
The Thoroughfare

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1997

NINE MONTHS OF ROQUE: A *VERY BRIEF* UPDATE

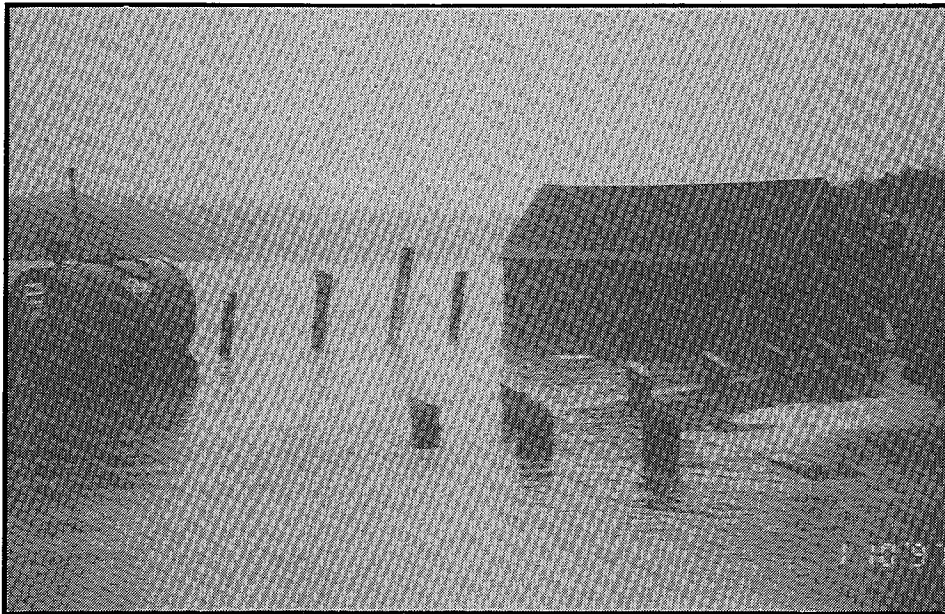
At the end of January, Steve Cirone and Barbie Bubar left the Island to pursue other activities and a life on the mainland; leaving novices, Eric Smith and Capt. Doug Dodge as the only employees. Ariana (Fischer, at that time) and James Gregg, along with Ken Rich, moved to Roque. What they believed to be a quick stay to settle things turned into two and a half months of cleaning, reorganizing and maintaining the daily operations of the Island and Farmhouse.

There was no snow at the Island this last winter - only ice and manure. The daily regimen of chores, albeit simple, brought peace and order to the day. Wake at 6 a.m., cup of coffee, suit-up, chores, suit-off, breakfast, coffee and then onto the days activities - each person's differing but always brought back together again at 6 p.m. to put the animals to bed.

It was a very cold spring - we had snow into April. There were far more lambs than expected - and we didn't even know what to expect because none of us had been there during the breeding season! It seemed that many ewes were not only having twins, but a number of them had triplets. Not all of them survived - but most did. By the end of the lambing season we had over 50 sheep -but culled out 30 or so and sent them off the Island - and 2 bottle fed lambs: Purple Bucket and Stanley. Due to the the poor quality of

the hay the animals were starving even though they were eating. We ended up having to purchase 700 bales of hay and hiring 10 locals to come over for the day to help us move it. It took from 7 in the morning until 7 at night with the use of 2 barges and the *Peabody* to make it happen. It was excellent labor and better public relations.

During this time the Search Committee worked diligently



AN UNEXPECTED, EXTREME HIGH TIDE THIS PAST JANUARY REACHED TO 3' IN THE METAL SHOP.

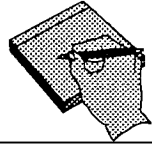
to find a new manager. After going through 120 resumes, and honing the list to 10 candidates and the committee than had a series of interviews that brought the nominees to only 2 finalists, of which 1 was recommended to the Trustees - Owen Drumgool. Owen was a whale watch captain out of Bar Harbor prior to coming to Roque. He arrived

on the Island in mid-May.

It has been a challenge for Owen this summer due to all the machinery breaking, interim staff coming and going, animals being born and dying, plumbing not working, houses being painted, buildings being built, and a large wedding to pull off. But now, after the initial summer everything seems to be settling down. The positions are filled, the houses are in order, the animals blithely exist, and the weather has been on our side...

