

WILSON MUSEUM BULLETIN

Fall 2014

Vol. 5, No. 10

History of Emerson Schoolhouse by Elmont Wardwell



*Elmont Wardwell is sitting on the far right.
Photo courtesy of Pat Ranzoni.*

A recent gift from Beverly Farnham Henry to the Wilson Museum included a seven page composition in long-hand written by Elmont Wardwell on the occasion of his graduation.

Elmont Eastman "Ward" Wardwell was born in Castine, Maine, on March 14, 1917, he was a son of late Virgil and Rosie (Dodge) Wardwell. A short time after graduating from high school, he answered his country's call and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on the *U.S.S. Ticonderoga* during World War II. Elmont married Margaret Howard on May 16, 1946. A resident of Hudson, New Hampshire, for over 50 years, he died Dec. 18, 2002, in Hudson and is buried in the Castine Cemetery.

MISSION

Building on the legacy of its founding family, the Wilson Museum uses its diverse collections and learning experiences to stimulate exploration of the natural history and cultures of the Penobscot Bay region and the world.

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1.

When we were planning for our Commencement Exercises, the thought came into my mind, "What could be more pleasing to our audience than a history of their own schoolbuilding?["] The following interested people were consulted and some useful information given – Miss Annie L. Dunbar, Miss Josephine Wescott, W.E. Ordway and M.C. Devereux[.]

Many years ago, the old schoolhouse was moved from somewhere down the road and put on the site of the present building. After some time this old building was torn down and this present structure built in its place. By people of the age of the late Mrs. Edwin Ordway, this was known as "the new schoolhouse" From the limited information secured, this present building is 125 years old[.]

2.

Let us visit school this morning fifty years ago. We shall find it presided over by a stern looking instructor by the name of Lull. He built the house now occupied by W. E. Ordway, having his study in the ell, nearest to Grover's Witham's house. Mr. Lull was both teacher and minister. This morning at school, when he wishes to call a pupil's attention he flourishes a long whiplash which in most cases strikes the luckless youngster and brings him to his feet without delay. The girls sit on one side of the house, the boys on the other. There are two rows of hard wooden benches and a narrow middle aisle. A step is in front of each seat. How hard it must be for those little tots wedged in between young men of 18 or 20 years of age[.]

3.

The teacher sits at a high, built-in platform, hearing lessons and giving praise or blame as the occasion demands.

Other teachers of later years are Dr. W. S. Payson, Adelle Wescott, Edwin Ginn, publisher, Hosea Wardwell, Mary E. Dodge, Irene Witham, Helen Emerson, Mrs. Amanda Ordway, Zadoc Witham. These teachers served from 1850 to 1865. Mrs. Ordway received \$2 per weeks for her services. When Miss Adelle Wescott completed a ten week's term she received the salary of \$40 from which she paid all her expenses at Normal School, her graduating term, including her graduation dress, paid 50¢ per wk. for board and bought an oil cloth carpet for the hall at home.

In 1858 it was said that the school "off the Neck" was not what it should be, so the following committee of six persons was chosen to better conditions

4.

Capt. Ephraim Blake, Ebenezer Leland, Jacob Orcutt, Capt. John Perkins, Capt. Mark Hatch, and Capt. Stover Perkins.

History of Emerson Schoolhouse.

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Original composition. Wilson Museum Collection.

Gift of Beverly Farnham Henry.



Emerson School. Image courtesy of Castine Historical Society.

At the time when Irene Witham, taught school here, Lawyer Abbott, John Dresser, and Zadoc Witham were on the school board. At about this time the sum of \$200 was raised in Castine for support of common schools, this district receiving \$17.96. It will be interesting to note that the N. Castine District was No. 1, Castine Village No. 2, Cape Rosier No. 3 and the rest of Brooksville No. 4. This district extended from the land of the late Bennett Dunbar to Miss Josephine Wescott's place[.]

Some of the following pranks will make us think that the boys and girls have not changed much since the "good old days[.]"

5

On one occasion a certain Charles Webster, a lad with a flaming head was sitting in his seat, when he was startled by a match thrown from a small

bowgun, hitting the wall, bouncing back and fell into Charles' hair setting it on fire.

A certain Mr. Plummer was teaching here, when a member of the school board visited during morning session[.] The room seemed rather disorderly the entire morning but it must have indeed seemed more so, for upon leaving, the visitor was pelted with handfuls of peas thrown from a score of enthusiastic bards. He reported the incident at town meeting but so far as can be learned no action was taken. A favorite stunt was to crawl up the hole cut in ceiling, remaining there until after the bell was rung and then quietly drop down on some unsuspecting youngster's head.

