
Thoroughfare

November 2006

Volume 14, Issue 1

News From Roque

The signs of winter approaching are showing on Roque. The wind is picking up, the thermometer is dropping, the birch trees are showing their colors, the family houses are empty and being closed, some farm animals are being taken off, equipment is being serviced and stored, firewood is being harvested, the staff is starting to dress in layers, the garden is being put to bed and the final lawn mowing for 2006 has taken place.

It has been a busy year on the island. Numerous projects have been completed and some are continuing. The family houses along with the barn saw major work during the year. We are continuing to replace fencing around the barnyard, a project that never seems to end. Major kudos go out to all the family members who spent hours clearing the trails throughout the archipelago. This is a never ending project.

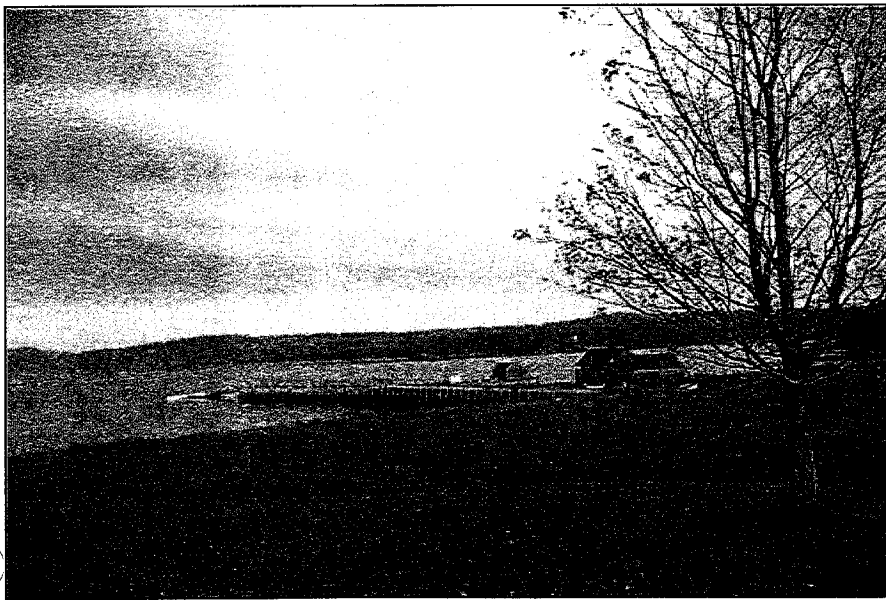
On the waterfront, the Sand Peep saw more than normal use this guest season and the Loon made many trips around the islands. The Peabody was only out of commission for a couple of days which is a big improvement from years past. Our added parking on the mainland was a big asset to the family.

The staff is looking forward to the winter months. We have projects planned for just about any weather that we encounter. Selena and I are planning to visit family over

Thanksgiving and the remainder of the staff will be away for Christmas.

Keep Roque in mind for your holiday shopping. We have many items available for gift giving. Please call Selena at (207) 263-6155 to find out what we have and to place your orders.

-Bruce



Autumn on Roque
Photo taken by Keith Berger

Chairman's Notes

The Board held its annual Trustees Weekend on Roque October 13-15. Trustees, Georgia Goodhue Reath, Tassia Smith, Gretchen Covino, Tanya Fischer, Posy Dana, Nick Higgins, Jason Herrick and Randy Mikes, Trustee Observers, Ben Alexander and Roo Reath, and Treasurer Randy Goodhue conducted two days of meetings regarding various Island issues. The weekend was marked by gorgeous weather, a midnight hike to St. Roque, a few holes on the links at Roque Island Golf Club with course designer Randy Goodhue, some trail clearing on Great Spruce and thorough discussion of every item on the agenda.

Some highlights of the weekend discussion, as well as current news:

Independent staff housing Earlier this year, plans to remodel the farmhouse to provide more independent quarters were scuttled as impractical and efforts began to design an independent structure. It will be a small structure with a loft placed in the pasture, west of the chicken coops and wood mizer shed. The independent structure is designed to permit the hiring of competent and longer lasting staff. The project will present the first step for implementing alternative energy to the island and freeing up an existing staff structure, either the farmhouse or the manager's house, for family use.

Island equipment Due to need and wear and tear, a plan has been put into effect to purchase new equipment and provide appropriate storage. A new John Deere tractor has been purchased and a new dump trailer is on order. The trailer will eliminate the need for the dump truck. A Kawasaki "Mule" with seating for up to five has replaced the Gator. A used pickup was purchased to serve as the family truck and we are presently looking for a new boat to replace the Buzz Boat. It was also determined to purchase another Mule and a used four wheel ATV for staff use. In turn, one of the staff trucks will be removed from the island.

Refuse heap Arrangements are being made to remove the contents of the "dump" behind the sheep barn and elsewhere on the island (old appliances, building scrap, old windows, etc). This is considered an effort long overdue.