The challenge of running Roque, living on Roque and being a part of Roque is still on and flourishing. ♦

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



In making decisions about the future of Roque Island, the Board of Trustees has identified the following guidelines for management of the Island. They derive from the Mission Statement, the Long-Range Plan and discussion among the Board.

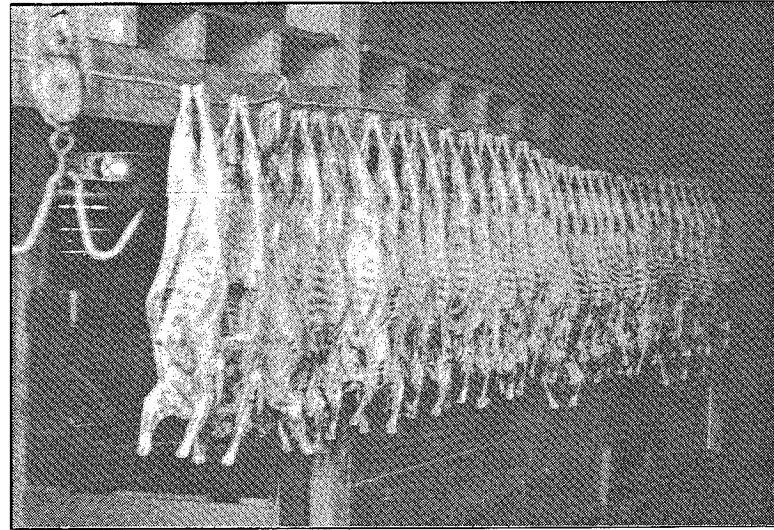
- ✓ We affirm the goal of preserving private stewardship to guarantee independence of action and to preserve value for the next generation.
- ✓ We affirm that preserving the land will mean preserving the farm for operational, historical, and conservation purposes.
- ✓ We affirm that planning for an expanding membership will entail creating additional housing.
- ✓ We believe that it will be advantageous for Roque Island to build and to maintain a good reputation in its community.
- ✓ Among our key operational objectives are ensuring the privacy of the owners, making the Island an attractive proposition for its members, and providing a productive and fruitful working environment for the staff.

George G. Herrick, CHAIRMAN
on behalf of the
Roque Island Gardner Homestead
Board of Trustees



Additions to Roque's Bird List

Trail's Flycatcher	Ipswich Sparrow
Cattle Egret	American Bittern
Least Bittern	Cooper's Hawk
Blue-winged Warbler	



OVER 30 LAMBS WERE BUTCHERED AND DRESSED IN THE MAIN BARN IN THE FALL OF '96.

TIER III: NEW SYSTEM OF MEMBERSHIPS

A new system for Tier III memberships has been devised to ensure the future of Roque's traditional farm and its natural environment. This plan involves several important changes:

1. The cost of membership has been *drastically* reduced to allow much wider participation - please consider joining!
2. Your membership can be customized to include those aspects most important to you and your household.
3. Farm members will be eligible for farm produce as needed with consideration for others on the Island at the time.
4. **Farm produce/rides will be available this year for a flat rate only** in order to eliminate itemized billing and reflect the real cost of raising animals and maintaining the barns and fields. If these products are important to you - help keep the farm going!
5. Your support is your voice. By supporting any aspect of the plan you vote to continue it. The plan will only work with a majority of the family responding.
6. Your willingness to share in the responsibility for the farm and conservation work will relieve the unfair burden on the original Tier III members, and even more importantly, enable the Trustees to continue to keep the basic Tier I dues down. If those who *can* will help, we can avoid assessing.

To sign up, please contact the Tanya Fischer (207.372.6760) - and if you have been to the Island already and used produce/animals you will be billed directly. [Taken from letter by Jennifer Donaldson - May 7, 1997.]

