between Isle au Haut and Stonington. The *Mink* is comfortable and efficient. Meanwhile, a buyer on Matinicus purchased the *Ile* and it became that island’s mailboat (renamed *Mary and Donna*) for several years. I’m told that it took one wicked beating when crossing in a storm, enough to spring the trunk and to leak badly. I imagine it had to be fighting through breaking seas to do that much damage. Subsequently, it was sold and refitted to its original purpose as a dragger. But I’ve been informed it is no longer running and is currently hauled up in a parking lot down at Owl’s Head. Kind of a sad end for an important part of the Island’s mail boat history.

In the early 1990’s, Fred wisely financed the purchase of the former sardine cannery site in Stonington, guaranteeing permanent water access and necessary space and infrastructure. Over the years the ramps and loading facilities were greatly improved and convenient parking spaces provided. In “the old days,” I remember

having to park either up behind the town hall or at the school. At the Weed Field Road, Steve and Rosie Robbins also parked cars for folks from Isle au Haut.

In 1999, Garrett Aldrich started as captain and I feel very happy that he has been able to follow his love for being out on the water in his father's and uncle's footsteps, providing continuity and stability for the boat company.

In Memoriam

Buster Aldrich passed away in 2013.

This year, Garrett's father, Captain George Aldrich, also passed away.

Please see the Obituary section of this Newsletter for more information.

## **The Boat Company since 2002 by George Cole**

*Miss Lizzie* and *Mink* operated under the Eustis family ownership as the Isle au Haut Company. In late 2002 Isle au Haut Boat Services was formed as the new non profit operation with the mission to bring the Mailboat service forward to a sustainable future as year round service to Isle au Haut.

Until the end of 2007 The IaH Company and IaH Boat Services operated in a "for profit / not for profit partnership" with the help of a new Boat Services Board and a number of generous Isle au Haut donors for annual funding. In 2007, with the help of Dennis Damon (then our State Senator and Co-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee) and Hannah Pingree (then the Speaker of the Assembly) Boat Services was able to join a Maine DOT program which supports rural transportation. This program provides an annual federal grant to Maine in support of rural transportation, and is managed by Maine DOT staff. It covers 50% of the Mailboat's annual losses, with an annual cap of \$50,000. With this source of support securely in place Boat Services assumed full operation of the Mailboat on January 1, 2008.

A few years later Boat Services began requesting annual operating funding at Town Meeting. With the continuing support of DOT funds, Town funds and private donations the Mailboat has been able to operate in a stable mode up to the present day.

In 2014 it became apparent that the yearly cost of maintaining *Miss Lizzie* in the excellent and safe condition we all would demand was a serious drain on Mailboat finances. After a two year capital campaign (and with only \$100,000 of state funding) the *Otter* was built at a cost of just over \$1 million. With the *Otter* in service, maintenance costs are reduced and at the same time Boat Services has been able to take advantage of the higher boat speeds and better facilities to increase the sightseeing and charter business for additional income. *Mink* continues to be the island's "winter boat."

In 2017 it became clear that it was time to purchase the Stonington wharf and building, which until then had been leased. In 2018, after another capital campaign (and with only \$50,000 in federal capital funds) Boat Services closed on the Stonington operating base.

As of 2024, year round service to Town Landing and seasonal service to Duck Harbor continue to operate securely and safely with multiple sources of support. Strong summer season profits help to support the costs of daily winter service, and funding from the Town, the state, and our friends on the island place the service in secure mode now for the foreseeable future.

# The History of The Professor's House by Tim Gailey

(with research and modifications by Kris Carlson-Lewis and Tom Guglielmo)

## Part 1-The Early History

The Gailey house lies on a narrow strip of land running from the Thorofare, straight up alongside the boardwalk to the church, and then jogging around the church. It continues up the mountain about a mile and a quarter to the far side of the ridge. The area was for centuries or millennia at least seasonally occupied by an indigenous population, now evidenced by shell heaps along the Thorofare and shaped stone tools and arrowheads that occasionally are visible in eroded soil or the clam flats and low-tide beaches.



*The Professor's House, probably late 1900s from the [photo collection at The Penobscot Marine Museum](#).*

The written record of individual ownership of the land, a part of which became the Gailey parcel, begins with a survey by [Lothrop Lewis in 1802](#).

Lots 6 and 31 were exchanged amongst members of the Barter family beginning with Peletiah and William and certain portions were eventually sold to members of the Turner family. This complex series of land transactions remains to be unraveled. The Gailey land became one of four abutting similar strips running in parallel lines, clearly visible in maps and other documents.



