



CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL *by Randy Mikes*

THOROUGHFARE, SPRING 2007, VOL. 15

The Annual Meeting of RIGHC was held May 6, 2007 at The Country Club in Brookline, MA. Major topics of discussion were as follows:

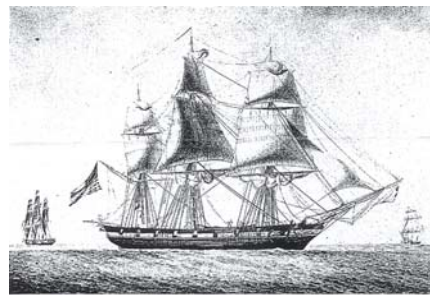
Alternative Energy: The present cable from the mainland was laid in 1991 and has a life expectancy of 20 years. In reality it could last 30 years or go tomorrow. In February the Board met with alternative energy specialist Blair May to become educated on alternative energy options for the Island. From this discussion it was decided to buy a 60kw generator which could power the entire island in the event of cable loss. A new generator house was to be constructed on the west shore where the cable comes into the Island, and the wires from this new location were to be run underground to the farm complex. Solar and wind test devices were then to be installed to determine the best options for alternate energy. A plan was envisioned such that by 2011 the Island would have the generator and some alt. energy sources in place and that by 2017 we would have a comfortable ration between generator and alt. energy sources to supply the Island without the cable. However, given the cost of stage 1 of the plan, at present the generator will be purchased and placed in the present generator house behind the Farmhouse. The new Board was encouraged to determine its philosophy regarding cable versus alt. energy, develop a plan and stick to it.

Independent Staff Housing: The first independent staff house will be constructed this spring in the field west of the chicken coops. This structure will be of sufficient size to house a couple and a child, guests, etc. *Continued on page 2...*

GLIDE *by George G. Herrick*

Many of us have read William Endicott's "Wrecked Among the Cannibals in the Fijis" (1923), a stirring account of the wreck of Joseph Peabody's Ship Glide in March 1831 on an island in the Fijis, wherein he famously describes a cannibal feast.

Confirmation of the Glide's mission and whereabouts also appear in "Wrecked on The Feejees", a book by an anonymous Nantucket sailor published in 1928 but first printed in a Nantucket journal in the 1880's. *Continued on page 5...*



Ship Glide

NEW ON ROQUE

Check out Roque Island's new Web site! RoqueIsland.com

Coming to your mailbox soon, a new *Roque Island DVD* – enjoy watching interviews and breathtaking scenery from Roque Island!

Updated reservations & ferry schedules are now online! Visit www.Roquelsland.com

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - *Continued*

The purpose of this project is to provide more staff privacy and attract competent and longer staying staff. The construction of two additional but smaller units is ultimately envisioned. In that event, the Manager and family will move into a remodeled unit in the Farmhouse, which will also maintain current staff common areas and space for transient workers. This would then free the Manager's house for use by family.

Equipment purchases: The resurgence in available funds has led to the purchase and replacement of equipment. The family will have for its use a new truck and a four seat Mule, replacing the old family truck and gator. The aging Buzz Boat has been replaced with an 18' foot Parker. For the staff we have purchased a new John Deere tractor, a dump trailer and a second Mule. A smaller, used four wheel ATV will also be purchased for staff use. These purchases will serve to eliminate two staff trucks from the Island.



Chairman dooms dump

At the conclusion of the meeting your chairman made farewell comments which, by request, are transcribed below. These comments were made from a rough outline and were to some extent improvised, thus poetic license may have been taken.

It will be 20 years this summer that I first visited Roque Island. It was my honeymoon. Like most first-time visitors, I was immediately struck by the Island's natural beauty. Not long after I recognized the solitude afforded by the Island.

This solitude was not fully appreciated until our first visit to the Island with children and, therefore, with a video camera. On our first evening of this trip we videotaped deer grazing in the field behind the Monks' House toward the tree line. When we first watched this footage at home there was no sound. My attempt to fix this apparent problem was interrupted by a blood curdling scream from the mouth of our three year old son, sending white tails bobbing into the forest. I realized at this moment both that the audio function of our camera was intact and that Roque is truly a quiet place, a fact sometimes curiously lost on us city dwellers. I have come to fully appreciate this sound of silence.

