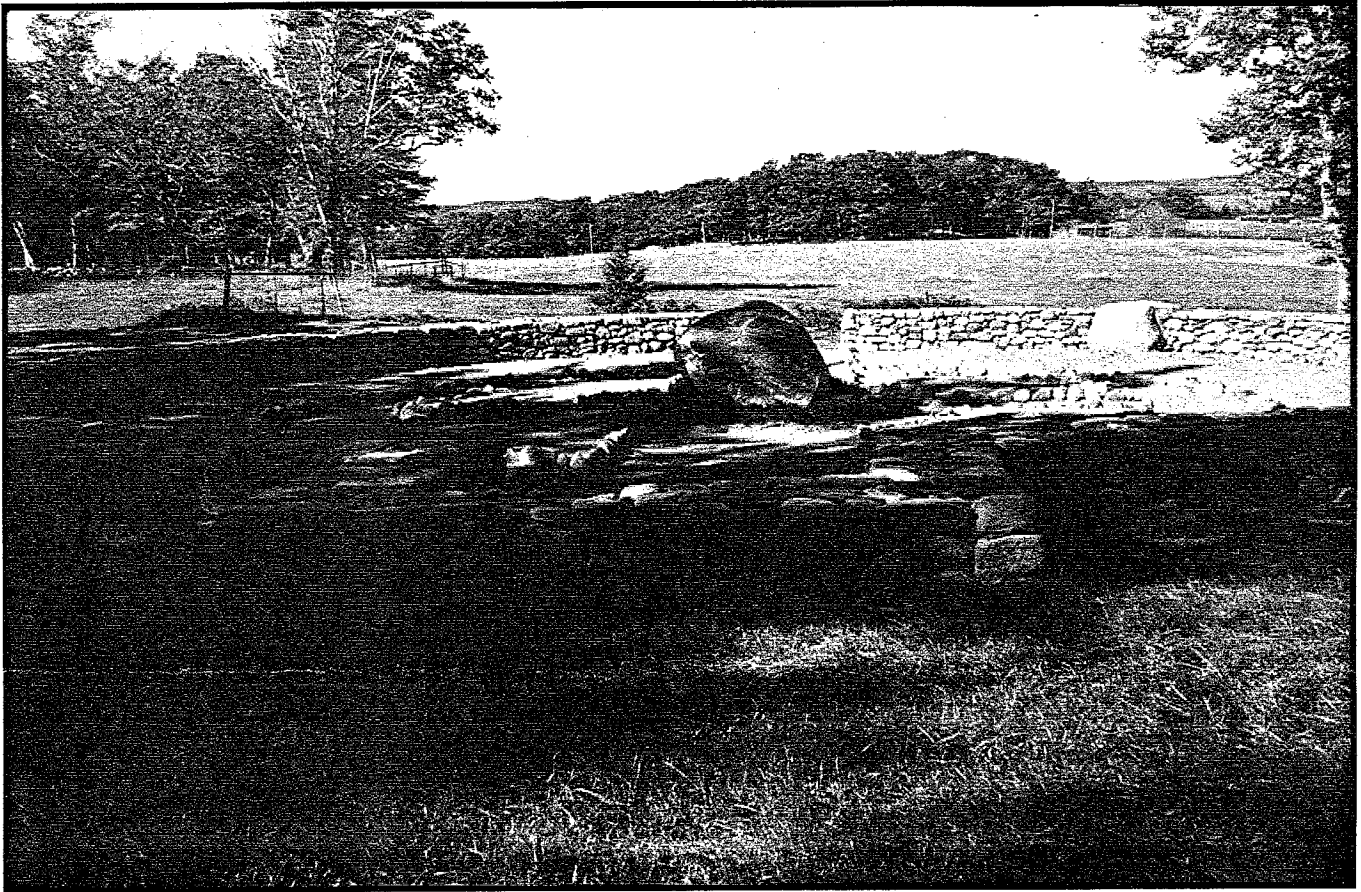

The Thoroughfare

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ROQUE ISLAND BURYING GROUND COMPLETE

June was a busy month at the Island. Because the new Burying Ground required deep excavation and many yards of compacted fill before the stonewall could be built, heavy-duty machinery had to be barged over from the mainland for use at the site. These machines did their job of which was digging and placing 4 large boulders to be part of the design of the wall and interior; the arrival of 3 stone masons on June.17 signaled the start of the wall. Six full working days later, the wall was complete; the interior design has been worked on during the summer. This fall, topsoil will be added and 2 oak trees and 7 maples will be planted around the back of the wall. The interior beds will be over planted with fescue, a gray-green soft grass with low maintenance; the exterior ground has already been sown with meadow grass and the paths will be covered with a mix of chipped bark and pine needles - an experimental wild flower garden awaits the assault of winter. The walls are beautiful; the process has both pleased and interested summer visitors. Many members have contributed to the costs involved; thanks to all of you.

