



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Mission of the Friends:

**To Support the Educational Goals and Programs
of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum**

Introducing Sarah Lefferts, new OHM Chairperson



Sarah Lefferts

The Ogunquit Heritage Museum has elected a new Chair of the Museum Committee, Sarah Lefferts.

Sonny Perkins, who has served in the position for quite a few years, decided to pursue other projects and stepped down as chair. We are thrilled to have Sarah take on the post,

and here's what Sarah has to say:

"I was blessed to have been born and raised in Ogunquit, Maine, our "Beautiful Place By The Sea." My father, Charles C. Lefferts, served as a selectman known back then as an Overseer to the Town of Ogunquit. My mother, Susan Lefferts, was involved in local charities. I went to Berwick Academy for eight years. Then I attended Mount Holyoke studying English and History.

I have had the honor of being on The Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee for four years as Secretary and this year as Chair. I feel very lucky to be working and collaborating with an amazing team to preserve the history of Ogunquit."

Sarah's term of office began officially in July 2022.

We hope our members and others will welcome Sarah also.

She can be reached at:

sarah.c.lefferts@gmail.com

Susan Day Meffert



Christmas By The Sea Open House

Saturday, December 10

1:00 - 4:00

Sunday, December 11

1:00 - 4:00

**At the Ogunquit Heritage Museum
86 Obeds Lane**

The Ogunquit Water Company, incorporated in 1897, did not have a very long life, but it did exist. To begin with, we find that under Chapter 254 of the Acts of the Year 1891, the Mousam Water Company was incorporated on March 19, 1891 with the authority to furnish a supply of water in the Towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells. Construction of the pipeline was actually begun under this charter in 1896. However, with the construction of the Bridge to the Beach in 1888 and the building of the grand hotels in 1896 and 1897 it was quite apparent that there would be a need in the immediate future to meet the amenities of a burgeoning tourist industry.

With no assurances as to when Ogunquit might ever get water from Wells, fourteen enterprising people in Ogunquit started the Ogunquit Water Company on March 12, 1897. However, in 1901 pipes were extended from the Town of Wells as far as the village of Ogunquit. In that same year the Ogunquit Water Company and all of its assets were purchased by the Mousam Water Company. At that time, it had 65 customers in Ogunquit. In

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FOHM President's Letter . . .

Dear Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum,

The weather is changing, temperatures are cooler, and the leaves are turning color.

The cleanup of plants and deadheading of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Gardens was accomplished by Bob & Pat Dateo along with Kyle and Zack from the Public Works Department. Our thanks to Tom Torno.

The day started at 8:00AM, weeding, trimming Roses and Lady's Mantle along the top of the wall. The invasive Japanese Knotweed and Bittersweet were dug up and disposed of properly.

Chrysanthemums were planted along the wall and in the barrels. Pumpkins were added for a splash of color. These were donated by the Friends.

The Fund Raiser, *Dinner and a Chance*, at Jonathan's Restaurant on September 11, was a huge success. The food was delicious and the dance floor was full. The centerpieces were lovely and the Auction was fabulous. We will do this again next year, September 10, 2023. **HOLD THE DATE!**

One of our goals this coming year is to obtain E-Mail addresses of all our members. Please fill in this section on the form when you renew your membership.

We are looking forward to Christmas By The Sea. I am sure it will be a fun event.

Have a happy and healthy year. Here's to Us!

Pat Dateo



Pat Dateo (r) gives a tour of her gardens to summer visitors at the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee

Sarah Lefferts, *Chair*
 Gary Littlefield, *Vice Chairman*
 Susan Alexandre, *Secretary*
 Jay Smith, *Treasurer*
 Charlotte Tragard, *Museum Administrator & Curator*

Maureen Clayton	L.F. "Sonny" Perkins
Lew-Ann Cooley	John Ross
Everett Leach	Pat Weare
Susan Meffert	Peter Woodbury

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 David F. Barton, *Vice President*
 Marsha Northrop, *Secretary*
 Robert G. Dateo, *Treasurer*
 Benita Braggiotti, *Membership Co Chair*
 Gail Trust, *Membership Co Chair*

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Susan Levenson	Lenny Wyman

An Excellent gift for any Season . . .