Roque also offers an inner strength, symbolized by its tall spruce, rocky ledges and amazing tides. For me and I am sure many others, it is a place of physical, mental and even spiritual cleansing and renewal. It is truly heaven on earth.

Also unique about Roque is how it serves to keep this extended family together. We are now, I believe, six generations removed from George Augustus Gardner. My children know their fifth cousins. Outside of the House of Windsor, this is rare. I do not know my second cousins. I recall at a Trustees weekend a few years ago, Cauley Lukens, who was then on the Board, created place cards detailing the relationship between each attendee. It is amazing that this knowledge is possessed, but even more so that these folks knew each other and were having dinner together.

It is likewise unique that both family and Island history are so well documented. For this we can thank the efforts of John Lowell Gardner II, John Peabody Monks and George Gardner Monks, and more recently Nina Herrick, George Herrick and Tanya Fischer. These writings are both educational and entertaining.

It has been a pleasure to get to know all of you. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving on your Board and as your Chairman. Thank you for sharing your Island with me.

SQUIRE'S POINT *The Fishing Camp on Lakeman Island*

The fishing camp on Lakeman Island was started by Eddie Kelley (born 1882) when he built his first cabin there in 1888 at 16 years old. His grandson, Millard "Sam" Kelley (born 1933), kindly shared his memories of Lakeman with us in July 2005. On file are a sheaf of wonderful correspondence from him, a map of 12 cabin locations, a list of people living on the island in the 1940's and a schematic of a fishing weir.

Herring fishing with weirs grew into an important business in coastal Maine. Jonesport was full of weir fishermen and there were five canning factories there.

The arrival of huge ships with massive nets killed off the local business in the 1960's. The advantage of being on Lakeman was that it saved a 14 mile round trip to Jonesport.

There were four weirs in the immediate Lakeman area : Jay-Lynn (1920's), Bar Island (1930's), Marsh Island (1946) and Clam Cove. Eddie Kelley had three other weirs further away: Big Weir, Little Weir and Gull Rock. Alfred Beal had a weir off Point Isabella at Great Beach.



FOR A BOY
LIKE SAM
KELLY,
LIVING ON
LAKEMAN IN
SUMMER
WAS
PARADISE

For a boy like Sam Kelley, living on Lakeman in summer was paradise. "a perfect blend of sights, sounds and smells". There were fish to catch, lobsters to trap, clams to dig, red squirrels to hunt and boats to row. Other youngsters on the island during Sam's time (1945-1953) were John Sawyer, Reginald Falkingham and Bryan Carver. Sam later became boatman at Roque Island in the 1950's.

At the peak of summer there may have been as many as 35 people, including four or five women, on the island. On one memorable occasion Sam Kelley's grandmother baked some doughnuts for President Franklin Roosevelt's boat in Lakeman harbor. Supplying the group required weekly trips into Jonesport. The Carver's went more frequently, when their whiskey ran out.

For forty years or so the Carver family kept a log, or visitors' book, of visiting yachts. Lakeman was a protected anchorage for sailors and the boats could stock up on lobsters and fish sold to them by the camp. *Continued on page 4*

FLOTSAM

- ▶ Patrick Gonzalez married Ms. Kyle Marissa Popkave on July 29, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA
- ▶ Isabella Ravenel Ryan born February 8, 2006 in San Francisco, CA. Daughter of Milo and Zoe Ryan
- ▶ Rebecca Barry married Erik Nelson on 4/15/07 in Phoenix, AZ

SQUIRES POINT - *Continued*

Tending the fishing weirs was the main activity. The day began at 3:30 to 4 A.M. and ended at sunset. It was a long day but no one thought of it as a hard life: it was a good way of making a living. The fish came to the surface at sunset and fed throughout the night right onto the shore. They headed for deep water at first light and stayed there throughout the day. The fishermen checked the weirs at dawn and, if there were enough herring (sardines), they hauled them out with nets and loaded them onto carriers, sometimes six to eight boats a morning. The wings of the weir steered the fish into its horseshoe shaped opening. The fish swam around inside the weir in a figure eight and could not escape. It was a simple and effective design, tried and true. 'During the day one worked on maintaining the weirs, cutting brush to put upside down in them and repairing stakes as well as working on lobster traps.