FARM		CONSERVATION	
Garden	Jr \$25/ Sr \$50	Trails & Bridges	Jr \$25/ Sr \$50
Dairy & Eggs	Jr \$50/ Sr \$100	Conservation	Jr \$25/ Sr \$50
Meats	Jr \$50/ Sr \$100	Roque History	Jr \$25/ Sr \$50
Horses	Jr \$75/ Sr \$150	Naturalist	\$200 or more...
Benefactor	\$500		

EXCERPTS



Philip Conkling's *Islands in Time* (1981), based on research at the Yale University Library, notes that the gravel bar from Mason's Bay (The Great Bar) was connected to Roque Island until 1805. Blunt's *American Coast Pilot* (1812 and 1867) both assert that: "There is a muddy bar that lies between Rogue's (sic) Island and the main land, but water enough on it at two hour's flood." The *Coast Pilot for the Atlantic Sea-Board, Gulf of Maine, U.S. Coast Guard Survey 1875* still says the bar was bare at low water. The connection to the mainland could account for the easy access, first by the native American

Indians and later by the first settlers. It could account for the scramble to sell shares in Roque Island between 1803 and 1806. It might explain why Roque Island does not always appear as an island in early charts and maps. The mainland link means that predators such as raccoons could have had easy access to the Island and that would have made it unlikely for puffins to nest there as some have supposed. There is no other way, for example, to explain the presence of salamanders on Roque Island. Confirmation of the mainland link provides much food for thought as we continue to learn more about our island's history.♦

It seems our forefathers struggled with the same issues we are addressing today....from a letter penned by John L. Gardner, Jr. to his brother, George A. Gardner dated July 8th 1888 (found by Cauley Lukens):

"The island is a great luxury and as long as we go there and care for it, it will cost us considerable money."

"Roque Island Farm Exemplifies Ingenuity, Efficiency"

On Roque Island east of Jonesport, farming is an intentional way of life. For generations, the island has been a working farm, providing food and a certain quality of life for its inhabitants. Today the farm carries the traditions of previous generations. These old ways can continue to teach us, and at the same time, the ingenuity of our predecessors can make us smile.

Specific farming techniques demonstrate the efficient use of resources and a lot of common sense. One example came out of a book of farm plans from the late 1800s. A drawing showed a chicken barn divided into separate apartments and yards to house several varieties of poultry. Each

yard had fruit trees which provided several benefits for the farmer. The trees provided shade for the poultry and protection against airborne predators. Vultures had a harder time swooping down and catching a chick wandering under the canopy of fruit trees.

The trees also benefited: enclosed in the chicken yard, they were protected from free ranging deer and they also benefited from the extra nutrients provided by the chicken droppings.

Considering our efforts today to recycle and minimize our waster stream, it is good to be reminded of ways which previous generations managed a lifestyle with often little waste, and an understanding of the cyclical nature of things.♦

[Excerpted from the August 1996 issue of Inter-Coastal News]

Weddings



Anna Alexandra Pertzoff, daughter of Alexander C. Pertzoff and grand-daughter of Olga Monks Pertzoff, wed Christopher Louis Nick in Chicago, Illinois on May 24th 1997.

Ariana Sileas Fischer, daughter of Tatiana & Julian Fischer and grand-daughter of Olga Monks Pertzoff, wed James Wilkie Gregg in Woodstock, Vermont on May 31st 1997.

Alexandra Giuliana Fischer, daughter of Tatiana & Julian Fischer and grand-daughter of Olga Monks Pertzoff, married Eliot Porter Angle at Roque Island on August 31st 1997.

Births



Jacob Stuart Wells was born on January 4th to Tatiana Pertzoff-Wells and Gregory Wells in Westchester, Pennsylvania.

Heather Elizabeth Monks was born on March 8th to Bryan and Valerie Monks in Portland, Maine.

These two will become members of RIGHC in 2015.

New Members



Mary Ellen Donaldson
Georgia Cutler Goodhue
Sophocles Nicholas Papanicolaou



THE 1997 WORK WEEK CREW



[CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT] URSULA*, MARY DONALDSON, JESSE*, JAMES GREGG, ADAM HERRICK, FIELD**, AND MARISA ANGELL**. [JOSHUA GONZALEZ NOT PRESENT IN PHOTO].

Participants of this year's Work Week spent their time clearing trails, stacking and cutting firewood, burning brush, helping with the farm, and cleaning up the garden. Many, many thanks goes out to them all for their help and dedication to the Island. (June 1997)

* friends of M. Donaldson

** friends of N. Keams

ISLAND STAFF

Owen Drumgool, Island Manager

Owen is a licensed captain and has spent most of his career running naturalist boat tours and working in the tourism industry. Owen's wife, Loretta, and their daughter, Dana, also live at the Island.

