Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Mission of the Friends:
To Support the Educational Goals and Programs of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Barnacle Billy's Celebrates 60th

Congratulations to Barnacle Billy's an Ogunquit landmark seafood restaurant in Perkins Cove celebrating its 60th anniversary.

William Redington Tower Jr. "Billy Jr." was born in 1927 in Newtonville, Massachusetts. He arrived in Ogunquit when his father William Redington Tower Sr. and his mother Adelaide bought a summer cottage on Frazer Pasture Road. Billy took to the activities in Perkins Cove as a teenager. In fact, during World War II, he became harbor master for two years at the age of 14. He continued his service at the age of 18 when he joined the United States Coast Guard. After the war, he returned to Ogunquit and became the proprietor of two boats. The smaller one was the *Isabelle J. I*, a regular lobstering, fishing type boat and the larger one was the *Isabelle J II*, a commercial mackerel seiner. Sometimes the smaller boat could help lay out the seins for the larger boat. He kept the *Isabelle J II* until about 1958.

Tower's Isabelle J II, a commercial mackerel seiner.

On September 1, 1950 he married Bernice Clark "Bunny" and they began a family. First born was

(Continued...p.5)

New this year. . .

Historic Perkins Cove Walking Tours
Presented by the Ogunquit Heritage Museum
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:00
Beginning Monday June 21, 2021
Meet at Perkins Parking Lot, Shore Rd, near Cove entrance
Reservations a MUST. Please call the Museum at 646-0296
Limited to 10 persons per tour

FOHM President's Letter . . .

June 1, 2021, the Heritage Museum will be opening for the 2021 season. There will be a party in the garden on June 12, to welcome all of our Friends, 2-5 pm. Socially distanced of course. Refreshments and drinks will be served. Rain date Sunday June 13, 2021, same time. Please come to admire the new landscaping around the sign on Obeds Lane and across the path.

This work has been done by Peter Farley and Jo Ann Garden's crew continuing our garden plan from last year.

Tom Torno, Kyl, Corey and Dan from the Ogunquit Public Works Dept. have been getting us in order. Note the rocks near the sign at the entryway. This prevents driving over the new plantings and cleanup has been done to the right of the building.

A new Lilac has been planted near the door. Mulching to be done soon.

Native to Maine plantings are beginning to show their heads and most plantings are labeled. There is a map to guide you through the garden *(see page 3).*

The Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum meet once a month on the third Monday. We need new members for our group. Our purpose is to fund educational programs and exhibits for the Museum. Please consider joining us. We are nice to work with and have fun showing off the history of our town. Call 207 251 4402. (Pat)

The fund raiser for 2021 has not been decided upon yet as we are gauging what will happen with COVID. We have some very creative minds working on this.

Come and join us at the "opening."

Pat Dateo

An Excellent gift for any Season . . .