ELLEN M. HIGGINS

The burying ground will be consecrated on October 11th. The Higgins family will be present to honour their father and grandfather, Austin Higgins - the first family member to be memorialized in the Island burying ground.

I remember last year's work week. It was me, Nick Higgins, his kids, and his friend Harwell. We built a bridge. We joked around. We were a small crew of five. It was one of the best summers of my life. This year I expected nothing less. So imagine my surprise when I arrived back in Maine to find out that seventeen people had signed on to help out with projects on the island this year. Suddenly my notion of a quiet retreat went up in smoke. Seventeen people! This wasn't something casual any more. This was an army! Who was going to be in charge; and how do you feed seventeen people?!

The whole Red House was booked. Every room was filled, and we still didn't have enough spaces. Thank goodness for my grandmother! Ellen swooped in to save the day by taking in all the overflow workers into the Monks House. Wonderful! This only left me in charge of one house - one very large house. And to top it all off, it was full of all the kids. I guess the adults figured I could handle them. They were right, more or less. (For some reason the back door floor mat ended up inside my bed, as well as a giant rock inside my pillow...)

Well, to make a long story short, for about two days, life on the island resembled that of a kibbutz. Ellen and Charlotte Alexander made sure that we all got fed while the rest of us tried to tackle whatever jobs we felt needed work. Gretchen and Rebecca took a GPS and cleared some trails while others of us helped clean up around the new cemetery.

However, this year, our main project was to build tent platforms. Nick Higgins first came up with the idea after checking out Point Olga. We decided to build

them inside the old house foundation, so they would be less obtrusive. Walking along the road, everything looks the same; but walk a few feet up the hill, and you will see two very large decks where anyone can pitch a tent. Hidden, yet still out in the open. In a word, brilliant.

Well, a tent platform is one thing, but what's a camp site without a brand new fire pit? Kitty Gonzalez and her friend Verissa Montalbano tackled this project. The new fire site has a beautiful view of Paradise Cove and the dock. It also has two benches, compliments of myself and Vinny Montalbano.

PROJECT WEEK 2001

Participants: Vincent Phillip Montalbano, Verissa Ann Montalbano, Sam Roos, Alex Higgins, John Patrick Monks Higgins, John Peabody Monks Higgins, Rebecca Barry, Gretchen Smith, Nick Higgins, Jennifer Donaldson, Charlotte Alexander, Ellen Higgins, Lynn Wagner, Dan Kessler, Thomas Gardner, Mary Donaldson, Kitty Gonzalez.

Something was still missing... Camping in the woods. Roasting marshmallows. Nature everywhere... Nature? Ah yes, the call of nature. We needed an outhouse! Which begged the question, how does one build an outhouse? Well, you needed a hole, but a real outhouse deserves a house! Jennifer Donaldson knew all about building things, and sketched us out a schematic for building a roofed outhouse, complete with bench, toilet seat, and door. No problem! Well, a few problems, actually: Jenny had to leave early, and we still had to finish the thing.

Several bruised days later, I found out just how difficult this project was. By

the last day, we had a roof that didn't leak, a bench that didn't wobble, a toilet seat that was rather comfortable (thanks, Ed!), and a skirt around the outside of the site so nothing could crawl underneath and get trapped in the rather deep hole that we had dug. Last but not least, Vinny and I put up the door. This part is deserving of its own paragraph.

This outhouse had a mind of its own and really didn't want to be completed. First, we tried bolting in the screws into the frame, but the screws didn't stick, and we had to relocate them. Then the door was too big, and had to be sawed down. When we finally managed to tack the thing on, it swung outwards instead of in. So we put in some latches, and for good measure, we even put in a door stop. Even this last proved to be recalcitrant. When I finally put down my hammer, it was with glee that I declared the project finished!