While at Purdue, the Professor seems to have been quite a lively fellow because on 5 May 1905, The Purdue Exponent, the school newspaper, mentions our professor:

"While most of our dignified professors were attending the Annual Wednesday evening, as all dignified professors should, a few quietly slipped off where they thought "no one was a lookin' but the owl and the moon" and proceeded to execute some "stunts" worthy of the most frivolous freshman....

...Another of the evening's performances was a French Harp ( Harmonica ) solo selected from a recent opera and entitled "[O Listen to the Mocking Bird.](#)" (This link is not Willie P Turner playing but you will get the idea of what it must have sounded like.) This was rendered by **Professor William P. Turner** and was so well done that an encore resulted, the second selection being "[The Irish Washerwoman.](#)" The audience became so enthused during the execution of this last selection that it was with difficulty that Dr. Hale restrained the whole company, including himself from jigging. As it was they all went through the motions. Now we wont disclose any more of the affair lest we cause family troubles. However it may appear we are tolerably certain they were only fooling, but it just shows what dignity will do in the wee hours."



*The Professor from a 1905 Purdue yearbook, taken the same year as the faculty episode above.*

Throughout William's career at Purdue, he returned every summer to the house he grew up in. Due to his long relationship with the house, it has been generally known as "The Professor's," a name that continued through the postwar years and long into the Gailey tenure. Before zip codes and street names, mail to residents of the house often was directed to "The Professor's" Isle au Haut, Maine. It's a good name.

The Professor died on April 29, 1940, and [his obituary](#) can be found in the Purdue Alumnus, 1 May 1940. Professor Turner's gravestone lies in the Turner Cemetery in the Kennedy Field, near the boathouse.



*The Professor's House, in front of the church. Photo of Isle au Haut from Kimball's, circa 1880s. From L to R: Clarence Turner ( now the Kennedys), The Lobster Factory ( large building on the shore, John Turner's store, The Mary Ellen and boarding house- the home of John and Lucretia Turner (now Cam Brown's summer home), AJH Turner's blacksmith shop, the 'Salt Shed'/Kengott house (later Marjorie Smith cottage, now the Cogan's Cave), unknown small building just back from the shore, Stephen Barter's double building, The Professor's House (now Gailey), The Church, Everett and Etta (Lunt) Robinson (now Chamberlin). Photo from the Isle au Haut Historical Society archives.*



*Elcy Susan Turner, William's mother, sitting on the front porch of the Professor's House.  
from the archives of the Isle au Haut Historical Society.*

The house was then devised to Lewis Clyde Turner, who owned it for about five years, until April 23, 1945, when he conveyed the house to [Dr. James Howard Means](#), a controversial doctor who criticized the American Medical Association for not supporting universal health care in the 1950s. Dr. Means was also a professor of clinical medicine at Harvard, chief of medical services at Massachusetts General Hospital, involved in thyroid research and coauthored a book with John Stanbury.

In September 1953, after eight years, Dr. Means conveyed the land to Edward F. McKeen, wife [Alice O. McKeen](#), and Alice's sister Elinor Curwen. Alice was yet again another professor! The three summered on the island regularly, and occasionally rented the house to friends. When Edward McKeen died in 1970, the two sisters continued to summer there and cherish what was then still known by all as the Professor's House. Perhaps, Professors House would have been more apt.

The present Greek revival Maine farmhouse has evolved over the years. The original basement of the farmhouse is under what is now the kitchen, but the exterior foundation extended roughly to the current footprint of the house. From stylistic details and oral tradition, it may have been built as early as the 1840s by a member of the Barter family. From an old watercolor dated perhaps 1891 the rear of the house already had its current form, except for the roof line, which was raised in the rear in the mid-1900s to expand the bedroom on that side.

An 1871 photograph of the front of the house shows noticeable changes. A wraparound porch roof covered the current front porch and extended along the boardwalk side. On the Thorofare side, there was a door with a small entry room where the pantry is now located. This existed into the twentieth century; Miss Lizzie Rich recalled that it was used for candle making and dubbed the "wicking room." Only the marks of the nail holes and an old photograph now show where the wicking room was located.



For most of the early twentieth century (and maybe before) a short white picket fence extended from the road up the house side of the boardwalk. This was held in place by iron rods anchored in granite, which remain more or less in their original place. A few pieces of the porch roof posts and the fence remain as scrap lumber in the barn. While the front yard in the earliest photographs is more or less treeless, at some point someone planted a mountain ash in front, and it continues to thrive. It has a lovely symmetry and attracts flocks of berry-eating birds in late summer. The brilliant berries mark the culmination of berry season.