Elections A discussion was had regarding elections next spring. Almost three years ago the bylaws were amended to provide for elections every three years. A newly elected trustee can serve up to three consecutive terms. Existing trustees who were reelected were "stair-stepped" with regard to remaining terms. Jason Herrick and yours truly are not eligible to run in the next election. The remaining trustees are eligible for one or two remaining terms. The Nominations and Elections Committee will in the near future make contact with the membership to begin soliciting individuals interested in becoming a trustee beginning in May 2007. Please begin thinking about members of your own families who you would like to be considered.

Continuing discussions were had about future budget concerns. The Finance Committee will begin planning an effort to address this issue through various means. A mailing to the membership will likely be sent after the new year.

Cheers,
Randy Mikes

Squire's Point - Downeast Saltfish Dinner

Caroline Howard King's *When I Lived in Salem, 1822-1866* (1937), gives an authentic picture of the well to do in Salem at the time of Joseph Peabody. She describes with relish the saltfish dinner her family always had on Saturdays:

"It was served with beets, carrots, potatoes and cucumbers or lettuce; and egg sauce and Essex sauce (made from little bits of fried salt pork) were eaten with it. The legitimate way of enjoying all these good things was to mix them together, making your plate look like a painter's pallet with various colors of the vegetables, the whole amalgamated and softened by the pale yellow of the egg sauce, and it was rarely that any one who once tasted this dainty mixture did not demand a 'second fare', which was the orthodox Salem way of asking to have his plate replenished."

President Washington was also fond of fish:

"His Saturday dinners, week in and week out, consisted of boiled potatoes, beets and onions with soaked out codfish all covered with sizzling fried pork scraps and egg sauce - the regulation Downeast saltfish dinner." William Hutchinson Rowe, *The Maritime History of Maine, Three Centuries of Shipbuilding and Seafaring*

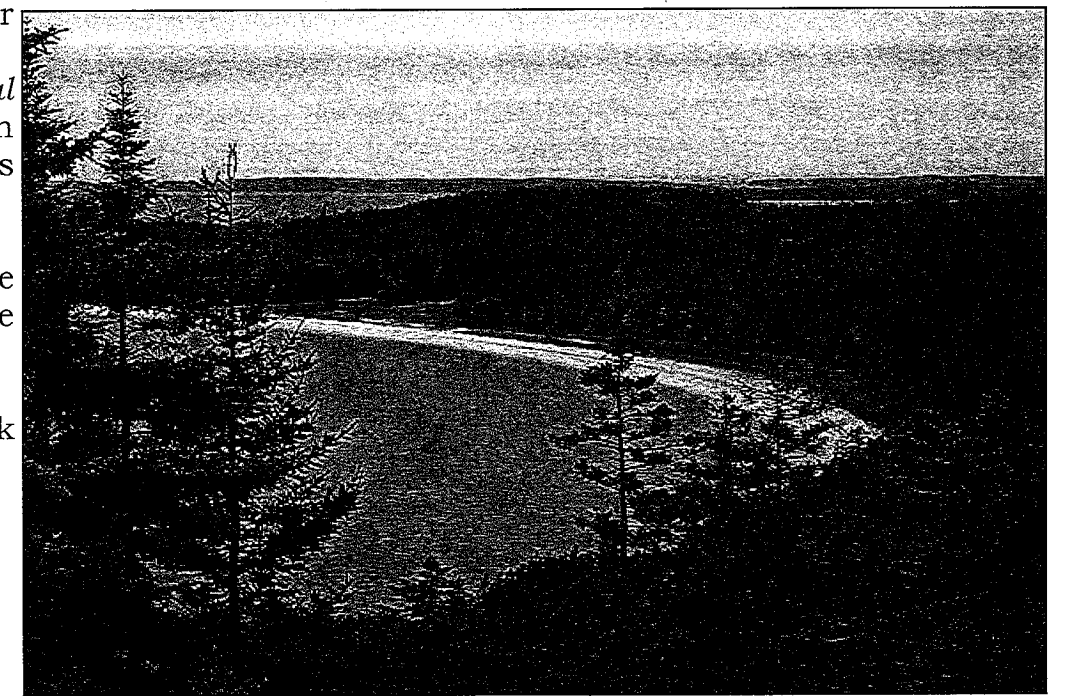
This delightful dinner is the very same as the dish that many of us know as Roque Island Fish Dinner. See *Thyme is of the Essence* (1974).

It seems likely that Joseph Peabody and his family might have enjoyed the same dinner. He might even have been sitting in one of his two armchairs in the Old Farm House study, looking at his portrait or that of his daughter, Catherine, by Rembrandt Peale, admiring pictures of his ships or even consulting J.

Lemprière's *Classical Dictionary* (1801) which he was to give to his son, George.

Out of so few clues one can construct an image of the man.

-George Herrick



View from St. Roque
Photo submitted by Alexandra Higgins

Bicentennial Toast to Joseph Peabody (1757 - 1844)

First in the Pantheon of Roque Island heroes, you occupy the pedestal reserved for our Founding Father.