The FOHM

NOTE CARDS

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Ogunquit Heritage Museum
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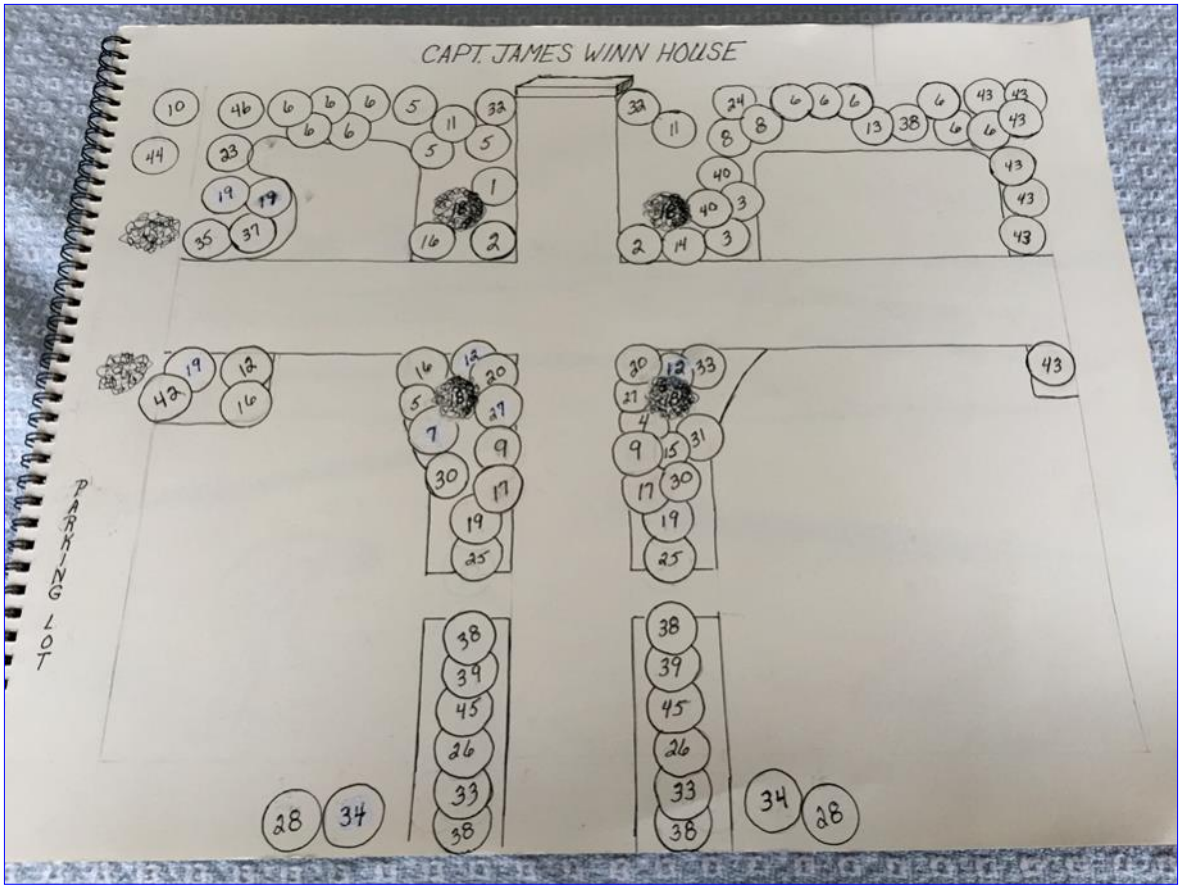
Garden Plantings at the Winn House . . .

This map of Garden Plantings will also be available for review at the Ogunquit Heritage Museum (Capt. James Winn House).



1	American Bell Flower Tall	Native	22	Hollyhock	
2	Artemisia		23	Indigo Spires	
3	Aster New England	Native	24	Joe Pye Weed	Native
4	Beard's Tongue Penstemon	Native	25	Lamb's Ears	
5	Bee Balm	Native	26	Lavender	
6	Blue Flag Iris	Native	27	Lemon Balm	
7	Blue Vervain	Native	28	Liatris	Native
8	Boneset	Native	29	Lily of the Valley	
9	Chives		30	Lobelia Cardinalis	Native
10	Columbine	Native	31	Milk Weed rose	Native
11	Comfrey	Native	32	Mint	
12	Coral Bells		33	Pearly Everlasting	Native
13	Cranesbill Geranium	Native	34	Peony	
14	Culvers Root	Native	35	Primrose	
15	Delphinium		36	Rattleweed	Native
16	Echinacea	Native	37	Rudbeckia	Native
17	Evening Primrose	Native	38	Sage	
18	Evergreen		39	Salvia Blue	
19	Foxglove		40	Snake Rood White	Native
20	Great blue Lobelia	Native	41	Sneezewort	Native
21	Harebell	Native	42	Solomon Seal	Native

Chairman's Letter . . .

Things are finally getting back to normal again. The last year has been a huge burden on everyone but we seem to be turning the corner and getting back to the way life should be in Maine. It's time to get back to work. I for one am looking forward to the days this summer when all of Carole Lee's hard work can be admired and appreciated by everyone that comes through our doors. Charlotte has also been a big help supporting Carole Lee and it's greatly appreciated.

Zooming is a new term we hadn't even heard of a year and a half ago. Zoom meetings seem to be what has held us all together and allowed us to communicate so all was not lost. I want to thank everyone involved in our zoom meetings this past year as I know it was very hard for a lot of you. Thank goodness for modern technology!

The Ogunquit Heritage Museum has lost some of our biggest friends and supporters this last year. Paul and Wini Mason have left us but will never be forgotten. Their contribution to the Ogunquit Heritage Museum from day one, is and will always be, a part of our success. They were both there for every event. They both lived amazing long lives supported by their huge family and friends. We will all miss their presence but in spirit they both will always be with us.

There's a lot of work ahead of us. We have a wonderful selection of people on our committee, all of whom contribute to the success of the events that we put together. I want to thank Peter Woodbury for the hard work he has put into our newsletter. They continue to get better and are so important for getting the word out. I also want to thank the Friends for their support of our newsletter and events. Pat Dateo, our new president of the Friends, has done an amazing job on our garden and I'm looking forward to seeing what she's got planned for this year.

