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# The Thoroughfare

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WINTER 2001

VOLUME IX, ISSUE I



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## NEWS FROM ROQUE

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The New Year is already moving rapidly along. Snow has been a little more abundant than usual so far. The snow-covered islands are beautiful, but the snow, along with the sub-freezing weather, makes projects a little more of a challenge at this time of year.

The windstorm at Christmas time - in excess of 80 mph - blew down quite a few spruce trees. Ninety-eight trees blew down on the west shore road. Just clearing the road will supply us lumber and firewood for quite some time. Except for some lost shingles, the island buildings did not seem to suffer much damage in the wind, and our boats came through the storm safely.

We did lose our Belted Galloway bull, Majesty, in December. One morning

he did not appear for breakfast, which was unusual, and a search of the pasture found him dead, apparently of a strangulated rumen.

The new sheep are doing fine and we are looking already to lambing season in April. We should have a substantial lamb flock on the island when the family starts to visit in the Spring.

The Woodmizer now has a new home, protected from rain and snow. The sawmill building, which was constructed west of the poultry houses, was completed in early December. The mill is now inside and makes lumber production a lot more friendly task on wet or snowy days.

Nina Herrick and guests visited the island over Thanksgiving. We enjoyed their visit, and did not even have to detain them beyond their departure goal

because of bad weather!

Six Belted Galloways were sold in early fall, since our beef herd was getting larger than needed. We now have three brood cows, two bull calves, one Jersey cow, Galaxy, and Galaxy's heifer calf, Ruby, who is growing up rapidly.

In November a rock gathering crew was here for three days and have stockpiled about 50 ton of rock near the new cemetery site.

At this time of year we are mostly processing firewood and lumber, clearing paths through the snow, and trying to keep from being blown away. We look forward to warmer days and your return to visit Roque Island in 2001. †

*Ed Harriman, Island Manager*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

"Collision with a Bear," From the *Machias Union*,  
September 12, 1854.

As Mr. Benj. Rogers of Addison was going from Jonesboro to the former place on Tuesday afternoon last, he was met by a large bear, who manifested a very evident unwillingness of extending the usual courtesy of giving half the road, setting himself on his haunches, gnashing his teeth and showing other signs of hostility. Mr. R., being armed with a six barreled revolver discharged two or three shots, taking slight effect in the bear's shoulder, raising his anger 5440. R., not liking to let go his remaining shots, thought best to take leg, bail and for a long time it was "nip and tuck", between Rogers and Bruin, but the former being swiftest of foot distanced his bearship, and effected a safe retreat. †

In the "50 years ago today" column of the April 7, 1932 issue of a local newspaper Gilbert Longfellow is reported to have sold his island "near Jonesport" to George A. Gardner of Boston for \$22,000. The figure reported in *History of Roque Island* is \$10,000. †

## FLOTSAM



The flag at Shorey Cove was flown at half mast on January 18<sup>th</sup> in memory of Philip C. Cutler (Pip).



Alexander Constantine Smith was born on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2000 to Andrea Barry-Smith and John Smith.



Lucas Aleksandr Fischer was born on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2000 to Anastasia I. Fischer.

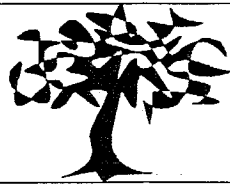


Capt. Doug Dodge and Amy Hilchey were married on November 19, 2000 in Beals Island, Maine.



Jason N.R. Herrick just received his doctorate (D.Phil) on collectors during the French Revolution from Balliol College, Oxford.

## SQUIRE'S POINT



Connected farm buildings are a conspicuous and remarkable aspect of the New England countryside.