Doug Dodge, Boatman

Doug is a graduate of Maine Maritime and licensed captain. He grew up in Beals Island and has been at Roque for over a year now.

Mark Tenney, Cook

Mark is former college professor and currently a documentary film maker. He and his wife, Alicia, are taking a year long sabbatical at Roque.

Ed Harriman, Farmer

Ed recently retired from being an educator at the University of Maine Agricultural School. He has a long career as both a farmer and educator. Ed's wife, Gloria, is also a resident of the Island.

Amy Hilchey, Housekeeper

Amy grew up in Rockland and worked for Ken Rich while he was harbor master there. She is currently taking time off from college to work at Roque.

The joining of a building and the land ought to result in a sureness of place stronger for the union.

The location of future buildings on Roque Island should correspond to the long term land use plan and to an agreed architectural covenant.

New structures should interfere as little as possible with the natural ecosystem and watersheds. They should be as unobtrusive as possible, neither dominating their natural surroundings nor detracting from intrinsic natural values of the area. Whenever possible they should be built in regional styles with local materials. Examples of bad planning would include roads that block the flow of a stream, structures which frighten wildlife from water sources, and buildings sited above the horizon line to command a view.

Every site has three distinct places: a physical place with its earth, share of sunlight and aspect; a cultural place, the locus of the traditions of human activity - its history; and a spiritual place, or what we may refer to as its evocative presence - a realm of unlimited possibilities, which stirs our imagination and recalls images, memories and analogues. An important quality of architecture is how it signifies and dignifies a place on Earth. A structure gains strength from the allegiances it forms with the forces on a landscape. In using the physical place the architecture of the building draws the landscape into the composition, merging the two and rooting them in the same qualities.

In the main compound the relationship of the buildings to each other should reinforce our long held values and objectives to maintain an agreeable resort, a traditional Maine island farm and a nature conservation area. [Continued, page 6]

The Marriage of Alexandra Giuliana Fischer & Eliot Porter Angle

The thirty-first of August, nineteen hundred & ninety-seven



ALESSA AND ELIOT ANGLE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE WEDDING CEREMONY AT THE EDGE OF WEIR FIELD

As you have experienced the peace and beauty of this island in the past few days, I am sure that you have seen the face of God. He is here in the spirit of the ancient people: the Passamaquoddy, the Penobscot, and the Micmacs. He whispers through the grandfather trees by the ice pond.

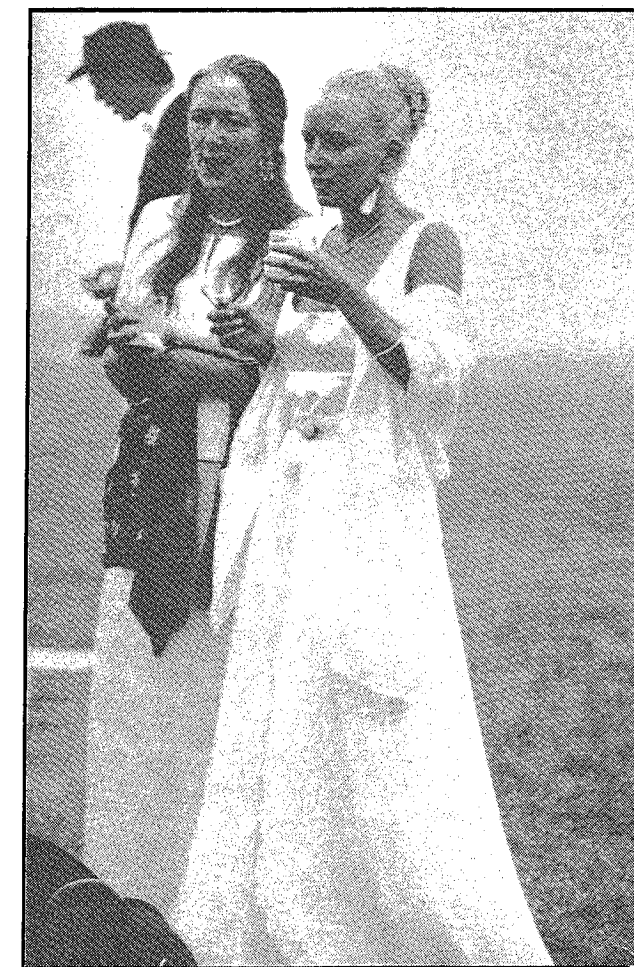
She looks through the eyes of the eagle and the osprey and listens through the ears of the deer and the field mouse. And, if we look deep enough within ourselves, we will find God there as well: wrapped in a cocoon of love, shining ever so faintly, asking to be recognized.