When you acquired ownership in Roque Island two hundred years ago, you provided for us a sacred island, a sanctuary and a never ending resource. You also gave us yourself in ways you could never have imagined. Our debt to you is an obligation to repay with gratitude, humility and respect. We have endeavored to honor your name by devoting ourselves to the conservation of Roque Island and celebration of the traditions established by our double Peabody heritage. We not only celebrate the qualities of your daughter Catherine, and her husband John Lowell Gardner, but also of your son, George, and his wife, Clarissa.

As we look around this room we can discern in the many family members some of the qualities that we inherited from you: sagacity and courage, generosity and *gravitas*. As we consider your life, we can only wonder at the fullness of your achievement. Did you not remain faithful to some of the maxims you copied down in your youth?

Never offer advice, but where there is some possibility of it followed.

As you are going to a party of mirth think of the hazard you run of misbehaving.

If you can express yourself to be perfectly understood in ten words, never use a dozen.

Not the least reflection of your genius is that, in leaving us Roque Island, you bequeathed something that has knit our large family together in a

common purpose, and summoned the best of our nature. We are proud of how we have brought Roque Island into the 21st Century. We want to carry forward with respect the extraordinary legacy you left us and the family traditions that have sprung up around it.

- George Herrick



Autumn on Roque
Photo taken by Keith Berger

The Bicentennial dinner and celebration was held at the Peabody Essex Museum on June 3rd, 2006. Below are photographs of family dressed as relatives. For a list of who those in costume were dressed as, please see Page 8.



Bicentennial The History of Roque - Ten Questions

1. Joseph Peabody had a partner in 1806. They were equal shareholders in the ownership of Roque Island. They acquired firm title to Roque Island from the Proprietors of Township XXII. While Joseph Peabody and his partner owned Roque, they had built a milldam across an arm of a cove. The remains of this dam, which presumably operated on the ebb and flood, are still clearly visible today. Who was Joseph Peabody's partner?

2. The power from the dam turned a gristmill on one bank and a sawmill on the other. The latter was located near a small shipyard, where repairs to some of Peabody's sixty-three ships were carried on, and where were built two schooners and a brig. Peabody sent down to the Island a ship carpenter, John Shorey, who probably built these three vessels, and the two old houses still standing today. What were the names of the three ships?

3. Tradition has it that Roque Island and the main land near by were peopled by several tribes of Indians, a part of the famous Abenaki Nation; and at this time, one of the branch lived upon Roque Island, whose chief, Hunting Wolf, had a beautiful daughter. To seek the hand of the charming maiden and unite their bands with the powerful tribe, came many young braves from far and near. But among the throng of suitors, two seemed to the girl most worthy of her devotion, the tenderest and bravest. What was the name of the squaw and the two Indian brave suitors, who eventually participated in the famous footrace on Great Beach?

4. "The island is a great luxury and as long as we go there and care for it, it will cost us considerable money." Any amount of money they looked after with great care. George

Gardner kept a memorandum book in which, in June 1889, he noted that in addition to Mr. Herbert A. Long's basic charge per day for the Gardners and their guests, chickens and butcher's meat were extra. Chickens were billed at about 30 cents each, sheep and lambs were \$2.50-\$3.00, the money to be used for buying other sheep for the Island. Mr. Herbert A. Long was the island's first caretaker. How much was his time worth per day?

(continued on page 7)



George Gardner Monks and John Peabody Monks playing croquet. Photo archived by Gardner Monks

(continued from page 6)

5. Besides the "dressing down" that occurred on Great Beach to notify trespassers, Roque has seen a good deal of "dressing up". As in most family houses where one generation moves in with the minimum of rearrangement when the older passes, clothes of long-outmoded style were often found on the hooks. Among the most notable "props" found useful for costume parties were a trio of hats. Which three were they?

6. In 1882, Roque Island, once more, was "back in the family". The Gardner brothers bought it for twice as much as their parents had sold it for. From whom did they buy back the Island, and for how much?

7. Deep sea fishing, George A. Gardner's real love, was shared by the grandchildren. Some enjoyed themselves immensely; others found rolling and drifting for hours in a fish-smelling cockpit, hauling up and down long lines and heavy leads, far from appealing. The thought of blistered hands, lots of sun, and possible seasickness made a fishing trip into mild hell for some, though they seldom said so. What was the most prized catch on these deep sea fishing trips?

8. In July, 1907, the barn, dating from Joseph Peabody's day, burned to the ground. One horse, 35 turkeys, 12 geese, 50 hens, a hog and all the farm tools were destroyed. Frank Smith, then caretaker, traveled to Boston to report the situation. George A. Gardner asked George Peabody Gardner if the barn had been insured. When told that it was for \$1700, his sole comment was "Haw, I wouldn't have taken that for my turkeys!" What caused the barn to burn down?

9. In late June one year, what President chartered the Amberjack II and along with the Coast Guard cutter Cayuga, dropped anchor in the thick cold fog in Lakeman's Harbor, while the destroyer, Bernadou, due to her size, had to patrol outside the harbor?

10. Little Spruce was purchased by George A. Gardner for \$1000. The island had formerly been in the property of the three Ingalls brothers. They had a sloop, and scratched out a living from fishing and their potato patch; when George A. Gardner paid them \$1000 for their island, he also agreed to rent it to them for a dollar a year. What were the names of the three brothers, who were famously known as "The Hermits"?