Please stay safe everyone, and I look forward to seeing you in person, face-to-face through the coming summer!

L.F. (Sonny) Perkins

The Ogunquit Heritage Museum has a new rock garden at the entryway. See President's letter, page 2.

Barnacle Billy's... (*from p. 1)*

William Redington Tower III, "Tim." Next was Margaret Adelaide "Meg." Following Meg were the twins Courtland Clark and Catherine, "Court and Cathie."

In 1960 Billy bought a Perkins Cove gift shop, known as "The Brush and Needle." By 1961, he had converted it into the magical restaurant we still see today. It has become a seasonal ritual for people who visit to return year after year. His good friend Oscar Hubbard had started to run tours of the coast in the local waters around Ogunquit on his boat the *Finestkind*. Oscar and Billy made an agreement and soon the restaurant included tourist access and mooring for what has become several *Finestkind*s. Both the Hubbard children and the Tower children grew up working in these respective businesses and must be credited for contributing to their success. Oscar and Billy also became involved with a less successful business. The building of a ski resort on Mount Agamenticus was a venture which failed because of the lack of snow in the area. There are remnants of ski equipment still visible on the mountain.

At Barnacle Billy's you order from the front counter, pay, and collect your tray when its ready. Cocktails are served at the tables. The menu is noted for its lobsters, lobster rolls, clam chowder and steamed clams. Of course, there is plenty to choose from if seafood is not your preference. Never to be forgotten, is the blueberry pie and I am also partial to the corn on the cob. The inside of the dining room is wood paneled and attractive with a large fireplace and views of the Cove, however cocktails on the front deck on a warm day are to be treasured. So popular is the menu, that it has remained pretty much the same since the restaurant opened. In 1989, at auction, Billy bought the building next door that was the home of the Whistling Oyster. This became known as Barnacle Billy's Etc. It has an expanded menu and is a full-service restaurant. The expanded menu includes swordfish, steaks, and crabmeat however the regular items on the menu are also included. The addition of complete meals that included other fish and meat gave Billy an opportunity to create a larger menu. Above all, Billy's favorite responsibility was the maintenance of the exquisite garden between the two restaurants. They are an addition to the Cove, and you cannot pass by without appreciating them.

Naturally since people return every summer there are local celebrities who have become regulars. That includes George Herbert Walker Bush who even treated Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Secretary of the Communist Party and President of the Soviet Union, to a seafood lunch. President Bush used to come to Perkins Cove by boat accompanied by his friends and family and by the Secret Service.

Front: Tom Brady, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jim Nantz. Back: Court, Meg and Billy Jr.

All the Tower children have worked in different capacities at the restaurant since they were children and continue to do so. Billy passed way in 2013, and today Tim manages both restaurants and continues to greet guests as his father did. Meg assists him greeting guests and Cathie is responsible for tending to the finances. In addition, Tim works two days a week taking guests fishing on his boat the "Bunny Clark." His son William Redington Tower IV "Micah" is being trained to manage Barnacle Billy's Etc. Barnacle Billy's opened in April this year and still follows the Covid rules. Tables are six feet apart, until the State of Maine changes the rules. Barnacle Billy's Etc. has been closed on Monday and Tuesday nights. This will change when more help becomes available.

Ogunquit is thankful to the Tower family and wish them many more prosperous years in the future, especially years without a pandemic.

Carole Lee Carroll

A Penny for Your Thoughts . . .

Victor D. Brenner, designer of our Lincoln-head one-cent piece, was born on June 12, 1871 in Shavly, Russia. His original birth name was Viktoras Baranauskas but was changed in order to make it easier to gain citizenship in the United States. Victor moved to America on May 17, 1890 at the age of 19 and lived in New York City. At a young age, Brenner learned from his father the skills for seal engraving and die cutting as well as sculpting. At the age of 27 Brenner temporarily moved to Paris and studied art at the prestigious Académie Julian. He became quite skilled and not only won awards during the 1900 Paris Exposition but also at Exhibitions in Buffalo, New York and St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. Along the way Victor became interested in numismatics and joined Numismatic Societies in Europe as well as the American Numismatic and Archeological Society. After returning from Paris, Brenner became an instructor for the School of Die Casting where he completed dies for fine medals and became recognized as an expert in the field.

Victor D. Brenner
(From Alamy Stock Photo)

In 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt wanted a coin produced to celebrate the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1809. Victor strongly supported Roosevelt's plan and discussed replacing the Indian head penny with a bust of Abraham Lincoln. Finally, it was authorized that a 1909 "Lincoln Wheat Cent" would be produced by the U.S. Mint, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln.

