



Washington Historical Society

Welcome to our first NEWSLETTER!
Washington Historical Society
P.O. Box 333
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Email: washingtonhistorical@gmail.com
Website: www.washingtonhistorical.org
Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays – Gibbs Library

WHS – Who we are, why we are . . .

The Washington Historical Society (WHS) is a member organization welcoming all those interested in the chronicles, development and significance of the town of Washington from its beginnings to the present. Membership is \$5 per year. Attendance at monthly meetings is encouraged but not required. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibbs Library.

The Washington Historical Society encourages awareness and enjoyment of the history of Washington (formerly Putnam), Maine, and facilitates research into family and local history. To accomplish this, we collect and preserve archival material, historical memorabilia and lore of the town.

This issue of our newsletter, the first for WHS, is being mailed through the postal service.

In order to contain costs we want to send it electronically whenever possible. Please email us to get your future copies. washingtonhistorical@gmail.com

or

phone Charlotte at 845-2661

Our website:
www.washingtonhistorical.org
 is under construction but will be
 out of the clouds soon!
 Stay tuned!!!

What's in those library cabinets?

Liane Chapman and Liz Grinnell have been inventorying materials stored in the Washington Historical Society's (WHS) cabinets in the Bryant Room at the Gibbs Library. We have added many of these items to the WHS Past Perfect inventory. WHS has interesting pieces of local history such as: Washington High School memorabilia, Sulo Sainio's Washington baseball uniform, and DVD's of an interview with Elden Bartlett that includes his WWII experiences. The cabinets also hold some of the cemetery inventories compiled by WHS member, Cheryl Swift.

We also found several resources with information and pictures concerning Washington. These include:

- Washington, Maine: An Historical Perspective
- Midcoast Maine Cunningham Collection
- The Medomak Way – History of Medomak Camp
- The Washington Monument
- Washington Facts (2 volumes)
- Sesquicentennial Celebration Washington Maine 1811-1961
- Welcome to Washington Village
- Old Timer's Day
- Washington, Maine: People & Places

More on page 3

These Old Houses



Only a handful of historic homes are left in Washington. Some have burned, some have decayed from neglect or even been torn down, but some have struck it lucky. One of them, Patty Manson's house, which is the former Victor Chapman home on Young's Hill Road, has a rich and interesting history.

George Razor built the house in 1812. His father, Major Razor, lived in the house on the corner of Razorville Road and Vanner Road that we know as the late Frances Marr Schroyer's home. In 1832 George sold his house to William Young.

More on page 2

... Old houses from page 1

Visible down the pasture from the Manson house is Alonzo Farrar's house which faces Razorville Road and is now owned by Med-O-Lark Camp. Farrar also owned the Manson house, but the purchase date is uncertain. Alonzo's son Herbert may have lived in the house. After Herbert died in 1921, the house became available for his sister Lottie and was given to her on July 21, 1921, apparently to keep her close by. Lottie married Linwood P. Jones in 1904. Their only child, Edna, was born in that house in July 1917. Edna married C. S. Brann and had six children including Bradley Brann and Rhoda Gamage.

In November 1926, Alonzo Farrar sold the house to Harold Kaler and/or Sidney Kaler. It was rumored that Harold was a crook, and couldn't be trusted. Kaler and his father Sidney sold the house to William Lessner in May 1932. Ownership passed from Lessner to Aldorus Jones who bought it in September 1932. Aldorus lived in the old farmhouse that now belongs to Mitch and Cheri Garnett. He left everything including the Manson house to Fred Jones who sold it to LaForest Chapman in September 1936 and held the \$2,000 mortgage on it.



Christine & Victor Chapman at home place in Washington

LaForest's children Victor and Christine Chapman grew up in the house. Victor, a bachelor, lived there until his death in 2005. When Victor's estate was settled, the house passed to his great niece, Heather Parker, who sold it to its present owner, Patricia Manson.

Patty and her family are restoring the house to its original condition. They have already renovated the front part of the house and plans are in the works for restoring the old kitchen – maybe complete with a slate sink and hand pump for the well water.

Written by Liane Chapman

Prominent People of Washington's Past

~ *William Young* ~

The Young family came to America from Ireland. They landed first in Philadelphia and later moved to the Bristol, Maine area. It's recorded that William Young moved to Washington from Bristol prior to the 1830 census. He purchased land from the Jones family; Kinsley, Simeon, Shadrach and their sister, Mary Jackson. The property was located on Collamore pond, today known as Muddy Pond. About 1832 he bought the house George Razor built, that sits at the top of the hill in Razorville.

Hannah Bond was born July 23, 1805 in Jefferson, ME., the daughter of Henry and Mary (Jackson) Bond. She was one of nine children.

William Young and Hannah Bond filed intentions in Washington to be married on November 15, 1839, but according to the Vital Records of Jefferson, they were married on December 10, 1840 in Jefferson. William brought Hannah to the house on the hill in Washington. This is where they would live, work and raise their children. They were blessed with a son, Edward S., who was born in November 1841 and two years later, they had a daughter, Mary Augusta. William was well known in the community for his truthfulness and ability. He held many positions of trust and in 1846 served in the Maine House of Representatives.