I would ask each of you to invoke all of these spirits to bless and sanctify this place and this ceremony, so that Alessa and Eliot may live in peace and love and trust so long as they both shall live. ♦

Opening words ministered and written by Kenneth M. Rich

The Fischer family hosted 40 friends and family on Roque Island during Labor Day weekend, utilizing all three guest houses - an unprecedented event.

A formal rehearsal dinner was held in the Gardner House on Friday night for all on-Island guests. On Saturday, 80 additional guests (who were staying at various places on the mainland) spent the day hiking around the Island, playing Capture the Flag and croquet. That evening a clambake was held, followed by fire works. All 120 guests reassembled Sunday at noon for the marriage ceremony in Weir Field and reception in Stump Field. ♦



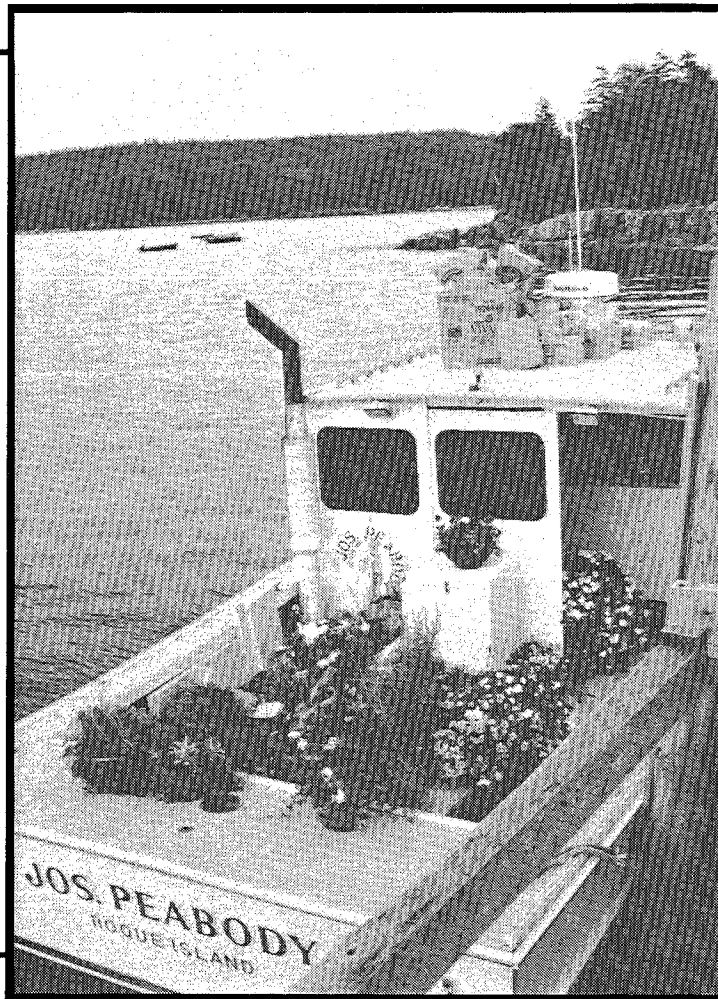
TANYA FISCHER AND ALESSA ANGLE DURING THE RECEPTION AT STUMP FIELD

SQUIRE'S POINT, *Continued*

The distance between them must ensure the comfort of discreet privacy. Yet the spaces between them can be related to the whole by arranging (to quote from Jefferson) "the minor articles of husbandry into *ferme onree*, interspersing occasionally the attributes of a garden" for attracting wildlife to complete the animation of the tableau. ♦

- G.G. Herrick

The Peabody
carrying supplies for
the wedding - filled
to the gills with
flowers (notice the
groceries on the roof!)



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