The coins shown below were released to the public on August 2, 1909. The biggest complaint

was that the initials of Victor D. Brenner (V.D.B.) were printed too prominently so the US Mint recalled the 1909 penny and Victor's initials were removed. The Lincoln-head cent continued being minted without the VDB initials until 1918. However, in 1918 the Mint allowed the initials to be included on the obverse of the coin under Lincoln's shoulders which is where they are to this very day.

Victor passed away on April 1, 1924 at the age of 53. His legacy is well known on earth and beyond. One 1909 VDB cent was placed on the US Mars Curiosity Rover which is currently located on the surface of Mars!

OK, so what is the relevance to Ogunquit?

The Brenners were friends with the artists and sculptors of New York City, many of whom were also connected to Ogunquit's art colony as well. Based on those relationships, the Brenners were invited to Ogunquit and acquired a "little green studio near the Cove" as reported in the local paper of 1919. Specifically, they were staying at one of Joe Littlefield's cottages near Oarweed Cove.

Former home of Brenner family at Perkins Cove

Mrs. Brenner became involved in the presentation of dramatic entertainment at the Village Studio on Hoyt's Lane (which is still standing). In fact, Mrs. Brenner became Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Ogunquit Community Theatre whose performances were primarily held at the Village Studio. She also participated in Hamilton Easter Field's Thurnscoe Forums held in Mr. Field's "new" studio on Featherbed Lane (Oarweed Cove Road). Mr. Brenner acted in plays. One such recorded event occurred on the lawn of Fieldstone, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hoyt thus showing Victor's theatrical talents complementing his artistic leanings.

Often the donations from their shows were given to the Ogunquit Village Improvement Association (OVIA); but that is a story for another time.

-- Jay Smith

Accessions . . .

Diana Abbott
Reproduction Louis XVI chair from Lillian Perkins' house

Carole Lee Carroll
Two copies of *View from OMAA*, 2020 & 2021

Kurt & Heidi Knight
First Annual Report, Maine State Highway Commission, 1913; 2 buoys ca.1920

Frank & Terri Neill
John Neill painting of the Marginal Way, 1975

OHM Library
Book: *The Littlefield Genealogy; Descendants of Edmund Littlefield of Wells, ME*, Vols I & II by Priscilla Eaton

Richard Perkins
Book of his *Odes*

Jay Smith
Binder containing research and articles on "The Gold Rush, Spring 1960 at Perkins Cove," 2021; A vile of gold flakes Jay panned at the site; Binder with article and pictures of the "History of Veteran's Memorial Park, Ogunquit," 2021; preliminary design reports of Louis Berger Group for the Town of OGT

Mike Staples
Birdhouse replica of the Grand Riverside Hotel, 1950s-1960s

Birdhouse replica of the Grand Riverside Hotel

Endowment Contributions . . .

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

In Honor of **Christine Doucette**
from Madeline Franchi

In Memory of **Paul Mason**
from Diana Abbott

In Memory of **Paul Mason**
from Marcia Beal Brazer and Norman Brazer, Jr.

In Memory of **Mary** and **Terri Littlefield**
from Richard H. Littlefield

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

Endowment Contribution
from Sheryl and Ed Peters

Endowment Contribution
from Jenny Kane

Endowment Contribution
From Zelda and Paul Schwartz

In Memorium . . .

Wini Mason, age 97, passed away May 4, 2021.

Cranesbill Geranium in early bloom in Pat's OHM garden.

2020/2021 Membership . . .