Answers to 10 Questions with page references to the book

1. Joseph Fenno (pg. 17)
2. The Roque, The Hunter, and The Jason (pg. 19)
3. Forest Flower, Eagle Wing, and Running Chief (pg. 13)
4. \$2.00 per day (pg. 24)
5. A pith helmet, a tweed deer-stalker's hat a la Sherlock Holmes, and a woman's black rubber ram hat (pg. 41)
6. Gilbert Longfellow for \$10,000 (pg. 22)
7. Halibut (pg. 29)
8. Lightning (pg. 32)
9. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (pg. 37-38)
10. William, Nehemiah, and Daniel (pg. 22-23)

Bicentennial Who were we dressed as?

George Herrick — Joseph Peabody

Ellen Higgins — Eliza Peabody Gardner

Bill Monks — Captain Watts

Tanya Fischer — Isabella Stewart Gardner

Joseph Higgins — Young Joseph Peabody

Mara Finglass - Elizabeth Smith Peabody

Kate Gonzalez — Clara Endicott Sears

Ellen Berger — Ellen Peabody Endicott

Keith Berger - William Crowninshield Endicott

Tasia Fischer — Ellen Peabody Endicott

Nick Higgins, Alex Higgins, SamRoos — Hermits

Georgia Reath, William Goodhue, Alex Reath — Forrest Flower, Eagle Wing and Running Chief

Sam Campbel — Cappie

Nina Herrick, Jessica and Nat Goldblatt — Hermits

Lyn Goodhue — Catherine Peabody Gardner

Randy Goodhue — John L. Gardner, young golfer

Chris Cutler — Duke

Alexandra Higgins — Olga Eliza Monks

James Gregg — John Lowell Gardner

Ari Gregg - Catherine Elizabeth Peabody

Alessa Angle - Clarissa Endicott

Eliot Angle - George Peabody

John L. Gardner — all JLGs

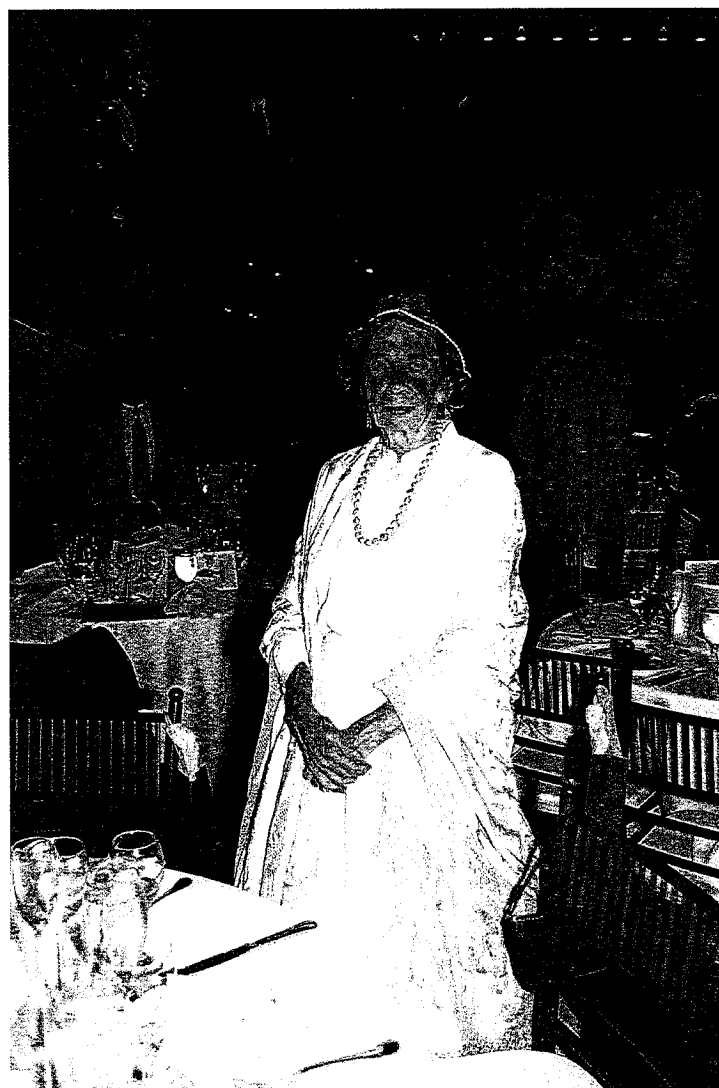
George P. Gardner — all GPGs

John Higgins - Samuel Pickering Gardner

Nano Chatfield - Rebecca Russell Lowell Gardner

Ken Rich - John Shorey, Sr.