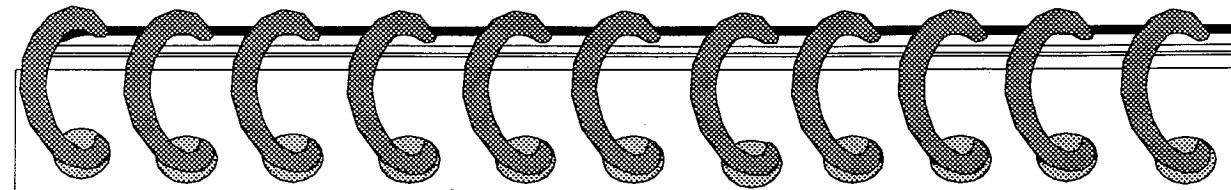
A children's verse from the 19<sup>th</sup> century describes the typical organization: "Big house, little house, back house, barn". In a 1984 book by that title, Thomas C. Hubka analyzes the historical record of such building arrangements, which were most common in southern Maine. It will be seen that the architecture of the Old Farm House, with its three connected structures, albeit lacking a barn, fits rather neatly into the plan.

First there was the big house which usually faced the road (read dock). Usually identified as the farmhouse by the farm family, it contained the formal parlor room on the main floor and the bedrooms or chambers on the second floor. Next to it was the little house, often connected as an ell to lessen surface contact between the buildings and thereby permit existing doors and windows to function efficiently. The little house was, and still is, the kitchen building, an active living center which constituted a major work area for kitchen support and laundry. With the need for firewood at all times of year, it was only natural for the little house to be connected to a woodshed which in the Roque Island plan, serves also as equipment storage - the role of the 19<sup>th</sup> century "back house".

The most popular reason given for making connected farms emphasizes the desirability of a winter passage to the barn. But, Hubka argues, there were other considerations serving a purpose throughout the year. Certainly there was some heat conservation where the buildings were linked and protection from bad weather. Also the separation of the buildings offered a convenient division of activity centers which made for flexibility in all seasons and a neater appearance indoors.

Approaching our Old Farm House or circling it on a walk allows us to read the architecture in the human landscape it created. Living and working in the house connects us with the daily imperatives of an earlier day. †

George G. Herrick



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

At the Annual Meeting on December 2nd 2000, Secretary Jason Herrick announced that Stewart Gardner and Ellen Monks Higgins are the newly elected Trustees.

The Board of Trustees has endowed a small fruit tree orchard (in the garden) in honour of Tanya Fischer's 26 consecutive years of trusteeship. All of our thanks go to her for her extraordinary contributions to the management of the Island and its finances.

We started an important New England town tradition of honouring the oldest member in the community. At the lunch following the meeting, Nick Higgins presented George P. Gardner with a handsome Malacca cane which we hope will be passed down for generations to come.

For the upcoming year, the Trustees are reviewing a number of capital projects:

- ✍ The purchase of an 8' inflatable boat with small engine—this boat has been purchased primarily for safety reasons and is for staff use only
- ✍ Renovation of the 3rd floor of the Farmhouse (addition of bathroom and two dormers) so as to accommodate temporary/contracted personnel
- ✍ Purchase a 2nd tractor for general island use (the current one, which is primarily funded by the farm is used more than half the time for general island operations)
- ✍ Update the Red House kitchen
- ✍ Rebuild the landing craft (barge) so that it can transport fuel properly and to insure its usability for several more years
- ✍ Compilation of a "master site plan" for the Squire's Point area of the Island. The firm of Mohr & Serendin (landscape architects in Portland) has been contracted for this purpose. After reviewing our current set-up, terrain and existing systems they will make recommendations as to where we may place future buildings—sheds, outbuildings and housing.
- ✍ There is also the replacement of the navigation system on the *Peabody*, possible replacement of the septic tank at the Farmhouse, re-roofing of the sheep barn and winter safety devices installed at the Roque Bluffs and Shorey Cove docks.

As you can see, most of the items on the docket are either to accommodate our increasing demands on the infrastructure or related to updating the safety systems on the Island.

The management is developing a plan in which the staff will be configured with three "area heads" that will have either full-time or seasonal assistants (whichever the area may demand). The areas have been defined as: (1) Waterfront/Equipment, (2) Houses/Produce, and (3) Farm/Infrastructure.

### 2001 Board of Trustees:

Ann Barry, Chris Cutler, Stewart Gardner, Randy Goodhue, Ari Gregg, Jason Herrick, Nina Herrick, Ellen M. Higgins, Randy Mikes, and Tanya Pertzoff-Wells.