## Part 2: The Later History, The Gaileys

The Gailey family, who presently own the house, first came to Isle au Haut in 1973. At the time Tim was a lawyer in Boston, and Meg was teaching in the Boston public schools. They first rented the Bergen cottage in the town next to Stanley and Dottie Dodge, for one month. It had just been purchased by Ken and Emily Bergen, and Tim and Meg Gailey were the Bergens' first tenants. The Gaileys continued to rent from Ken and Emily Bergen every summer for seven years.

In the late 1970's the Gaileys thought seriously about buying a house on the Island. One afternoon they had a long discussion with Jack and Alice Crowell in the Crowell's living room on Kimball's Island about the commitment entailed in buying a house on the Island. The Crowells were supportive, and they discussed every livable house on the Island, its pluses and minuses, and which might be available. At the time selling a house on the Island was usually by word of mouth. Houses were not often listed but passed privately. Alice Crowell had heard that Alice McKeen recently mentioned she was getting on in years and was thinking of living permanently in her mainland house in Winterport instead of spending summers on Isle au Haut. The Crowells suggested that the Gaileys write a letter of interest to Alice McKeen, and the Crowells would send a letter of support.

Nine months passed without a response. Then on Tim and Meg Gailey's wedding anniversary, they got a call from Alice McKeen's lawyer: "Are you still interested in buying the house on Isle au Haut?" The Gaileys had never set foot inside the house, but knew it from the outside and from the Crowells' comments, and promptly purchased "The Professor's House".

The Gaileys, who by then included 2-year-old Eleanor, first moved into the Gailey House in the summer of 1980. Eleanor promptly dubbed it "our new yellow house", and moved into the upstairs bedroom formerly occupied by Eleanor Curwin. Meg was pregnant with Adam when they moved in, and as he grew up Adam always knew of the house as his summer home.

As might be expected with a 140-year-old house, there was always a great deal of work to be done: six or seven layers of interior paint had to be stripped down, new 1830 museum reproduction wallpaper was hung in the living room and upstairs, the front deck was rebuilt, the present blueberry garden was fenced and planted over several years, well covers were replaced, small herb gardens were planted by the kitchen door. And always there was painting and scraping, by custom more or less one exterior wall a year.

In the back of the house, an old drainage trench directed rain runoff from the hill away from the house, around the barn and down the far side of the driveway. Even though the trench was only a short hop across, Tim and Meg built a small humpty-back bridge. It has been there long enough that most people don't remember when it wasn't there.

One year the Gaileys found some weathered whalebones breaking up in the surf on the rocks near Thunder Gulch, and brought home one of the large vertebrae. This was not easy as it was soaked with sea water and algae. It was hung from the old apple tree behind the house, and as it dried and weathered, lichens gradually covered it. About thirty years later a visitor on the Island came up the boardwalk to the house and asked if he could photograph "the sculpture". Unaware of a sculpture behind the house, Tim asked "What sculpture?" The photographer pointed out the hanging whale vertebrae. Time and nature had turned it into a work of art.

Long before the Gaileys moved in, a previous owner set up a small windmill and generator to provide electricity. Jack Crowell had a similar one on Kimball's Island, and said whenever there was a gust of wind the generator would produce a burst of light enough to permit a few minutes of reading. The windmill behind the Gailey house, though, was in possibly the only spot on the island that was perpetually sheltered. As it never generated enough electricity it was dismantled long ago. From the Gaileys' porch you can see the flag on Kimball's Island flying nobly in the steady wind, while the Gaileys' flag usually hangs limp, waiting for random gusts.

When the Gaileys moved in they knew about one tradition that ran with the house: occasionally Elinor Curwen and Alice McKeen would invite the churchgoers down the Boardwalk to the house after church to join together for a community "coffee hour". Meg Gailey decided to continue the tradition, and expanded it into hosting the after-church gathering every Sunday as long as she was there. Since as a teacher she spent

most of every summer on the Island this coffee hour took place at the Gailey house for a generation. With the help of other ladies on the Island, she would serve coffee, lemonade for the children, and cookies by the dozen. It became known among children as the “cookie hour”. It was a lovely time for the entire community to gather and chat. Later, as the population grayed and the walk past the Gaileys’ house got seemingly “steeper,” coffee hour was moved up the boardwalk to the church, where people could access it by car. It is still a lovely tradition.

When the Gaileys first occupied the house Meg was a teacher in Boston and could spend most of every summer on the Island. She and the two children stayed on the Island for much of the summer, but for half the summer Tim could only come up for weekends until he could take an uninterrupted month of vacation. The children grew to treasure their island life. During the weeks when Tim commuted from Boston his long drives sometimes impaired his bedtime story reading. Adam was once heard to admonish his dozing father, “Dad, finish the word!”

