



Friends of the Winn House

Newsletter

Spring 2008

Mission of the Friends of the Winn House:

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

Ogunquit Dory Project

Capt William Henry Perkins and his son Moses built Ogunquit dories in his shop on Wharf Lane. The shop has been converted into a home and was located behind what is now the Ogunquit Camera shop. William Henry was born in 'Ye Old Perkins House' on Shore Road near the Ogunquit/York line. It is a fine old colonial house with central chimney.



Capt. William Henry Perkins

Fishermen would come to William Henry to have him build them a custom-made dory. He would make them without plans and construct an 18- to 24-foot boat. They moored their dories near Narrow Cove where the Art Museum is now. They would skull their flat-bottomed

punts out from Perkins Cove with trawl or lobster traps. Trawls had up to 200 hooks. Clams were their bait which would have to be dug at low tide from the clam flats. They used a killick for an anchor on their trawl lines. The dories were fitted with a sail and centerboard, were wide in the beam, and very stable. They were painted yellow and green.

Fish mongers and locals would come to Perkins Cove with scale in hand to buy the fish. Artists loved drawing and painting the dories. Charles Woodbury, among others, used them as subject matter on a regular basis.

The dimensions and specifications for the Dory being built now have been derived from photographs and other sources from the early 1900s. William Henry was a fine boat builder but apparently did all his work from memory and left no working plans.

We invite you to visit the Ogunquit Heritage Museum in late August to see our Ogunquit Dory!

You're invited...
The Friends of the Winn House
Opening Party
Sunday, June 1, 2008
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Preview of New Exhibits
Refreshments
*** Special Dedication ***
Memorial Bench Honoring
Blanche Staples
4:00 p.m.

The Ogunquit Dory Committee



Seated (left to right) Bob Eger, master boat builder Mike Horn, Bob Perkins, and Gary Littlefield. Standing (left to right) Ellen Dannert (guest), Barb Woodbury, Bob Winn, Carole Lee Carroll, Bobbi Treen, Paul Mason, and Brad Sterl. Missing: Paul McGowan and Chris Woodbury. (Picture dated 1-18-08 and taken by Pete Woodbury)

President's Letter . . .

Wait until you see the exciting lineup for this year at the Heritage Museum!

As always, the exhibits will be top-notch and the Dory Project has been launched, metaphorically speaking. Since ship-building was a unique part of Ogunquit's history, it is fitting that it will become part of the permanent collection.

Several key board members have just completed their terms. They have been outstanding! We owe them a debt of gratitude for doing a wonderful job of envisioning our foundation and paving the way. We are particularly grateful to Bernadine Speers who had the foresight, passion and ability to organize the FOWH and preserve the legacy of this beautiful little village; Allyson Cavaretta, our dynamic past President served in innumerable ways; Susan Meffert is and has been the director of the Antique Show, which has gotten better every year. This year I have the honor as serving as the FOWH President.

This Museum has potential for a great future due to the dedication and many hours of planning and service by our members!

After much hard work and negotiating, the Ogunquit Dory Project is about to be lofted. While the majority of the construction by Bob Eger will be off site, it will make its maiden appearance at the Museum before September. It promises to be a wonderful addition to the Museum. You must come for the launch party! The committee is made up of craftsmen, historians, boatmen and others who worked to make this a reality.

Our Curator, Barbara Woodbury has put together some outstanding Major Exhibits this year: "The Ogunquit Grand Hotels" covers a colorful time when people would come to Ogunquit with their large trunks to stay for their summer vacation. "Authors and Cartoonists of Ogunquit" gives a glimpse of how cleverly and skillfully some of our famous neighbors penned their way to national recognition.

Most of the booths for the Annual Antique Show, September 13th and 14th at the Dunaway are already reserved, so it looks like another winner this year for the buyers, sellers and the Museum. We will need volunteers for many different phases of the event, so please sign up with Susan Meffert.

The Curator is looking for volunteers for other interesting projects and/or events, or anyone interested in becoming a docent at the museum. We need your skills, time, energy and enthusiasm. You would be worth your weight in gold.

The most exciting of all is the Endowment Fund. It has just been set up by the FOWH board of directors and will ensure our sustainability. Recently we received a gift donation to the FOWH in honor of a local couple's 50th Wedding Anniversary! What a great gift for the honorees and the Museum!

Thank you for your help in the past. I urge you to renew your membership today and consider contributing to the new Endowment Fund for the future.

Marilyn Eimon, President

**The Mission of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum
is to Preserve and Share the History
and Culture of Ogunquit.**

The Ogunquit Heritage Museum
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**Friends of the Winn House
Board of Directors**

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**Friends of the Winn House
Newsletter** Spring 2008

Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

Published twice each year, spring and fall by

The Friends of the Winn House
P. O. Box 723
Ogunquit, Maine 03907

Curator's Report . . .

