



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Mission of the Friends:

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



All Friends and Guests are Invited...

**Opening Reception for
2010 Season
of the
Ogunquit Heritage Museum**
*Sunday, June 6, 2010
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
at the Museum*
Refreshments Will be Served



**The Museum will Open
for the Season
Tuesday, June 1, 2010**
Hours:
**1:00 - 5:00 Tues - Sat
Through September 30**



Other Coming Events . . .



*36th Annual Ogunquit Antiques
Show & Sale*
Saturday, September 18th, 2010
ONE DAY ONLY
At the Dunaway Center



Ogunquit Fest
Ghostly Tours
Friday, October 22, 2010
Starts from the Ogunquit Heritage Museum



Dory on Display at Museum

After spending the winter inside, the Dory is now on display outside the Museum, ready for paintin' and fixin' up. Later on in the season, we plan to launch again at Perkins Cove. Below, the Dory Crew brings the boat to rest on a custom-made stand fabricated by Gary Littlefield. Photos by Marilyn Eimon.

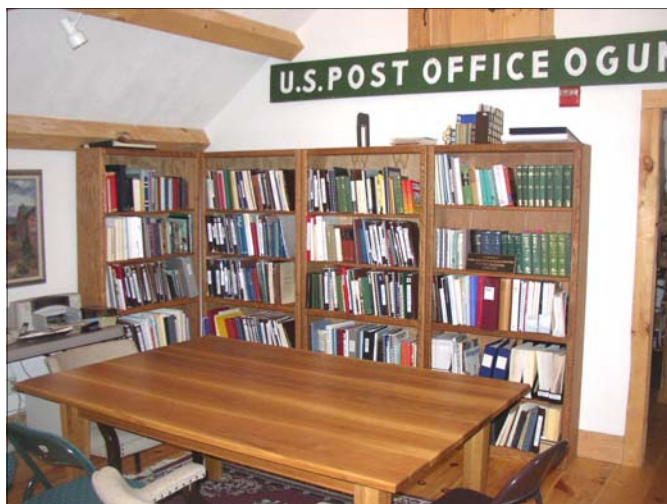


President's Letter . . .

A wonderful spring is here and the beautiful gardens at the Ogunquit Heritage Museum are coming to life!

As we begin a new season, I'm delighted to let our supporters know that we are making great strides at our special, little Museum. It has been a busy winter with many exciting things happening.

We have sturdy, new bookshelves for our ge-



Four new bookshelves have been installed in the Littlefield Library. The historic Village Post Office sign is also on display.

nealogical section. The old ones were sagging from the weight of the books. Bob Glidden has done a fine job repairing, restoring and installing them. Thanks, Bob! New, more visible signs will be seen very soon. They will be beautiful and in keeping with the community and the historical status of the Heritage Museum. These will be installed at both ends of Obed's Lane and at the end of the parking lot behind the Dunaway Center at the entrance to the path to the Museum. We're hoping that these new signs will let folks know where we are. Thanks go to Henry Hokans for taking care of the details with the Town of Ogunquit for this project.

The 36th Annual Antique Show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010. This will be a one day event this year and will be held at the Dunaway Center. Many fine exhibitors will be offering their treasures for sale, so be sure to attend this exciting event.

The famous Ogunquit Dory has been resting inside the Museum all winter and has now been moved outside for the season.

The main exhibit this year will be of the Ogunquit Beach. Many vintage photos will be on display, as well as the history of the beach and how it came to be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come. This will be a marvelous exhibit and should be seen by everyone.

The Heritage Museum Opening Party will be held on Saturday, June 6, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We extend an invitation to all of our members to come and meet your friends and fellow supporters.

The Museum is a local treasure and we are truly fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to help take care of it.

Thank you for your membership and continuing support.

See you at the Museum!

Mary Littlefield,
President



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Board of Directors

Mary Littlefield, *President*
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Marilyn Eimon Wini Mason
Bob Glidden Sue Michaelson
Hank Hokans Bob Perkins
Ryna Lipkind

Carole Lee Carroll, *Museum Curator*



Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Spring 2010 Newsletter

Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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Curator's Report . . .

After the fall season, we quickly began planning the holiday season. The next event was a two-day open house celebrating Christmas by the Sea. We decorated, baked cookies and hosted many new and old friends. This event is special because people who have not toured the museum during the summer get a final chance before the winter closing. Many thanks to the Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum for their support!

When activities of the holiday season were over, we quickly began planning the exhibits for the next season. In the 2010 season, we will concentrate on the history of the beach and paintings that represent the beach. The architectural room will include information about the building of Dunelawn. In addition, the Ogunquit Dory is being prepared for its visit to the Cove in late summer. The Museum will open on June 1st and the opening party honoring the Friends of the Museum will be on Sunday, June 6th. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

At last year's opening party an official



State Rep. Dawn Hill, (c), presents an official Sentiment to Marena Staples Bragg, in honor of Blanche Hutchins Staples while Marena's husband Bob Bragg looks on.

'Sentiment' was presented to Marena Staples Bragg in memory of her mother Blanche Hutchins Staples by Dawn Hill, the state representative from Ogunquit. I am sure this pleased the Friends, since you often get to read her memories of Ogunquit in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Bob Glidden and the Friends for donating new bookshelves for the Littlefield Library, and Hank Hokans and the Friends for their efforts improving our signage. New and essential signs are about to appear.