It was a life of hard work in the open air. Bed summoned tired bodies soon after dark. There was little or no social interaction between the Kelley and the Carver clans. The two families had different life styles..

It is not known when the convention of Roque Island charging the Lakeman group rent of \$ 1 per year began. Thus, Roque made a major public contribution in supporting a major local industry for about 75 years. In a good year the Lakeman fishing camp might have made several hundred thousand dollars.

-G.G.H.

CAULEY LUKENS WRITES -

My granddaughter, Rebecca Barden, was recently given a school assignment to examine how a particular period or event in American history affected her family. She chose to write about George Augustus Gardner in the first person. The concluding paragraph about his reflections on Roque Island says it all:

“My dream is that this spot will flourish and blossom into a haven for generations of my family to come. I dream that it will be a place to escape the madness and confusion of everyday life, a place untouched by the corruption of man, a place where children can freely explore Nature and discover themselves, a place where friends and family can sit on a white sand beach and look out into an unobstructed horizon. Only when we can be in Nature and be quiet do we feel that all is as it should be.”

Photo of Mikes & Lukens families

1st row (from L-R): Macauley Mikes, Rebecca Barden, Lula Barden & Johnny Mikes

2nd row (from L-R): Randy Mikes, Andrew Mikes, Gentry Barden, Rachel Barden & Betsy Mikes



FARM NEWS *by Mike and Whitney*

It has been a busy spring so far in the farm and garden. There are several projects progressing in the far yard and the greenhouse is coming back to life with scores of new plants and five resident ducklings. Summer is teasing us with nice days here and there.

There are many things happening in the farmyard. We've recently had our first lambs of the season! The rest are coming shortly so the next couple of weeks are going to be busy ones. The interior of the sheep barn was rebuilt this summer to better accommodate the sheep and lambs and it seems to be turning out well. There are also some new additions to the barnyard this year. Two horses were brought on in March, a Thoroughbred named Misty and a Morgan named Judy. They are adapting well to their new life. We will also be bringing on a new milk cow as soon as she calves, which should be any day now. Turkeys and broilers will be a little late this year because of some bad weather. Overall, the animals are in good shape and seem happy as can be. Fencing has become a priority with wooden fences going up in several places, including around the garden and behind the manager's house. A corral was built in order to lunge some of the "heavier" horses. It has been an exciting spring and we are looking forward to hay season and some warmer weather.



This year's garden is looking great so far. The garden plot is getting a face lift this year; all of the raised beds have been replaced along with the fence and we are hoping to have more space for flowers. We have a variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers planted in the greenhouse. Very soon we will begin putting some of the cold weather tolerant plants like lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower outside. Tomatoes, beans, peppers, and cucumbers should be available a little later in the summer with melons and corn coming at the end.

We are happy to have survived our first winter on Roque and look forward to the summer. *See you then!*

GLIDE - *Continued*

The author was also shipwrecked in the Fijis and he was to spend nine years in the islands before finding a passage home. Islands with names like Ovalou, Angalore and Myambooa.

He joins the crew of Capt. Henry Archer's Glide in March 1829 and ships with her for a year or so, visiting various islands and sailing to Manila and back. The Glide and other ships are searching for a cargo of beche-de-mer (sea cucumber), tortoise shell and sandalwood which they trade in the area. Endicott quaintly describes the elusive delicacy as "an edible holothurian familiar throughout the East under the Malay name trepang".

Although Endicott's is the better written narrative, the Nantucket sailor's account gives a lot of background to the time and place in which Glide plied her trade. There had been numerous wrecks of American ships and several other mariners who survived for several years in the islands, ingratiating themselves with Fiji chiefs, commanding their armies, sailing in native craft between the islands.