By 1870, both Edward and Mary Augusta had left home. Edward had become a doctor and married Viola Burns in 1866. The same year, Mary Augusta married Attorney Lindley Murray Staples. Both children were now living in Washington Village. Edward and Viola owned the house that became known as the "Hiram Bliss home" – now Del Silvia's place.

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The Manson home today.

Washington Historical Society Officers

Wendy Carr - President
Liane Chapman - Secretary
Frank Campbell - Vice President
Linda Luce - Treasurer

Prominent Young family continued from page 2

Mary Augusta and Lindley had two different houses in the village, one across from the Village Church and the other on the corner of Rt 220 and 105. Mary Augusta's son, William, born in May 1867 was William and Hanna Young's only grandchild.

Between 1870 and 1880, tragedy struck. Edward's mental health failed and he was declared insane. He was placed in the Augusta Asylum for treatment and remained there until his release in mid-September of 1875. Edward died on October 15, 1875 at the age of 34 years.

During this time Hannah and William had moved in with their daughter, Mary Augusta, and son-in-law, Lindley Staples. Mary Augusta's marriage was not a happy one. She decided to divorce her husband and hired Attorney Hiram Bliss (who would later marry Edward's widow, Viola). Staples used every method at his disposal to block the divorce, and, in the end, Mary Augusta withdrew the divorce request. A few months later, on November 18, 1880, she took her own life. It was said she drowned herself in the mill pond.

It's not clear if William and Hannah remained in the Staples' home. Hannah died May 25, 1892 and William on August 5, 1887. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery near their children.

Written by Cheryl Mank Swift

Cabinet contents from page 1. . .

The stored **cemetery inventories** contain plot maps, stone locations and family information for Maple Grove, Light, Mountain, Howard, Clark, Davis-Daggett, Pierpont, and McDowell cemeteries. Cheryl Swift is compiling information for the remaining cemeteries in town. Cheryl has spent a tremendous amount of time and her own resources taking pictures of all the stones, mapping the cemeteries, gathering and compiling information. Many thanks to Cheryl for her interest and efforts in preserving this part of Washington's history.

WHS also has an extensive collection of **Washington Town Reports** starting with 1899 to the present. Unfortunately, we are missing the years 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1915, 1916, 1920 and 1952. Although it's unlikely that anyone has those from the early 1900's maybe someone has the 1952 town report tucked away. If you would to donate it to the WHS, we'd be very grateful. Liane and Liz want to thank Wendy Carr, Hazel Kopishke and Rhonda Hamilton for the help they've enjoyed throughout this effort. There's still plenty to do, so join us sometime and find out what it's all about. WHS meets every 3rd Tuesday, at 7 p.m.

Written by Liz Grinnell

GOT STUFF??

Donations of financial support and items of historical interest are welcome. Please understand that WHS is not able to accept every object offered to us. We have consulted with other societies and developed a policy for assessing possible additions to Historical Society property. A full description of the types of photos, documents and artifacts that may be considered for placement into WHS tenure is contained in our Collections and Acquisitions Policy and copies are available for the asking. A copy is also available at town office. Briefly, items must be relevant to Washington (formerly Putnam), be in good condition, and have reliable documentation including clear ownership.

Our many projects include identifying people and places in old pictures.

Let us know if you can assist us in a future session!

We offer free snacks and sociability!!

Call Liane at 845-2072

Computer Program Aids Record-Keeping

Washington Historical Society is fortunate to have acquired a specialized computer software called PastPerfect.



While attending a workshop at the Maine State Archives, Historical Society President Wendy Carr, Secretary Liane Chapman, and Liz Grinnell learned about PastPerfect. Wendy wrote a grant proposal and received funds to purchase the software. Liz, Liane and Wendy have since trained to use it. PastPerfect is popular and highly recommended product that has become the leading provider of collection management software. PastPerfect is able to provide everything needed to manage contacts, member lists, donors, and resources and to catalog collections. The American Association for State and Local History calls PastPerfect an "exemplary software for museums and historical societies." WHS is fortunate to have this tool that will help organize and manage our society's affairs for many years to come.

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Question Box



When photographs have been reviewed and efforts to identify them have failed, what should be done with them? *Send us your opinion.*

We are sending our first newsletter by postal service to introduce it to our community. Future issues will be sent it electronically whenever possible. Please email to: washingtonhistorical@gmail.com or call Charlotte at 845-2661 for other arrangements.



UP COMING EVENTS

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- MARCH 19 KATE BRAESTRUP Warden Chaplain
- APRIL 16 RICHARD LENFEST Family History
- MAY 21 REV. TIM LEWIS Churches of Washington
- JUNE 18 MOXIE MUSEUM Guided tour
- JULY 16 ANNUAL MEETING
- SEPTEMBER TBA HODGE SCHOOL Guided tour
- OCTOBER 15 Not your father's Thanksgiving
- NOVEMBER 19 Gettysburg — 150 years

An Invitation

*We invite you to tell us
your family's story,
about your old house,
or a special tale you want to share.
We want to hear from you!
Send to: PO Box 333 or
washingtonhistorical@gmail.com*