As a toddler Eleanor quickly felt confident enough to walk with her little wagon to the store with a shopping list. Later, when she learned to write she sometimes added to the list, perhaps unbeknownst to Meg, but of course noticeable to the store clerk. This was generally pudding – her favorite – and everyone knew it was OK.

Sundays almost always included church, with Ted Hoskins’ children’s sermon, and cookie hour afterwards, which everyone looked forward to.

The entire family would traditionally come up to the Island for Thanksgiving. The water by then would be drained, and everyone took turns hauling buckets of water from the kitchen well to cook, wash and otherwise use sparingly. During that long weekend the entire family would go back into the woods to select a Christmas tree. Everyone would help with sawing it down and dragging it back to the house. It would end up on the dock, carried down the old wooden gangway to the mail boat, and traveling to Massachusetts tied to the roof of the car. It was always the biggest Christmas tree ever.

Eventually Meg became a school principal and Tim became a trial judge in Massachusetts. When the children in their teens began feeling time pressures it was more difficult to spend the entire summer on the Island, and their visits became shorter. But they always continued. When Eleanor went away to college, for the whole family to return to the Island for Thanksgiving became unworkable, and that ritual became only a fond memory.

When Eleanor left for her first tour in Afghanistan for the Department of Defense she was flying from a training site in Georgia. Tim and Meg were on the Island. They knew that those long flights usually touched down in Bangor for a short stop, when the passengers were allowed to stretch their legs in the Bangor Airport. The details of her flight were not known, but the Gaileys knew generally when it would happen. So they decided to try to rendezvous when she touched down in Bangor.

Timing was by guesswork, but Eleanor had a cell phone and might be able to make a call in transit to let Meg and Tim know she was on her way. One difficulty was that at the time the Gaileys had limited telephone service on the Island. At best, service was possible with a cell phone at the end of the store dock or up the hill by the school.

Eleanor’s deployment time approached, and one night the Gailey’s cell phone rang. It was on a charging cord upstairs in their bedroom, where they had never had cell phone reception before. Eleanor would be on her way the next morning. The Gaileys made a dash for Bangor from Stonington after the early boat the next morning. They arrived at the airport and over several hours greeted two transiting flights to thank those service people for their service and to wish them luck. But no Eleanor. Finally they learned that her flight had bypassed Bangor. They were disappointed, but glad to have tried.

In 2013 Adam and his husband Robert Matera were married on the Island. The wedding was outside in the back yard, between the old apple tree and the barn. For the reception the Bergen family graciously let the Gaileys use Carlton Point, where Meg and Tim had had some of their earliest Isle Au Haut memories when they had first rented from Ken and Emily Bergen. It was a glorious day.

None of the early photographs of the house show a flagpole, although 48-star flags dating back to the early twentieth century remain in the house and no doubt were displayed in their day. When the Gaileys bought the house Tim thought it would be good to have a flagpole in the front. The first year they explored back on the property for a suitably straight spruce for a flagpole. Maybe a quarter of a mile back in the woods they found a sturdy and straight spruce. They hand-sawed, trimmed the branches and hauled the pole back to the house. The pole was still green wood and not suitable for painting, so they allowed it to season lying flat on the floor of the barn over the winter. The next spring a new 50-star flag was raised on a newly painted pole for the 4th of July. The Gaileys have flown the flag daily since then, as long as they were in residence.

The flag pole has always been an island-grown spruce. Once during a winter storm the pole, which was bare in the winter months and seemingly sturdy, snapped, and the top of the pole was upended and driven javelin-like a foot or more into the ground, where it remained sticking up until spring. Luckily no one was there at the time. It took another season to cut and age a replacement, but other than lowering the pole for repairs and painting it, it has continued in place almost without interruption for as long as most people can remember. It has marked Independence Day parades, half-staff Memorial Day remembrances, and the passing of loved and respected individuals.

On July 28, 2023, the flag was lowered to half staff for ten days. The Gaileys' daughter Eleanor had died from a painful illness related to her two tours of duty in Afghanistan. She had grown up during her summers on the Island, and was only 45 when she died. She is remembered in the memorial garden. In August the flag was again raised to full staff.

After Meg and Tim's retirements, they again found themselves with free time in the summers, and began to spend longer periods on the Island again. They always cherished their time and friends on the Island.



**The Gailey Family in Colorado in 2017**

*Left to right, the individuals are Robert Matera (Adam Gailey's husband), Adam Gailey, Mary Ellen (Meg) Gailey, Stephen Lee (Eleanor's husband), Eleanor Gailey, Timothy Gailey*

## Obituaries

Links to the Obituaries of Isle au Haut folks who've died since our last Newsletter and others who we have felt inclined to include because of our current content.