To sum it all up, I came up to Roque with some trepidation, but found out that, despite my fears, I had one of the best times of my life (except for the bit about the floor mat and the rock...) Isn't it strange how one can say they had the best time of their lives every single time they go up to Roque? Perhaps that's part of its magic. Thanks to one and all for the hard work!

JOHN PATRICK MONKS HIGGINS

P.S. There's a small, makeshift web site with pictures if anyone wants to take a look: <http://homepage.mac.com/jhiggins/PhotoAlbum.html> This site won't be up forever, so take a look before it gets taken down.

NEWS FROM ROQUE

For those of you who have visited Roque Island this summer, probably the most eye-catching change is the newly constructed cemetery. A beautiful dry stonewall, using material selected from Popplestone Beach, encloses a sixty foot diameter burial ground. The structure and the site are very impressive.

In order to de-stump, de-rock, and level the site, it was necessary to barge on four pieces of heavy equipment. While the equipment - an excavator, a bulldozer, a 14 yard dump truck, and a motorized gravel screen - was here on the island we were able to complete eight additional projects that add usability to the island:

1. The gravel approach to Shorey Cove dock was rebuilt using construction fabric, heavy stone, and gravel topping. We trust that this upgraded dockyard will withstand the rigors of flood tides and heavy Northeast seas.
2. Utilizing a generous gift from George Herrick, Carlton Field was finally de-stumped, leveled and seeded. This re-establishes one more very impressive vista on Roque Island. You will not want to miss a visit there whenever you are on the island.
3. In the process of reclaiming Carlton Field, the north half of the Carlton Field gravel pit was filled with stumps from the cemetery site, and waste material dug from the ditches on the hills by the ice-pond. That area was leveled and seeded also.
4. Using much of the gravel, which was discovered when constructing the base of the new cemetery, extensive road repairs were completed on the hills on each side of the ice pond. We believe this rebuilding of the road and ditches will eliminate the continual need for road repairs in that area.
5. A new road was constructed to the beach at Patten Cove that will allow trucking of pulpwood and logs from the lower end of the island for barging to the

mainland. We hope this winter that it will be feasible to harvest some of the excess and beetle-infested trees in that area.

6. The Bonney Field gravel pit was expanded approximately ¼ acre to the south to provide access to construction-quality gravel for road repairs.
7. The roads and culverts on the Patten Cove Road were repaired, and in some cases rebuilt.
8. An additional gift from George Herrick enabled the de-stumping and leveling behind the "Gap" on the Patten Cove Road. This area will probably be re-seeded to hardwoods in the spring.

As you will see, the presence of the heavy equipment and operator on the island enabled much work to be accomplished, which substantially upgraded the infrastructure.

Other things did continue on the island as well. Project Week, under the capable direction of John Patrick Monks Higgins, saw the construction of two tent platforms within the foundation of the old house at Mill Field, and the construction of an outhouse.

Our island barge was completely overhauled, which included the construction of an in-hull fuel tank and a new aluminum wheelhouse. Newly painted, it is very impressive.

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Easterly view as the fog rolls out from the newly cleared, Carleton Field.

THE RUGGLES HOUSE: A LOCAL EXCURSION

For the first time in the Goodhue family history of visiting Roque Island, we left the island mid-stay to explore the mainland. Had it been a gorgeous day, rather than an overcast drizzling one, we would not have ventured forth.

Our destination was Columbia Falls to visit the Ruggles House. We had often wondered exactly what the Ruggles House sign on Route 1 would lead us to. With a pleasant surprise, we discovered that only minutes away from the Roque Bluffs dock is one of the finest examples a small Federal period home in New England. Although the house was built by wealthy aristocrat Thomas Ruggles in 1818-1820, the abode was restored to its original splendor just fifty years ago, allowing visitors today a glimpse into the early 19th Century.

Ruggles and his wife, Ruth Clapp, came to the small town in northeastern Maine in 1796, where he quickly became a crucial member of the community. Thomas began the building of his home in 1818 after going to Boston to find his architect, Aaron Sherman. In addition,

he brought back Alver Peterson. Ruggles would later lock Peterson in his house for a period of two years with nothing but a penknife, an act that resulted in the incredible woodcarvings that cover the living room fireplace and molding today. Although the house was completed in 1820, Ruggles could not dwell in his abode for long. In December of that same year, he died of a heart attack.