**If you are interested in family history, lineage, or pictures shown at the event, please forward your requests to Gardner Monks at garimonx@comcast.net.*



The following archived photos may be ordered from Gardner Monks

- ◇ **8 x 11's - \$5.00 each**
 - ◆ "Wherefore art thou Endicott"
 - ◆ "The Peabody Sisters"
 - ◆ "George of London, Joseph of Salem"
- ◇ **11 x 17's - \$8.00 each**
 - ◆ "The Three Families of Judge John Lowell"
 - ◆ "The Russells of Charlestown"
 - ◆ "Clara Endicott Sears & The Other Museum"
- ◇ **Oversize - \$17.00 each**
 - ◆ "Roque Island Descendants" 19 x 36
 - ◆ "From Mrs. Peabody to Charlemagne" 8 x 38
- ◇ **A DVD of two slide shows \$15.00**
- ◇ **Any special requests for family history, lineage, or pictures shown at the event**

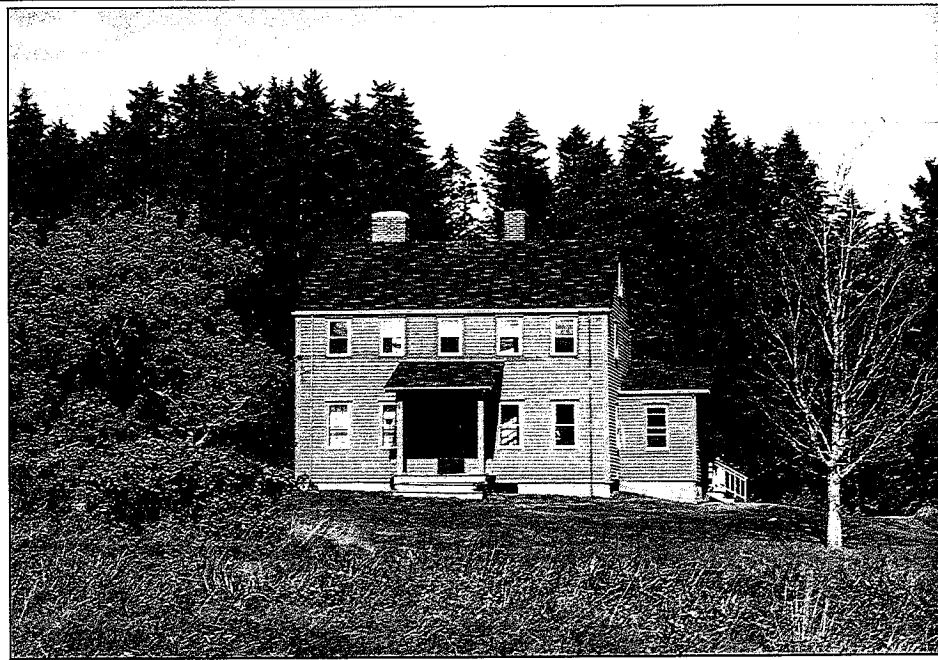
Please forward your requests to Gardner Monks at garimonx@comcast.net

Or

Gardner Monks
P.O. Box 36039
Los Angeles, CA
90036

John Gray and the Roque Island Charivari

The older generation will remember John Gray and his devotion to Roque Island and the family. His career as a manager for 20 years ended in 1960 with his sudden death from a heart attack as his boat approached Roque Bluffs. Recently I came across a letter he wrote January 11, 1958 in response to a letter I had sent him concerning my engagement, seeking to soften his threat to test the resolve of any would-be suitor by requiring him to taste the salt-lick behind the barn. It brought back fond memories.



Red House
Photo taken by Keith Berger

"I came back to the island alone today as it is Duke's and Calvin Foss' weekend ashore. The wind is blowing a gale and the boat engine started running bad, but I finally made it."

"The other two men I have here, Lawrence Wood and Wallace Buckner, are not one bit of good around water and boats. I will have to find someone next winter that can run boats or at least help me with them when the others are ashore. We have had extra good weather as far as cold and snow are concerned, but has blowed hard and a lot of rain. If it doesn't get cold soon we won't have any ice to cut, but I have thought the same thing several years but we managed to get enough cold weather to cut ice." (These were the days before electricity on the island.)

"Well Cauley, remember me to John and tell him he must be all right and that I say he better be or he will hear from me."

The following June John greeted us as we arrived for our honeymoon. The red house had never looked nicer, and the twin beds in the back first floor bedroom were strategically placed in opposite corners of the room. Stealthily, we began rearrangement of the bedroom furniture, only to be betrayed by the sound of cow bells. They had been tied to the under side of the bed springs. Not long after the kerosene lamp was extinguished some hours later the silence of the still night was shattered by the discharge of a shotgun just outside the bedroom's open window, soon to be followed by a second shot. Then all was quiet again. We were joined at breakfast the following morning by John Gray. When, after the conversation failed to turn to the antics of the night before, John asked "Hear anything last night, Cauley?" Initially we denied being aware of anything out of the ordinary, of course, but in the end had a good laugh. John and Duke, we learned, each with shotgun, had patiently crouched beneath the window waiting for the room to darken. We were in for another surprise as we stripped our beds on the day of departure. There, wired to the springs was yet another cow bell!