[Ted Hoskins](#), [Grady Watts](#), [George Aldrich](#), [Buster Aldrich](#), [Susanna French](#), [Claire Robinson Jacobus](#), [Eleanor Gailey](#), [Rudy Graf](#), and Dottie Dodge.

Sympathy and thoughts to their families and apologies for anyone who has not been mentioned.

## Island Folks Summer 2023 by Mary Fennell



*Jeff Burke*



*Uncle Malcolm and Jake Woollen*



*Moby and Margy Marx*



*Wendy, Grady and Tom*



*Jacob and Molly Robinson, standing on The Clubhouse deck.*



*Rita MacWilliam, Penelope and Abagayle Carnes, at The Island Store.*



*Barbara and Roberta Ternes.*



*Carl Wilson and Ellie Kastanopolis at Head Harbor Picnic*



Miya Guglielmo and Grandma Momo



Tommy Guglielmo and Karen Wilson



John DeWitt in his Greenhouse



Lara, Lindsay Leone and Maclan, along the road.

## **A Note from your Historical Society**

We hope that you have enjoyed our Spring 2024 Newsletter. Copies of previous Newsletters can be found on our [Isle au Haut History website](#).

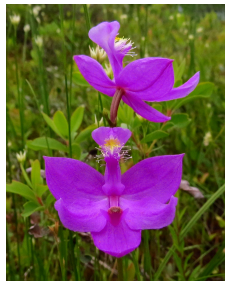
Your Isle au Haut Historical Society, after a hiatus of several years during Covid, produced three public presentations at the Town Hall last summer 2023. All three evenings were well attended and The Isle au Haut Historical Society wants to thank all those who participated and attended.

- [Couples Night and a concert by The Head Harbor Howlers](#), 26 July. Six couples shared their stories about how they met and the Head Harbor Howlers serenaded us with three songs: Hills of Isle au Haut, Isle au Haut Lullabye and Farthest Field.
- An [Evening with Glen Mittlehauser](#), the naturalist and author of [The Maine Natural History Observer](#), 9 August, spoke about his work over many years studying Harlequin Ducks that winter in Squeaker Cove. Squeaker is another name for Harlequin Duck.
- Bob Olney shared with everyone his experiences photographing wild animals in a talk and video on the ["Wildlife of the Little River Watershed, Freeport, Maine"](#).

The Summer 2024 is still being planned but we have Malcolm Woollen on the history of the Thayer Hall or Revere Memorial Library or, as commonly called today, The Town Hall on August 8 at 6:30. Other talks are being planned.

### **The Historical Society is introducing Walks 2024**

- A Walk through the bog at Merchants Cove to see the Calopogon Orchids, Pitcher Plants, and Sundews led by Kathie Fiveash sometime late June or early July.



[Calopogon Orchid](#)

- A Tide Pool walk led by Kipp Quinby. TBA
- A Night Among the Stars led by Mike Fedosh and Tom Guglielmo. Learning your way around the heavens by recognizing certain constellations. The goal of the evening will be to locate Andromeda, our nearest galaxy. Sometime around the new moon in Head Harbor late August/early September.

### **Other News**

- Karen Wilson has become our new treasurer.
- Bob Smith, Karen Wilson and Donna Hopkins have been exploring ways to secure and digitize our collection of photos and documents.
- Kris Carlson-Lewis, although no longer summering on the Island, continues researching island families and documenting the content of our collections.
- Stew Foelix has maintained our website.
- Tom Guglielmo, acting president, and Mary Fennell have been producing our Newsletters.

**We hope you will support your Isle au Haut Historical Society by becoming a member or renew your membership for 2024. To do so, please send your name, email address, and annual dues payment of \$10 for individual or family membership (check preferred) to The Isle au Haut Historical Society, PO Box 7, Isle au Haut, ME 04645.**

Membership dues help preserve our rich Island history and support the programs offered by Historical Society. We especially welcome your involvement.

If you are interested in taking a more active role, please send an email to [IsleauHautHistory@gmail.com](mailto:IsleauHautHistory@gmail.com).

**To all of you who joined last year and sent in contributions, Thank You!**

**Special Thanks to all who have contributed articles to this year's Newsletter: Gordy and Craig Donaldson, Tim Gailey, Harold van Doren and Ian Woollen. Special thanks to Mary Fennell for her many lovely photos, Leslie English for her sharp eye in editing our stories and Kris Carlson-Lewis and Harold van Doren for their deep knowledge of Isle au Haut history and answering my endless questions. Thank you!**