Carole Aaron
Diana Abbott
David Adams
Duane Adams
Sally Alexandre
Anchorage By the Sea
Jaye Randall Anderton
Ellen Asherman
Karen Asherman
Gert Assmus
Wyatt Littlefield Baker
Sarah Baum and Christopher Schafer
Barnacle Billy's
Kenney Bassett
The Beachmere
MaryAnn and Tom Benedetti
Robert & Marena Bragg
Eric Brazer & Jane Mangan
Norman & Marcia Beal Brazer
Sylvia and Bruce Byorkman
Craig Capone
Benita Braggiotti Carey
Carole Lee Carroll
Allyson Cavaretta
John Cavaretta & Randy Coulton
Janet Clarke
Maureen & Peter Clayton
Joe & Ann Cleary
Arlene Connor
Elaine Cooper and Anne J. Rebello
Carla Corey
M. Alan Crosby
Ellen Dannert
Bob & Patricia Dateo
Nancy Davison
Lori Dawson
Marlene Demerdjian
Sarah Diment
Judi Dineen
Laurie Divisano
Katherine Drisko
Scott & Beverlee Drury
Isabel B. Drzewiecki
Sybil DuPuis
Marilyn Eimon
Kerry Ellen Enright
Marjorie E. Esau
Ellen Faber
Robin Fagerlund
Bill and Ann Farr
Blanche Feinberg
Barbara A. Ferraro
Patricia Finnigan
Fay Fitzgerald
Rebecca Fox
Madeline Franchi
Daniel Franklin
Jordan & Muriel Freedman
Gerry Friedman
Amy Gambrill
Louesa Gillespie
Frank J. Glazier
Maureen Goddard
Brenda Goodale
Don & Peg Goranson
Gail Greenberg
Dr. James & Julie Habas
Robert & Karen Hadden
Natalie Hakanson
Ray & Kay Hamlin
Karen Hanson
Joy Harbeson & Doria Lohnes
Penny and Tom Hawkins
Susan Heckaman
Benjamin A. Hershenson, Phd.
Stephen Hoffman
Louise Hokans
Michael & Helen Horn
Tom & Betty Hutchins
Don & Mary Linda Hurd
Diane & Barry Jandebeur
June Adams Johnson
Kenneth R. Johnson
Peter and Linda Kahn
Jenny Kane
Marjorie Katz
Tom & Jane Kelley
Phil Kimball
Carol & David Kiwak
Patricia Kriensky
David A. Kubiak
Leila Kupper
John & Jean Ladderbush
Les & Nancy LaFond
Jeanne Lally
Joanne Lamothe
Deborah LaPerche
Denis & Lorraine Latulippe
Dr. Sherwood B. Lee & Barbara K. Lee
Lew-Ann Leen
Sarah Lefferts
Susan Levenson
Wendy & Marty Levine
Gordon & Donna Lewis
Dr. Jason & Ryna Lipkind
Gary & Grace Littlefield
Larry Littlefield
Richard H. Littlefield
Pam Lynch
Beverley & Frederick Lynk III
Deborah Marathon
Pat Mason
Lesley Matthews & Bob Glidden
Ellen McCarthy
Philip & Marla McCurdy
Donna and Richard McGuinness
Stephen & Mary Ann McMahon
Meadowmere Hotel Corp.
Susan Meffert
Deborah Meigs
Susan Michaelson
Jayne Miller
James & Sandra Mills
Robin and David Millward
Gary Moore
Jennifer Moores
Richard Morgan & Dr. Charles Smith
Lynn Morton
Mary Mott
Mimi Murray
Sen. Dawn Hill
Evelyne Neill
Edwin & Judith Nelson
Marsha Northrup
Eva Nudelman
Patricia O'Brien
Kenneth Olson
Newell Perkins
Linda S. Perkins
Sheryl and Ed Peters
Marybeth and Jay Petschek
Peter & Rhonda Pope
Sandra Poulos
Marylin Quint-Rose
Michael Ramsey
Mike Rattigan
Jim Ready
Nancy Reppucci
Revelations
John & Pat Ross
Yolanda Rossi
Mary Anne & Jim Rush
Helene Rutledge
Susan & Edward O'Neil
Paul & Ruth Sampson
Mark Saulnier
Anna Kristina Sawtelle
Anita Lauten Schein
Alice Schmidt
Paul and Zelda Schwartz
Geoff Scimone
Fran Scully
Nancy Seith
Gene Sengstock and Marie Darin
Bruce Shaw
Roger Simpson
Judith Simonds
Jonah Skolnik
Priscilla Slotnick
Jay & Jean Smith
Robert & Janice Smith
Tracy Smith
The Sparhawk
Jon & Bernadine Speers
Mike Staples and Katherine Acheson
Suzanne Stillings
Scott and Jana Stone
Norman Storrs
Bradford & Diane Straus
Pam Strother
Virginia Tank
Anthony Tarleton & Judith Clayton
Diane Thibault
Joanne S. Tomao
Enid S. Topchik
Charlotte Tragard
Louise Tragard
Bobbi Treen
Gail Trust
Julie & Steven Twombly
Shirley Littlefield Wagonseil
Jean Wallace-Fearon
Debbie Warshawsky
Patricia Weare
Margaret Weeks
Jonathan West
Jonathan's Inc.
Dale Whitaker & Chris Shott
Andres Verzosa
Raymond & Suzanne Wiggins
Leslie Wilcott-Henrie
Betty Williams
Chris & Judith Woodbury
Peter Woodbury
Marilyn Yablon
Jeanne Young
Tom Zamora
Frank R. Zito