The FOHM
NOTE CARDS
featuring
Our Favorite Photos
Of Ogunquit From the Past

A Packaged Set of Twelve Historic Views
With Envelopes

Available at the Winn House
 Throughout the Season
 Price \$15

"THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!"

Also Available by contacting Marsha at
marshanorthrop@gmail.com



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<http://www.ogunquitheritagemuseum.com>

Letter From Our Chair. . .

Dear Friends,

I was born and raised in Ogunquit, therefore the Heritage Museum holds a special place in my heart. I have watched the town grow yet retain it's identity as a cultural community.

After being Secretary on the Heritage Museum Committee for four years, I am fortunate to have become Chair. Through my involvement with the museum, I have learned a great deal of Ogunquit's history as a fishing community and as a supporter of the arts.

The preservation of this history would not be possible without the support of many individuals. I would like to thank all of our museum members and visitors for their generous donations over this past year and also our invaluable committee members who have donated their time and energy to create educational programs, protect historical artifacts and maintain our nationally recognized museum.

Also, I'd like to thank our curator for our amazing exhibits. We had a great season with the Perkins Cove walking tours and museum guests.

I look forward to continue to work with the Committee to further conserve Ogunquit's history and expand awareness of the Heritage Museum.

Sarah Lefferts



Ogunquit, Maine As I Have Known it in My Lifetime of Almost Ninety Years by Luther Weare (ca. 1867-1959)

I shall not try to write a history of Ogunquit, but to note some of the changes that I have seen in my lifetime, in and around Ogunquit.

I think the first time I was away from home was when I went with father to a Grist Mill, to have some corn ground to meal. I remember seeing Father and my older brothers shelling the corn by hand. I think they had about two bushels shelled at that time, and it was put in two bags. When we were ready to go to the mill, Father put it in the oxcart, and with me in it, and drove the oxen nearly to Cape Neddick Village. Then he turned right on the Agamenticus Road for about one half mile. Just off that road was the mill.

I remember seeing the miller take out of the bags, the TOLL for grinding the corn. At that time Johnny Cake was one of the staple articles of food; and believe me, IT WAS GOOD.

Not long after that trip, I went with Father to a carding mill to have the WOOL carded. This trip was too far to go with the oxen, so he BORROWED some neighbor's horse for the trip. One never hired a horse for a trip, but BORROWED the horse. That kind of thing is now GONE FOREVER. We went up to near the Kennebunk line of Wells, to Pike's Carding Mill. He put the wool on the floor, and after beating it awhile, put it in a machine. It came out in rolls about nine feet long and about one inch in diameter. A few days later the old spinning wheel was brought out of storage and set up in the kitchen; and one of the neighbors, a Mrs. Welch, came and spun the rolls into yarn. After that, Mother knitted socks and mittens for the family.

My first remembrance of going to school was, I think, when I was about five years old. At that time the town was divided into school districts. Each year a meeting was held, and officials were chosen to secure a teacher, to get fuel, and whatever was necessary to keep the school going. It so happened that Father was chosen as agent that year. He engaged a girl from South Berwick, named Eva Clark. While teaching, she got acquainted with Daniel Perkins, who had lost his wife some time before; and finally they were married. Joel Perkins, who lives on Shore Road in the old farmhouse that he inherited from his Grandfather, Jedediah Perkins, was, I think, the first one

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Water Company *(from page 1)*

1914 water service was extended into the Town of York to the Bald head Cliff Hotel in galvanized iron pipes laid above ground. In 1922 the name was again changed to the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District. Known as KK&WWD, it had three Trustees until a fourth was added when Ogunquit village separated from Wells and became a Town of its own in 1980.

But back to the history of the OWC. The Act to Incorporate can be found in the Laws of Maine 1897, page 695 Chapter 438. There are twelve sections to this Act. I will quote only Section 1 and 2 since Section 1 deals with the names of the 14 original stockholders and Section 2 deals with how they would acquire and distribute the water. After each name I will list their occupation or business interest:

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Sect. 1. George H. Littlefield (Builder), William B. Littlefield (Sachem Hotel), Nehemiah P.M. Jacobs (Sparhawk Hotel), J. Warren Gordon (Doctor), Samuel J. Perkins (St. Aspinquid Hotel), Joseph H. Littlefield (High Rock Hotel), Edward J. Weare (Cliff House), Charles L. Perkins (Master Mariner), Aaron H. Littlefield (Colonial Inn), Lincoln C. Littlefield (Willow Cottage), James M. Perkins (Carpenter & Master Mariner), Wilbur F. Cousens (Insurance, Real Estate), Luther S. Perkins (Mason), A. B. Littlefield (Livery & Stable) with their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of the **Ogunquit Water Company**, for the purpose of supplying that part of the Town of Wells, south of the Webhannett River so called, and the residents therein, with pure water for domestic and municipal purposes, including the extinguishment of fires.