We had a wonderful summer last year with lots of visitors and great comments about the museum and the exhibits. Our new brochure was printed with the help of a gift from the Chamber of Commerce. We will distribute them in the spring to all hotels. We have been preparing for our new exhibits, 'The Grand Hotels,' and 'Authors and Cartoonists.' Jennifer Moores of the Sparhawk has been most generous in sponsoring our Grand Hotels Exhibit. Louesa Mace Gillespie provided photos and artifacts from the Lookout Hotel. Carole Lee Carroll, Susan Meffert, Susan Levenson and I have been busy getting everything together. We hope you will come on Sunday June 1 at 3:00 o'clock and help us celebrate!

On April 22 at a Board of Selectmen meeting, a new permanent Committee was formed to replace the Winn House Restoration Committee. The Ogunquit Heritage Museum Committee, will consist of experts in Museum operations. Applications are available now at the Dunaway Center or at the Museum.

Our Dory Committee is ready to build an Ogunquit Dory. We have received grants of \$11,000. Bob Eger of South Berwick is our master ship-builder guiding us through the process. We will loft the last week in May and set the keel in June. In August we will bring her back to the Museum for finishing. If you would like to help us in this effort, we would appreciate any donations. Do you have a name for our dory? Send it to P. O. Box 723, Ogunquit, ME 03907.

Barbara Woodbury, Curator



Eban Ramsdell tends his dory in the Josias River at Perkins Cove

Coming Events . . .

Sunday, June 1, 2008

Opening Party at The Ogunquit Heritage Museum

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

*Special Dedication of Memorial Bench Honoring
Blanche Staples at 4:00*



Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14, 2008

34th Annual Ogunquit Antiques

Show and Sale

Dunaway Center

Volunteers Needed!



Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

October 24, 25 & 26, 2008

5th Annual OgunquitFest

*'Ghostly Tour' Conducted by the Ogunquit Heri-
tage Museum*

Scarecrow Contest, Pumpkin Decorating,
Marketplace



Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

December 12, 13 & 14, 2008

Christmas by the Sea

Open House event at the Heritage Museum

Tree Lightings, Caroling,

Chowder & Chocolate Fest, Beach Bonfire,
Entertainment



Museum Hours

June 1 through October 4, 2008

Tuesdays through Saturdays

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays and Mondays

Blanche Remembers...

(We continue the series of interviews with the late Blanche Hutchins Staples, beloved docent, story teller, and sole 'Builder' contributor to the Winn House. These edited oral recordings were carefully transcribed by Bill and Judy Baker for the Ogunquit Heritage Museum in 2004 and 2005.)



Blanche Staples

Perkins Cove

The original purpose of the harbor in the Cove was for the fishermen so they could anchor their boats at any time. Before, they anchored their boats in front of Narrow Cove, and had to row in with a row boat—a punt, they called it—and

unload their fish from their big boat, into the punt and then onto land. It was a tidal river, and that was the reason they couldn't bring the bigger boats in. If they brought their bigger boat in, they'd have to bring it in on the tide, and it might be 3 O'clock in the morning, or 5 O'clock or the middle of the night. Now, with the harbor, it's still tidal, but it's deep enough.

The place where the harbor is now was a salt water marsh, and they used to come with horses, and hay wagon—hay rack—and cut the hay there because this is particularly fine hay for the cattle.

Of course in the beginning, there wasn't the harbor; the river used to go out into Oarweed Cove, and that was a poor anchorage, it was quite rocky and in a bad storm that northeast wind would come in and it wasn't safe.

The Island House

My grandfather George Adams built the original Island House back somewhere in the 1850s and that was the original part of the Island House - the big white house. It really was an island, but I can't remember the island ever being an island. My sister, who is five years older, can't remember when there wasn't a causeway.

Hamilton Easter Field came and bought a good part of the Cove. He was an artist, a patron of the arts, and a very rich man. He bought the Island House, and put on dormers on both sides, and he built a porch around it. A couple of years ago they tore it down and nobody protested. We didn't have anybody of the local people who got into the fray. But when they tore it down, they prom-

ised they'd rebuild it exactly but they didn't, it's quite different now. Proportionally, it's all wrong. They have the center part going up very steep. A Cape didn't go up like that; it was like this one, (the Winn House) a gradual slope and then dormers, but no one stopped them. They had permission from the town to do it but if we had had someone fighting—if they'd known about it—they would have stopped it, because although the house was probably in bad condition, it still could have been repaired. They didn't have to tear it down. It was over 150 years old. Thank heavens we got the Winn House and restored it rather than tearing it down.

The Footbridge

The bridge down at the Cove was just a footbridge that connected the Staples property to the other side and the fishermen used it to walk to the Cove. Then, larger vessels came into the harbor, after the harbor was dredged in 1941, and the masts were too tall for the little footbridge so they made that a drawbridge. They say it's the only foot drawbridge in the United States. It wasn't too long ago—maybe three or four years ago—they decided to tear that down. It was 'no longer safe and it wasn't handicapped accessible.' Fortunately, people heard about it. We all as a group went to the Town Meeting and said, 'Over our dead bodies will you tear that bridge down!' That's probably one of the most feted and photographed images in the country. And we said, 'You can repair it; you don't have to tear it down.'



The Perkins Cove footbridge, September 1941, with dory passing through. This unique drawbridge was hand cranked by the Harbor Master and willing helpers. (Photo by David O. Woodbury)