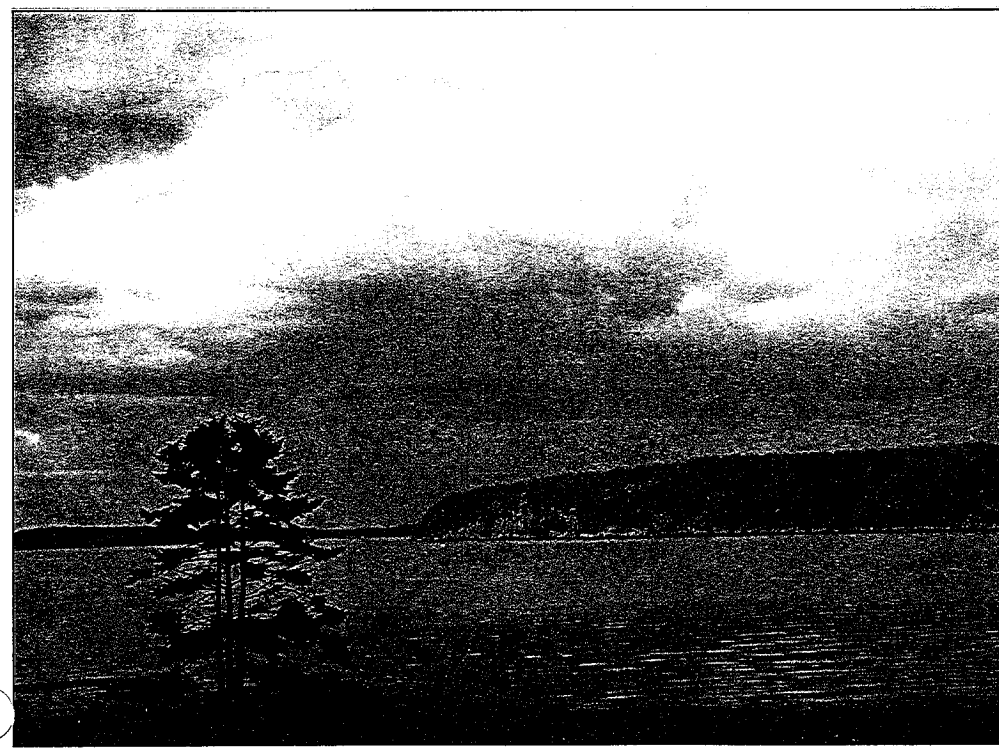
-Cauley Lukens

Trails

The East Shore Trail, on the east side of Great Head, was finally completed in 2004, and cleared of blow-downs in 2005. It was started by Ann and Rebecca Barry in the summer of 1994. We felt that the island could use another trail with views of the water, like the West Shore Trail. Also, if you want to walk around the edges of the island, this was the one section without a trail. We started cutting at the south end off the trail to Clam Cove, borrowing staff members for the chainsaw work. The trail tread was carefully considered: we wanted to place it close to the water for good views, but we did not want it so close to the edge that it contributed to erosion. We cut the trail through dense spruce forest and open spaces, avoiding felling mature trees, especially hardwood trees, wherever possible. One of our biggest challenges was avoiding the bald eagles' nest out on a point - according to federal guidelines for endangered species, we had to take the trail inland in a wide arc to avoid the nest by 500 yards.

My mother and I worked on this trail almost every summer that we visited Roque for ten years. One year we started cutting the northern end, off one of the trails leading to Great Head. We wanted to join the two segments before she died, but her last summer on the island (2003) she was too ill to do trail work. Only about a mile of trail remained to cut the summer of 2004. My friends and I worked four full days, finishing the new cutting and traveling the length of the trail to clear blow-downs. After most of her ashes were buried, my sister and I walked the entire length of the new trail and scattered the rest of her ashes.

In order to hike this trail, you can start from the Clam Cove end—watch for the trail on the left as you head downhill toward the water, right before the Clam Cove trail takes a sharp



Great Head
Photo taken by John Higgins, Sr.

bend to the right into a spruce grove. On the Head end, look for a cairn off the trail from the trail closest to the water. There is also a detailed description and hand-drawn map in a sketchbook in the Monks House.

- Rebecca Barry

In Memory...

On July 17, 2004, almost a year after her death, Ann Monks Barry's ashes were interred in the Roque Island burying ground. The plan for the burying ground indicated that the burying area was to be divided into sections, so several days before the ceremony Rebecca and several friends brought stones by truck from Bonney Point and dug them into the turf in a line. The Barry family area is on the southeast side, against the outer wall, and shaded by spruces, because Ann once said that she didn't want her gravesite to broil in the sun. The 250-lb marker stone, dark green granite with reddish-purple marks, was taken to the burying ground by trolley. The turf was cut out so the stone would sit flush with the ground, and a hole was dug under the stone to accommodate the jar of ashes.

The ceremony, attended by Andrea, her husband John, their son Alex, Rebecca, and three friends, was graced by wildflowers and a large bouquet from Nina Herrick. Rebecca read a poem and her friend Jennifer sang "Lift Thine Eyes" from *Elijah*, which Rebecca, Andrea, and Ann used to sing together. Most of the ashes were buried in a green stoneware jar from Ann's kitchen, and the rest Andrea and Rebecca scattered on the East Shore Trail, started in 1994 by Ann and Rebecca, and finished exactly ten years later.