### 2001 Elected Officers:

Nick Higgins (Chairman), Chris Cutler (Vice-Chair), Jason Herrick (Secretary), and Randy Goodhue (Treasurer). Tanya Fischer has been requested to remain in the role of Comptroller.



## THE JOY OF COOKING AT ROQUE



I do not think that one would argue with me if I were to say that one of the best parts of Roque is the eating that takes place when one goes to stay on the island. The fresh eggs collected daily from underneath the hens; the produce of all kinds grown in the garden; the real butter and cream made by hand from the cows' milk; the island's wild blueberries; and the availability of the sea's most tasty creatures make the experience of eating on Roque Island a unique one. Thus cooking and eating are essential components of one's stay on the island. If one morning on Roque you wake up to rain and fog, do not be discouraged that you cannot spend the day at Great Beach lounging in the sun. Rather, rejoice that you can spend the day using the island's resources to create something delicious. If you have half a day, I would suggest spending it making pizza. Not the kind of pizza made from English muffins and tomato sauce, but gourmet pizza made from scratch with Roque's finest vegetables. You should, however, be forewarned that this pizza will take some time but it is for this exact reason that this pizza will be a special treat for everyone including you.

If you are planning on having pizza for lunch, you should begin making the pizza bread after breakfast. If you would like to have pizza for dinner, you can wait to start the dough until after lunch. To make the crust one must get the following ingredients and prepare them as follows:

- 1 Pkg. Dry Yeast
- 2 c. Lukewarm Water
- 2 tsp. Salt
- 1 tbsp. Sugar
- Olive Oil

Dissolve yeast in water. Let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in salt and sugar. Gradually

mix in flour until it will not take any more. Knead on floured board for 3 to 4 minutes. Let the dough rise for 1 hour in greased bowl, covered, in a warm spot. Punch down and divide dough into four pieces. Stretch the pieces of dough into 10" circles. Put them on a buttered baking sheet, cover and allow them to rise for 45 minutes. Brush with olive oil. Cook at 400 degrees for 12-15 minutes with a pan of boiling water on the lower oven rack.

Once the pizza bread is completed, is up to you to be creative with what kinds of pizza you will make. Some tasty combinations are goat cheese, fresh peppers, broccoli and onions; fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, basil and mushrooms; tomato sauce and fresh basil for a red pizza; or olive oil, garlic, and salt for a white pizza. The final product is your choice. You should try to use as many of Roque's fresh vegetables and spices as possible. Combining these with the homemade dough is unbeatable!

If you do not have the patience for an entire day in the kitchen, there are plenty of dishes or goods to make that will take less time and will still taste fantastic. If you are a breakfast lover and you, or someone in your family likes to pick blueberries, there is nothing better than homemade blueberry muffins on Roque Island. This recipe is a family favorite and takes no longer than an hour. Before you start, you should pick 1 cup of wild blueberries:

- 1 cup Fresh Blueberries
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup Sour Cream

1 Egg

In larger bowl, mix salt, BP, BS, and sugar. In small bowl, beat sour cream and egg. Add beaten sour cream and egg to other ingredients and mix well. Add blueberries. Bake at 350 degrees for ½ hour in greased muffin pan.

I guarantee these muffins will taste better than any other blueberry muffin you have had, especially if they are made with Roque Island blueberries.

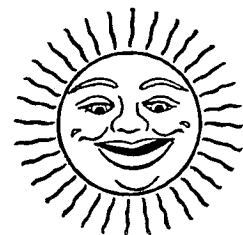
If neither spending an entire day cooking nor getting up extra early to have hot muffins on the breakfast table appeal to you, maybe something a little sweeter will appear. On Roque, you should never turn down desert and the following recipe will make every calorie worth the splurge. The following recipe for chocolate sauce, which I made up, has made me famous among my family and friends because of the way it hardens a few moments after it is poured on the ice cream:

- 1 pkg. Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1 lb. Butter
- ½ cup Sugar
- 2 tsp. Vanilla

Melt chocolate in a double boiler. Add butter and stir continuously. Once butter has melted entirely, add sugar and vanilla. Remove from heat and serve immediately over vanilla ice cream.