Sect. 2. Said corporation is hereby authorized, for the purpose aforesaid, to take, hold, protect and use the water of the two streams known as the Josias River, and the Ogunquit River, or either of said streams, and all ponds and streams tributary thereto; and to erect and maintain dams on said streams, and to erect and maintain all necessary reservoirs and pumping stations, and to lay down and maintain pipes and aqueducts necessary for the proper accumulating, conducting, distribution, discharging and disposing of water. And said corporation may take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, and lands or other real estate necessary for any of the purposes aforesaid; and may excavate in and through any lands when necessary for the

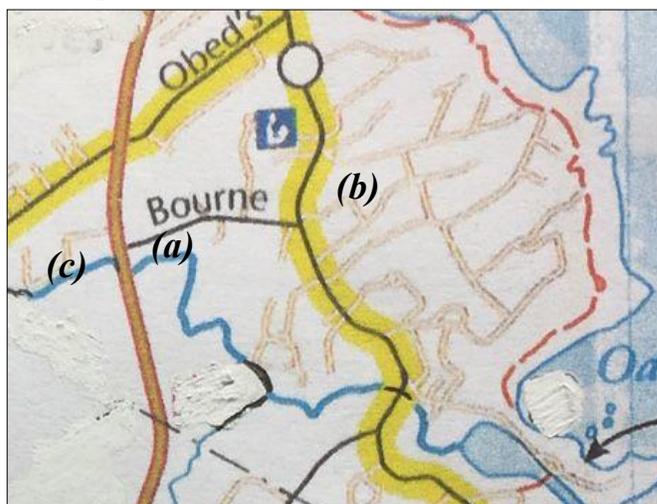
purposes of this corporation.”

This concludes the first two sections of the incorporation document. Perhaps most intriguing is the reference to a dam on the Josias River. Where was it located and what archeological remains exist? One insightful document is an article written by Luther Weare in 1957. His article is titled: “Ogunquit Maine As I Have Known it in My Lifetime of Almost Ninety Years.” Although a somewhat wordy title, the document has an intriguing paragraph that reads:

“As the place [Ogunquit] began to grow it was necessary to have a water supply and a Company was formed to get one. A dam was built just this side of the bridge on US Route No. 1 on the Josias River, and a pumping station built there. The tank was built on the lot where the Marsters home now stands, and pipes were extended through the village. Sometimes the pressure was very low as the supply was not sufficient for use.”

A second insightful document is a deed dated Oct 24, 1900 and duly recorded in Book 507, Page 180 whereby Aaron H. Littlefield sold a half-acre of his land bordering the Josias at the intersection of Bourne Lane and “the road leading to Portsmouth,” to the Ogunquit Water Company. Both of these citations suggest the dam was across the street from what is today Jonathan’s restaurant.

Does anyone reading this know exactly where the dam was located? If anyone has photos of the dam, the pumping station or the tank on Israel’s Head, please contact the OHM at 207 646-0296.



Ogunquit map showing possible locations of (a) Dam on Josias River, and (b) Water tank on Israel’s Head. A newly discovered remains of an early bridge abutment is shown at (c).

(Concluded...p.5)

Water Company (from page 4)

The OWC tank was located on what was Lot 1 and Lot 2 on the Plan of Israel's Fields dated August 1899. These lots were located at the intersection of what is now Rocky Lane and Park Lane off of Ledge road. This lot is now found on Town Map Lot 6-102 but no remnants of the tower, tank or water lines are discernable today.