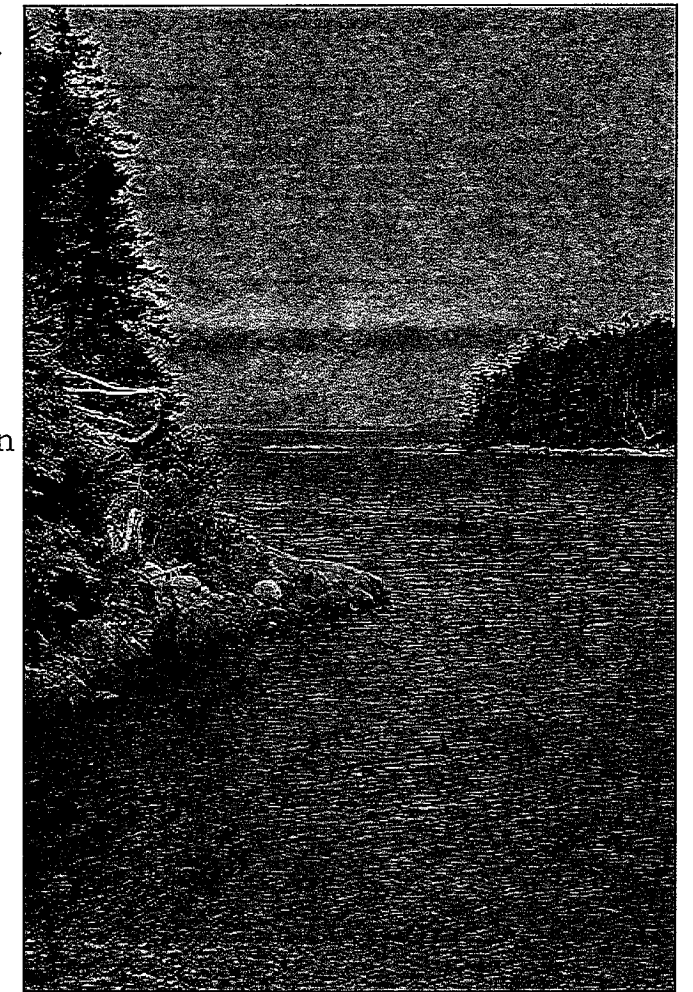
Rebecca returned to her grave this past summer, 2005, and spent an afternoon raking, weeding, and appreciating the opportunity to care personally for a burying ground. It is good that Ann is at Roque, where her heart was and where our hearts are.

-Rebecca Barry



Flotsam

- ◆ On November 12, 2005, Norm Famous led members from Maine Audubon to conduct a seabird census. Among the reported encounters were Bald Eagles, Northern Gannets, Surf Scoters, White-winged Scoters, Common Goldeneyes, Red-throated Loons, a Northern Cardinal, and a Boreal Chickadee.
- ◆ Ellen Johann Higgins and Keith Andrew Berger were married at her father's house in Cape Elizabeth, Maine on August 6th, 2005. Jennifer Donaldson conducted the ceremony and they two were legally married by Tanya Fischer.
- ◆ Birth of Rebecca Anne Donaldson, daughter of Jessie and Katherine Donaldson. 5/21/06 1:33am. 8 lbs, 21 inches.
- ◆ John Peabody Monks Higgins has faithfully reproduced John Peabody Monks' notes from his summer 1939 conversations with Sewell Smith. The published work is entitled, "Around Roque Island". There are copies on Roque Island in each house.
- ◆ Katharine Margarita Gonzalez was engaged to Vincent Phillip Montalbano on August 15, 2006. The couple plan to get married in June of 2008.
- ◆ Joseph Peabody Monks Higgins was engaged to Mara Jill Finglass on October 21, 2006. The couple plan to be married in the summer of 2007.
- ◆ Rebecca Endicott Barry was engaged to Erik Vaughn Nelson. The wedding is planned for April 13, 2007.
- ◆ Birth of Ryland Rose McDonald, daughter of Hillary and David McDonald. Ryland was born on July 26, 2006.



The Thoroughfare
Photo submitted Alexandra Higgins

Library Corner

Additions to Roque Island Library since 2004

Bodsworth, Fred. Last of the Curlews (1955)

Colburn, Elizabeth A. Vernal Pools (2004)

Coffin, Robert P. T. Coast Calendar (1947)

Conkling, Philip and Hayden Anne. Lobsters Great and Small (2003)

Corbin, Alain. The Lure of the Sea (1988)

Corson, Trevor. The Secret Life of Lobsters (2004)

Dolan, Michael. The American Porch (2002)

Fowles, John. Islands (1978)

Gerber, Ray P. Song of the Drum, The Petroglyphs of Maine (film 2004)

Graves, Sarah. Mallets Aforethought (2004)

Gutcheon, Beth. More Than You Know (2000)

Hood, Margaret P. The Silent Women (1953)

Jansson, Tove. The Summer Book (1974/2003)

King, Caroline and Howard. When I Lived in Salem, 1822-1866 (1937)

Marshall, Megan. The Peabody Sisters (2005)

Moore, Ruth. The Weir (1943)

Petit Manaan National Wildlife Refuge. Conservation Plan.