Little wonder that the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem has such a good collection on the Fiji Islands.

ISLAND INSTITUTE RELEASES “ISLAND INDICATORS” REPORT

Study provides Snapshot of Maine’s 15 Year-Round Island Communities

Rockland, Maine—The Island Institute released a new report called *Island Indicators* that provides a snapshot of demographic, economic, and social data on Maine’s 15 remaining year-round island communities.. In addition to data on island population trends, age, income, and educational attainment, *Island Indicators* looks at data surrounding critical island issues. These include the importance of fishing and tourism to island economies, working waterfront access, housing affordability, and school funding. The complete report is available on the Island Institute’s Web site: <http://www.IslandInstitute.org>.

Among the report’s key findings:

- Overall, island populations increased by 7 percent between 1990 and 2000.
- The median age of all but one island community—North Haven—is higher than the average for the State of Maine (39 years). As a state, Maine’s population is older than the U.S. median of 35 years.
- Island residents are better educated than Mainers as a whole: 89 percent of islanders have a high school diploma, and 32 percent have college degrees (compared to 85 percent and 23 percent statewide).
- Island median incomes lag behind median incomes for Maine as a whole. On nine islands, the median income is below the state median of \$37,240.
- Lobstering and tourism are critically important to most island economies. On average, about 20% of Maine’s island population hold lobster licenses. Nearly half (47%) of island taxable sales can be attributed to the summer tourist season in July, August, and September.
- Housing affordability is an important factor on Maine’s islands. Islanders earning the median income cannot afford the median-priced island home, and valuations of island property (on every island except Frenchboro and Matinicus) have increased at a rate that significantly exceeds the state average.

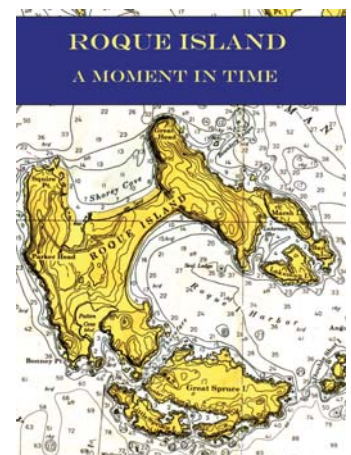
The Island Institute is a nonprofit organization that serves as a voice for the balanced future of the islands and waters of the Gulf of Maine

COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU!

By now all RIGHC members should have received a copy of the recently completed film, **Roque Island...A Moment in Time** by Roger “Pokey” Amory of Falmouth, Maine. Pokey’s company, Pound of Tea Productions, has found a niche in making films about extended families and their gathering places. He artfully captures the emotional connection that family members feel for Roque while maintaining a detached eye on the inherent joys as well as difficulties of island life.

Pokey spent weeks interviewing family members of all ages. He was able to unearth old film from various family archives, which are beautifully juxtaposed with more modern footage. What comes across unambiguously is how little the way we enjoy Roque Island has changed over the last 200 hundred years.

Many family members were very generous in contributing to the cost of the film and we sincerely thank you for believing that this project was worthwhile. I hope that you enjoy it and that it truly does represent a moment in time in the long history of Roque Island. *Posy Dana*



FROM THE ARCHIVES: GOLF *by George G. Herrick*

George Augustus Gardner (GAG) and his son, John Lowell Gardner (JLG), brought golf to Roque Island in 1898, as recorded in JLG's incomparable diary. There were already 29 golf links in the Boston area at the time. The game was spreading quickly, as if by magic. Golf in New England had begun on a private estate in Wellesley but soon appeared at The Country Club in Brookline (where the Gardners would have seen the game) in 1893. There was even one course in Pride's Crossing that meandered from estate to estate and even, it is said, through the parlors and kitchens (Sargent 1899). You catch the excitement of the new game in JLG's Diary. The determined amateurism of the account in no way detracts from the sport.