Jay S. Smith



Plot plan of Israel's Head showing location of Marsters property where water tank was located

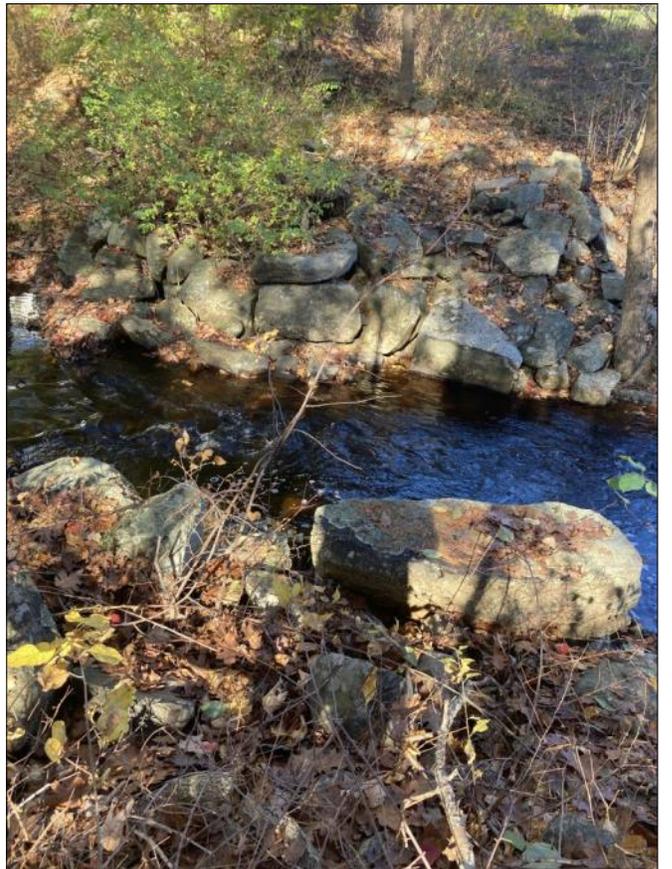


Current photo of the Josias River at Bourne Lane and Rte 1 near where the OWC dam and pumping station were built ca.1897



Surprise Discovery on the Josias River . . .

While searching for the original location of the Ogunquit Water Company's dam on the Josias River, Chris Woodbury discovered these stone-work abutments. According to Jay Smith, author of the accompanying article, these are the remains of an early bridge across the Josias. They are located about fifty yards upriver from the current Route One bridge near Bourne Lane. (Thanks to Chris for these photos)





Dinner and a Chance
11 September 2022
(Photos by Charlotte Tragard)

Luther Weare (from page 3)

of the family.

Anyone reading these notes, will find that my education is VERY limited. The most that I have learned through life, I have learned through the Mill of EXPERIENCE; which is a REAL teacher. With some of the teachers, discipline was very strict. They were all ARMED with a Ruler of Black Walnut or Maple; and for any infringement of the rules, they knew how to use it. I can vouch for this.

My parents were among the first members of the Church here, and every Sunday we were scrubbed and taken to Church. I remember the first preacher that I heard. His name was Payne. He was a nice man and always looked very nice when he came in. He always wore a shiny Beaver and was very dignified. The heating equipment in the church consisted of two stoves, one in each corner as we went in. The pipes extended to the end of the room and were held up by wires from the ceiling. A Mr. Smith kept the fires going while the preacher was preaching. It was then the Christian Church, but has been changed to the Baptist denomination.

As soon as I was big enough to run around, I used to follow my older brother George, and a boy named Cole. As the Cove was where all the activity was, we went down there most of the time. Fishing was about all the business that was going on. The fisherman were a HARDY lot. Practically all of them had full beards, and some of them had gold ERRINGS in their ears. They were a hard working lot and VERY kind and generous. At that time there were no OUTBOARD MOTORS, and they depended on a sail and oars. Since I can remember, several of them have been drowned while fishing. Fish sold at ONE CENT A POUND, and a large part of it was sold fresh, and what could not be sold fresh was dried and shipped to BOSTON.

A little later on we heard that there was a steam sawmill at Ogunquit; and as we had never seen one, we went up there. It was on the lot where Mr. Ferguson's home now stands. It was making a lot of noise, and we CREPT up to the boiler room and looked in. About that time the fireman saw us and PULLED THE WHISTLE CORD. We thought the whole thing was going to BLOW UP, and we were not long in getting away from the place.