Bon Appetit! ✦

Georgia Goodhue



## ROQUE ISLAND FORESTRY REPORT

*Forestry Committee Report as was presented at the Annual Meeting on December 3, 2000.*

Roque Island has had a forestry program in some form for many years. I am sure many of you have seen the most recent evidence of this on the west shore side of the island. This area has been thinned with monies from the TSI program. The stand is now growing on productive soil, and the terrain is operable, accessible and aesthetically pleasing.

The forest on Roque Island is an even-aged, mature forest that is in need of both thinning and harvest. Because of its age and condition, it is susceptible to possibly devastating occurrences.

The Spruce Bark Beetle has been confirmed on the Island by the state entomologist. The beetle is attracted to the larger old-growth trees. Without pre-

ventative action, this infestation can spread quickly. We are also experiencing, as some of you know, numerous blow-down areas. These blow-downs occur when a forest becomes mature and is overly dense, causing root systems to become infirm. Thinning promotes stronger root systems, and harvesting certain areas creates uneven-aged growth, which encourages development of a wind-firm forest. It is with these issues and others in mind that the Forestry Committee believes that the time has come to take the next step in keeping Roque's forest healthy by continuing forward with our forestry plan. In addition, it is important for us to not neglect our fiduciary responsibilities as trustees of Roque Island. The forest on Roque is an asset that could produce income, at the least enough to

cover the cost of the harvest. We are presently in contact with Georgia Pacific. Initially, the Forestry Committee is looking to contract with Georgia Pacific to harvest 1000 to 2000 cords of varying grades of lumber. Under this contract, Georgia Pacific would be responsible for all phases of the harvest. Roque Island would have our forester, Teresa Davis, regularly supervising all phases of the operation on Roque Island. Ed Harriman, our manager, would also be working closely with Teresa Davis and Georgia Pacific, thus adding an additional layer of on-site supervision. We are currently

studying various forms of contracts, and we hope to make a site visit to a similar-sized project in the area being done by Georgia Pacific. It is our intention to begin this work in the fall of 2001. The areas that have been designated by our forester are the west shore area where we have already thinned, and possibly an area on Great Spruce, an area that would benefit greatly in terms of being made once again

accessible for walking and picnicking.

The Forestry Committee and Trustees are excited about this proposed plan. We envision it as the next step towards a sound and real forestry program, one that will enhance Roque Island's natural beauty by promoting healthy forests, while at the same time protecting a potential source of income well into the future. ✦

Chris Cutler,  
Chair of the Forestry Committee



The Woodmizer Shed during construction. (11/00)



## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

### ON FARMING...

1. Anon. *Barn Plans and Outbuildings* (1896)
2. Beam, Lura. *A Maine Hamlet* (1957)
3. Beston, Henry. *Northern Farm, A Chronicle of Maine* (1948)
4. Pearson, Haydn S. *New England Flavor, Memories of a Country Boyhood* (1961)
5. Silber, Terry. *A Small Farm in Maine* (1988)

### Bluffs House For Rent

The Bluffs House is again for rent this spring, summer and fall - increments of a week with price to RIGHC members of \$500.

If you would like to reserve time, please call the rental agent, Barbara, at Due East Realty (207) 733-5511 as soon as possible before it gets fully booked. It is already taken for the last week in May, and probably the whole month of June. ✦

## PROJECT WEEK 2001

JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>

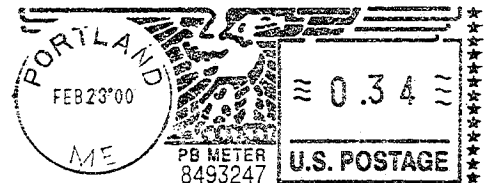
***COME ONE, COME ALL!***

Volunteers will be overlapping with the masons who will be working on the walls of the Burying Ground, so there will be an opportunity to work with some master craftsmen. Remember, you get free room and board during your stay! *Until a contact has been designated, please call Nina Herrick if you are interested in attending (202.337.6699) ✦*

### The Thoroughfare

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*Deadline for the spring issue: April 30, 2001.  
Please contact Nina Herrick with any questions.*