*Sincerely,
Carole Lee Carroll*

We Remember Blanche . . .

We continue the series of interviews with the late Blanche Hutchins Staples, beloved docent, story teller, teacher and major contributor to the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. These recordings were carefully transcribed by Bill and Judy Baker in 2004 and 2005. The full transcript is on file at the Museum.



Blanche H. Staples

The Winn House

Dorothea Grant was the niece of Jeremiah P. N. Jacobs who built the Sparhawk. When he died he left money to Dorothea and also to his daughter, Mary Jacobs Kennedy, and Dorothea Grant said to her, 'If

you will donate Jacob's Field to the town, then I will give money.' And it's specified in her Will for the beautification of Ogunquit.

Her bequest of about \$250,000, because it hadn't been used for so many years, had accrued a lot of interest, so we had somewhere around \$400,000. Our committee has been in existence for seven years this last, past spring; years before that there had been a committee, but the town didn't support it, and didn't give them any money at all. Finally the committee dissolved and nothing was done, so the house just sat there for 10 years.

And then the town said, well, we ought to do something about it, because in Dorothea Grant's Will, it says, 'for the beautification of Ogunquit', so we just can't let the money sit there forever.' So they asked for volunteers, and Isabel Lewando was one of the first volunteers, and she came to me, and she said, 'I think you should be on the committee, because your father was a fisherman and you were born in Ogunquit and lived here.'

I joined the committee, but there was a good deal of arguing about what the building was to be. The Performing Arts wanted it for their building. Isabel was the one who encouraged it to be used as Heritage Museum, that the art colony and the fishing village be featured—and Isabel at the beginning went to every meeting. She's always somebody to be called upon if you need help.

When this house was moved down here, they decided that this house would not be for the beautification of Ogunquit, which I think is entirely

(Continued...)

(*Blanche... continued*)

wrong. They made a park committee and a house committee. I was very much opposed to making them separate committees, which they did. I expressed my opinion at one time that I'm sure Dorothea Grant would totally approve of the building and consider it beautification, and would be glad to see it supported, but they insisted that it couldn't be considered that way. I knew Dorothea Grant—not well—because she was a lot older than I. She was more the age of my sisters, but I spoke to her often.

The Dorothea Grant endowment cannot be spent. The only thing that can be spent is the [interest] income from it. But we have quite a large principal—it's about \$250,000, but the town has so many regulations, that they can invest in almost nothing. The income they're (the Dorothea Grant Common committee) getting is a percentage of one percent which is almost nothing.

I recommended at the last meeting that someone go to the town and ask about separating our funds out and let us invest our own funds, because even if we got four to five percent, we would be getting eight to ten thousand a year which would be enough to maintain the building. If we could somehow change this notion that Dorothea Grant would not have approved this as beautification, it would be good. It would also take care of all the plants.

All the way to the Dunaway Center was Jacob's Field; the town appropriated that and made a parking lot. Then when we had the house down below the wall, they enlarged the parking lot right up to within feet of the house. And we said, at least you have to make it a hundred feet back and they were going to appropriate that, but one of our committee members, Paul McGowan, spoke very eloquently, and if he hadn't spoken so eloquently, I think they would have gone on, because they said there were state funds that could be used. It wasn't all right to take Dorothea Grant's gift to the town and make a parking lot out of it.

Another thing that nobody has ever mentioned in any of the publicity was that she (Dorothea Grant) was an accomplished musician. She had a beautiful contralto singing voice. She used to be the choral director for the Baptist church, and when we were kids, we would sing in the choir.

And she was director there. And she also, I think, sang professionally; she was paid, but she also sang often at the church and at other places. She had a trained voice. I think she went to the New England Conservatory, but I'm not absolutely

Correction

In the last issue of the Friends Newsletter, *Blanche* was quoted as saying that Frank Bangs, son of John Kendrick Bangs was the publisher of the 'newspaper in Ogunquit.' But, according to Carole Lee Carroll and Mary Leigh Smart, it was Howard Bangs, Frank's brother, who edited, not published, the Wells Ogunquit Compass. Frank Bangs, however, did write for the old York Transcript under the name of 'Fust.'

Welcome New Members . . .

Tom and Betty Hutchins

Endowment Contributors . . .

Marilyn Eimon

In Honor/Memory of **Dr. Perry Eimon**

Marilyn Eimon

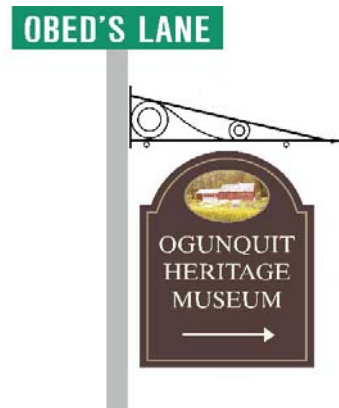
In Honor/Memory of **Yale Feinberg**

Peter and Barbara Woodbury
For the Endowment Fund

Gerry and Bunny Friedman
In Memory of Their Son **Adam Friedman**

Ellen Asherman
In Memory of Her Husband **Andrea Asherman**

Follow the Signs to the Museum!



Soon to be installed on signposts near us, these signs will direct visitors to our Ogunquit Heritage Museum on Obed's Lane.