They have brought golf clubs to the island with them, so there was an intent to lay out a golf links. The Diary records 20 games in 1898 and 10 in 1900. There is no record of a diary for 1899. JLG goes to Jonesport to buy material for golf flags. He measures out the holes with a keen eye. He records his improving scores with pride. He is sympathetic, and never, dismissive about his father's weaker play.

22 July 1898 ... we laid out a golf course of four holes in the grain field back of Great Beach which Mr. Long has let lie fallow this year.

23 July ... In Jonesport} we bought...some white cotton cloth for golf flags...

24 July ... We laid out the golf course of four holes, cutting sticks for the flags of white cotton and digging holes, into which we put tin cans, with a trowel. After taking some lunch and ginger beer we played a couple of rounds. I played in good form, making a number of long drives, one drive being 56 paces. We used a brassy from the tees while Papa used a cleek and an iron and I used a mashie cleek and iron.



11 August ... After lunch Papa and I walked to The Links where we played golf. I made one drive of 147 paces. Papa made a drive of 140 paces, one of the best he has made.

7 September 1898 ... we played a couple of rounds on The Links. I made the best score I have ye made here, 52 for eight holes. I did the last four holes in 24, an average of 6, the best yet.

Sometime thereafter, the dates are not clear, Dr. George H. Monks, fresh from having invented the game of Halma (Chinese Checkers), introduced the game of Golf Croquet, which he called Round the Course. A photograph survives, which to judge from the dress of the participants, suggests that the game was still being played many years after its debut in 1898. In the photograph the game is being played in the area of what is not the croquet lawn.

The George Herrick family pioneered the restoration of golf on Roque in the 1980's. They had four portable, light metallic pins with a sharp points which carried triangular red cloth flags with white numbers sewn on. They did not find a need for holes or tin cups given the roughness of the ground. By moving the pins they could change the course whenever a challenging new shot presented itself or move them to another open space. Just as JLG did, they gleefully measured the most prodigious shots and exclaimed over the more intricate ones.

See Thoroughfare Vol. 10, Issue 2, July 2002 for an article by Georgia Goodhue Reath on golf at Roque today.

TO

The Thoroughfare
C/O RIGHC
45 Exchange Street
Portland, ME 04101

ADDITIONS TO ROQUE ISLAND LIBRARY, 2006

Barnes, Phoebe Washburn. *The Pulpit Harbor Cabots* (1978)
Bray, Maynard. *Herreshoff of Bristol* (1989/2005)
Caldwell, Bill. *Islands of Maine* (1981)
Calvert, Mary R. *Dawn Over the Kennebec* (1983)
Chamberlain, Samuel. *Ever New England* (1944)
Cottrell, Ernest J. et al. *Successful Crabbing* (1976)
Gardner, Robert G. *The Impulse to Preserve* (2006)
Grigson, Jane. *The Mushroom Feasts* (1975)
Gutcheon, Beth. *Leeway Cottage* (2005)
Hannaford, Phebe A. *The Life of George Peabody* (1870)
Heintzelman, Donald S. *Autumn Hawk Flights* (1975)
Higgins, John P.M. (Ed) *Around Roque, Conversations with
Sewall Smith, Summer 1939 by John Peabody Monks* (2006)
Hickman, Hazel. *Island Year* (1972)
Lasansky, Jeannette. *Island Saltwater Farms* (2006)
Marzluff, John M. and Angell, Tony. *In the Company
of Crows and Ravens* (2005)
Minot, Susan. *Evening* (1999)
Ogilvie, Elizabeth. *High Tide at Noon* (1944)
Ogilvie, Elizabeth. *The Dreaming Swimmer* (1976)

Ogilvie, Elizabeth. *The Road to Nowhere* (1983)
Ogilvie, Elizabeth. *The Day Before Winter* (1997)
Pearson, Hayden S. *New England Flavor* (1961)
Spinner Publications. *Cranberry Harvest* (1990)
Steers, J.A. *The Sea Coast* (1953)

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The Thoroughfare, please send to the
Editor, Posy Dana at
rcdana@mac.com or mail to:

701 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840.

Electronic submissions whenever
possible please!

Deadline is October 15th.