The field from Wharf Lane to Beach Street was filled with logs to be sawed into lumber; and Beach Street was piled on both sides with cord wood to be shipped to Boston.

On Wharf Lane there were two buildings. A general store at the south corner, that carried al-

most everything that was used around here at that time, was used by a Mr. Charles Littlefield, who owned what is now the Ogunquit House. After he passed away it was sold to Mr. Cousins and used as a Dry Goods store. It is now a hardware store used by Mr. Kennedy.

On the other corner was a store that Mr. Cousins used when he first came to Ogunquit. Below that was a BOAT SHOP where Mr. W. Henry Perkins and his son built fishing boats. It was built over into a cottage, and is now owned by GANNON.

The only other houses on that side of the street were Mr. W. Henry Perkins' house, and the one now owned by Mrs. Gordon, and another owned by C. Moses Perkins. There were no houses on Beach Street, and no buildings on Main street from Beach Street to what is now Fernald Inn.

Fernald Inn was owned by Barak Maxwell, who had a store across the street, on the lot where the C. L. Maxwell store now stands. The original store was a general store and carried practically everything that was used around the Village. The Post Office was in a small room at about the center of the store, and was enclosed with window glass so one could see if there was any mail for him. There was a sort of cylinder arrangement on it, and the letters were put in metal clips. One could turn this CONTRAPTION from the outside, and if there was any mail for him, Mr. Maxwell would get it for him. The mail was brought from Portsmouth by a Mr. Farwell, Mrs. Louise Jacobs' father. One trip a day. Later on, when the B&M railroad was built it came from Wells Beach Station, as it is now [1957-58].

All merchandise that was brought in came by water in the coasting vessels that harbored here. They were: The *J. M. Eaton*, Capt. Samuel Parsons, my Mother's brother. The *Enterprise*, Capt. Moses Perkins. The *Gold Hunter*, Capt. Moses Littlefield, and The *Lillie* Capt. Lorenzo Perkins. The *J. M. Eaton* was used mostly in carrying stone from Rockport to Boston during the summer season and was tied up here during the winter.

At that time there were only three houses on Berwick Street from Main Street to where the Maine Turnpike crosses the road; and where School street was an open field. (To be continued . . .)

Thanks to Mike and Pat Weare for submitting this historic document. Jay Smith ensured it's preservation for publication. The story will be continued in a future Newsletter.

Endowment Contributions . . .

In Memory of **Shirley Ducharme**
from Norman & Marcia Brazer

In Memory of **Hank Hokans**
Louise Hokans

In Memory of **Mary & Terri Littlefield**
from Richard Littlefield

In Memory of **Blanche Staples**
from Marena & Robert Bragg

In Memory of **Barbara Woodbury**
from Peter Woodbury and Family

Welcome, New Members . . .



Accessions . . .

Kenney Bassett

American Revolution Bicentennial Commemorative medal

Marcia Beal Brazer

Blueprints of the ell; Original letter from Steven Mallory, architect, about lead abatement procedure

Bill Farr

Sprague Journal of Maine History, 1920, celebrating Maine's Centennial

Anne Henderson Finucane

Photographs by Isabel Lewando, including a framed photo of "Roby's Field"

Joyce Godsey

A clutch purse designed and woven by Peggy Ives

Mary Perkins

Photos from Wells 300th celebration; Several postcards

Jay Smith

Military citation for Theodore Hutchins' service in WWII

Peter & Pam Spinney

Mary Leigh Call painting of the Winn House

Julie Twombly

3 binders of archived Chamber events

Bryce Waldrop and HSWO

History of Wells and Kennebunk, 1st Edition by Edward Bourne, LL.D

Tom & Carol Young

1941 photo of Perkins Cove

Perkins Cove Historic Walking Tours . . .



Upwards of 200 people enjoyed the Perkins Cove Walking Tours this past season. They included retired teachers from Ogunquit Village School, docents from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art, many local visitors from our area and from away. In the above photo Jay Smith (r), of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum offers an interesting talk on the history of a Cove landmark. (Photo by Charlotte Tragard)



Jay Smith inspects the Ogunquit Dory replica, W H Perkins, built and maintained by the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. The Dory is an attraction in Perkins Cove and a subject in the Historic Cove Tours during the summer season. (P. Woodbury photo)