Ruggles son, Fredrick, inherited the house where he eventually came to live with his wife, Caroline Bucknam, and two daughters, Lizzie and Emily. They lived in the house for the rest of their lives. By 1900, Lizzie found herself alone in the house with no money. She had retreated to living in one room. After her death, the house was left in ruins and inherited by her cousins.

Cousin Mary Ruggles Chandler decided that her grandfather's house was worth preserving. Her dedication to this end was guaranteed in 1930 when she turned down

a representative of the Metropolitan Museum of Art who offered her \$10,000 for the grand and unique flying staircase that dominates the front hall. (The flying staircase and Peterson's hand-carved moldings alone, make the trip to the Ruggles House worthwhile.) Chandler's determination and dedication resulted in the establishment of a non-profit organization in 1950 that had the purpose of preserving the house. The organization still manages the house today.

Our tour guide, a member of this preservation team, filled our heads with interesting facts and stories regarding the history of the house: In addition to the Metropolitan wanting the flying staircase, the Smithsonian is dying to purchase the sideboard in the dining room. The artworks that cover the walls of the house are pieces by Lizzie and Emily. "We know the unsigned works are Lizzie's," said our

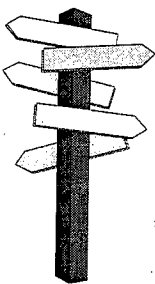
guide, "because unlike her sister she was trying to make a living by selling her art. By signing a work she would reveal her gender which she feared would prevent buyers from purchasing her art." My favorite fact that we learned was when my younger brother, Willy, inquired as to why the beds were so small. "In those days", our guide answered,

"People would get their hair done once a week. In an effort not ruin their new hairdos, they slept sitting up, thus eliminating the need for longer beds."

Follow signs to the Ruggles House off of Route 1 to the center of Columbia Falls and find out for yourself more of the goings on in 19th Century northeastern Maine. One can either go to simply enjoy the Ruggles House or one can go to support the capital campaign that was launched in 2000. The campaign was initiated to raise \$500,000 to re-create the kitchen ell that was torn down, to create an education program for children, and to provide an endowment fund to assure the home's future.

The Ruggles House is open during the summer months on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GEORGIA GOODHUE



"...only minutes from the Roque Bluffs dock we discovered one of the finest examples of a small Federal period home in New England."

SQUIRE'S POINT



First the kindling: cedar shingles from the dump, scraps from the boathouse, driftwood... After you have collected your supply, it's time to consider the firewood.

You can specialize in your favorite firewood or impress with a blend of woods: birch or white pine to start the fire, something heavier with greater fuel value for a longer lasting burn. The best of common firewoods weigh around 40 pounds per cubic foot and have an ash content of about one percent. You can always import some exotic wood as a conversation piece: scented sandalwood from India perhaps?

Gnarled old apple wood is best. It doesn't stack neatly, but it looks the way wood from the forest or orchard should. It burns cleanly, brightly, and ever so serenely, filling the room with a delicate fragrance. Almost as important is the ash. Apple wood's clean white ash is the supreme ornament of the well-kept fireplace. The well tended and combed ash bank honors the household and boasts of the examined life. Aficionados carry sacks of apple ash between their winter and summer homes. In 1912, one of Rose Gardner's most prized wedding presents was a sack of apple ash to start the family hearth.

GEORGE G. HERRICK

Editor's note: Unfortunately, the island is running low on hardwood, but the perfect wood-pile and the tidy and sifted ash bank are things we can aspire to.



NEWS FROM ROQUE, CONTINUED

On the down side, we were invaded again this year by armyworms and lost some of our hay and much of our pasture. This, plus the very dry conditions, required feeding hay much earlier than expected.

Roque Island suffered extensive damage from high winds during the winter: over 300 trees were blown down. A large number were on the west side along the entire length of the island, all the way to Patten Cove. We are salvaging trees for lumber and firewood, and also hope to ship some as pulpwood during the winter.

We will try to keep changes from occurring too rapidly during the coming months, but don't stay away too long! We want you to remember all the beauty here that never changes, that recalls to mind all the good times you have enjoyed here.