Russell, Sharman Apt. An Obsession of Butterflies (2003)

Stavely, Keith. America's Founding Food (2004)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Final Comprehensive Plan (2005)

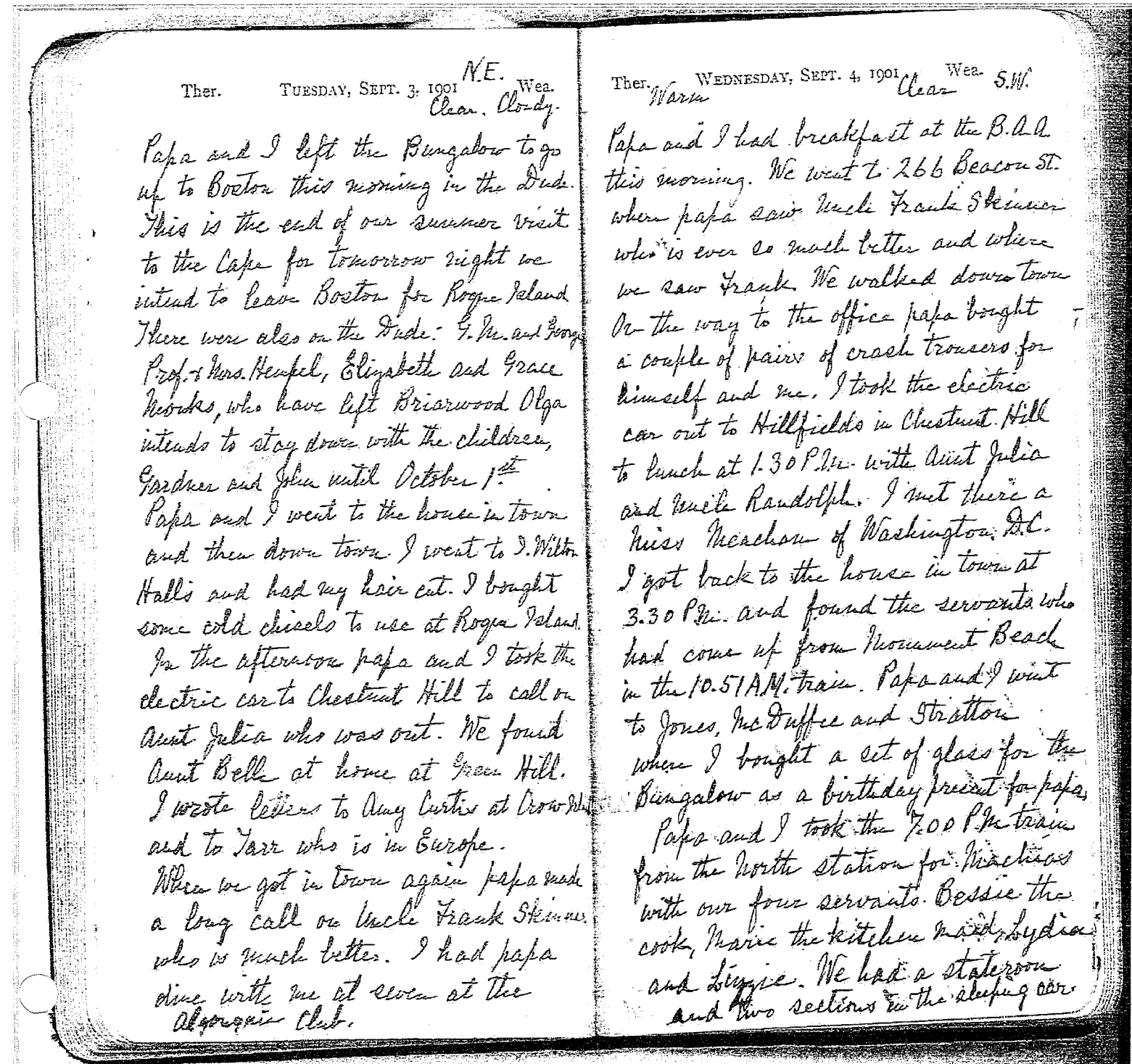
White, Susan K. (ed.) Life Between the Tides (2003)

Wolfe, Geoffrey. The Edge of Maine (2005)

Woodward, Colin. The Lobster Coast (2004)

From the Archives

An excerpt from the diary of John L. Gardner, dated 1901.
Submitted by Ellen M. Higgins



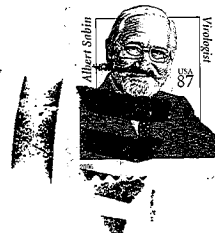
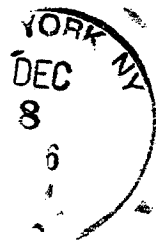


Family A Field

Photo archived by Gardner Monks

The Thoroughfare

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