ED HARRIMAN, ISLAND MANAGER

FROM THE ARCHIVES

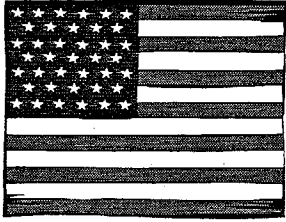


The consecration of the Harmony Grove Cemetery in Salem, in which reposes our founder, Joseph Peabody, took place on 14 June 1840. Peabody and two of his sons, Francis and George, were among the 53 subscribers for the purchase of the cemetery. The program for the ceremony contains the text of the 33 page Address by Daniel Appleton White. The text is replete with sentiments appropriate to us today as we contemplate the consecration of the new burying ground at Roque Island. Here are some excerpts:

"We are now assembled, my friends, to consecrate this most valuable possession of a burying place, to the great and holy purpose for which it is designated. It is indeed a lovely spot, already consecrated in our affections, and now to be endeared by more hallowed associations... Whatever diversities of sentiment and interest may excite us elsewhere, they follow us not to this sacred and beautiful retreat. Here all is serenity, peace, and harmony. It is a delightful privilege to meet here in the spirit which the place inspires, and engage in a service which unites all hearts and interests our deepest affections."

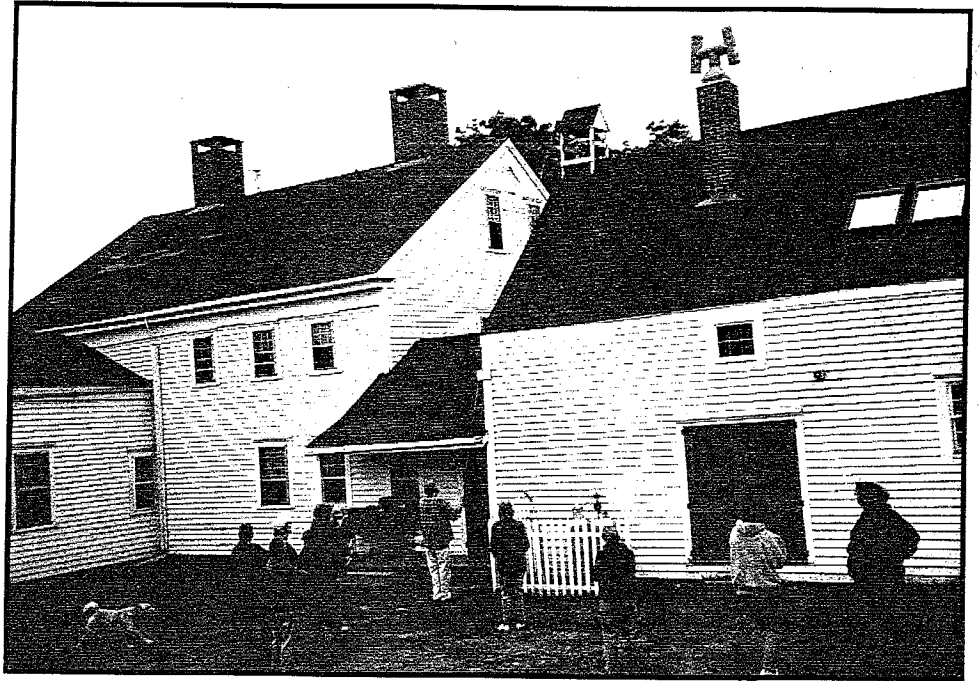
"Let us congratulate ourselves, my friends, may let us bless God, that the object is now completely accomplished, that the very spot, of all others best suited for this noble purpose, the spot upon which all eyes and all hearts have been fixed, is made sure to us for a possession of a burying place, with all the trees that are in the field, that are in the borders round about."

Contributed by George Herrick, who recently purchased a copy of the original program.

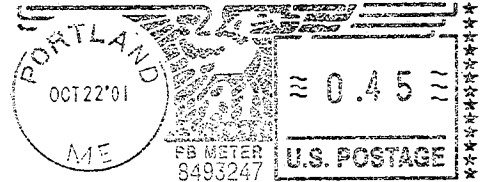


On Thursday, September 13, at noon family and staff gathered together to ring the Old Farm House bell, observing a minute of silence in conjunction with people across the world remembering the tragedy of September 11. George Monks rang the bell and Ed Harriman delivered a moving prayer. This ceremony connected us with others; our isolation on the Island on one hand was felicitous, on the other somewhat lacking in human-kind contact.

ELLEN M. HIGGINS



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