6

Pupils were asked at end of day the number of times each had whispered, the penalty being an hour's stay for each offense. The throwing of spitballs was always a daring and interesting pastime.

At the close of a certain term, when visitors were present and everyone supposed to be on his best behavior the teacher was startled by a wild serenade outside. It was made by the larger boys who were armed with tin pans, cowbells, pieces of iron and anything else that would make a noise. No punishment was given.

The following amusing incident is related by a resident of this community – On a certain time the school was taught by Irene Witham. Lawyer Abbott, who was on School Committee, was visiting. It seems that some few of the older girls did not know the multiplication tables. Miss Witham was taken

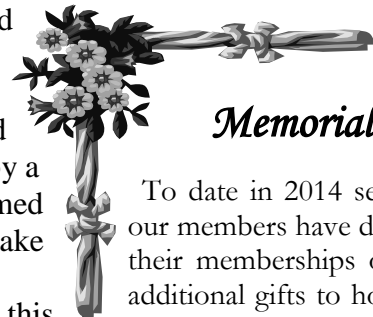
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to due for it by Mr. Abbott. She answered him by saying "I haven't had them in my school but a few days, they have just come from the Village."

Years passed, bringing many changes to the old school. The District System was abolished. Newer methods slowly came into use and a few improvements made in the building.

In 1923 the School was taken over by the state and made one of the training schools for student teachers. It is now known as the Rural Training School under the supervision of the Normal School. Dear old school, may you continue to grow and prosper. May your sons and daughters help the world to grow larger and better.

Elmont. Hardwell.



Memorials

To date in 2014 several of our members have dedicated their memberships or given additional gifts to honor the memory of those who have passed away.

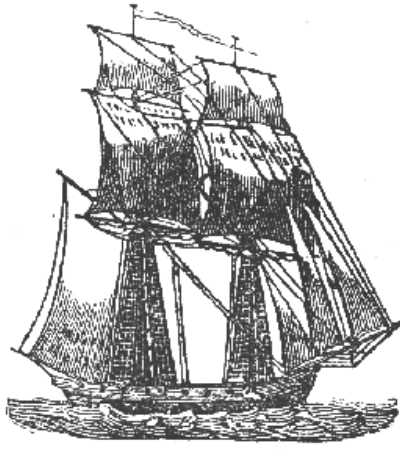
James Day
Gift in memory of
Glenyce Spaulding

Martha Morrell
Gift in memory of
Marion & Arnold Wyman

Judith Crist
Membership & gift
in memory of
Donald Crist



Exhibit & Program Series
Privateer Defence



Appreciation is extended to the Maine State Museum for the loan of artifacts from the underwater excavation of the privateer Defence. The exhibit was augmented by presentations given by David Wyman (above), Prof. Liam Riordan, and Michael Cecere (above right) and a period reenactment (right).



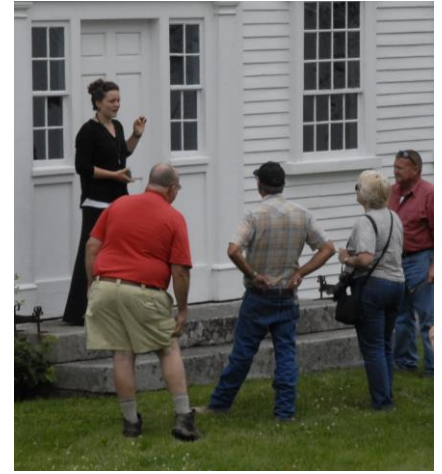
*Stories,
 Stories,
 Stories*



2nd Annual

Storytelling by the Sea Festival

Programs



Nautilus Island Fundraising Event

*Beautiful day,
Lovely setting,
New friends & old!*

*Thank you for
making this event a
success!*



From the Hugers:

We're now back in New Orleans with fond memories of this summer. It was so nice to meet the Castine community - everyone had such warm welcomes. We want to thank you for your contribution to the education department at the Wilson Museum. Take care and we hope to see you next summer.

Stephanie and Jim



Education Center Dedicated

On August 1, 2014, the Wilson Museum dedicated its new Education Center to the Hutchins family in honor of four generations of service.

1st Generation: In the early 1960s Hoyt Hutchins was hired as caretaker of Nautilus Island and maintenance manager of the Wilson Museum. Over the next 40 years his contributions included Trustee, lifetime Honorary Trustee, Treasurer, restorer of the John Perkins House, exhibit fabricator, and builder of the blacksmith shop, as well as resident blacksmith. His wife, Pauline, was the front desk docent at the Museum for 25 summers, a Council member, Trustee and continues as lifetime Honorary Trustee.

2nd Generation: Growing up around the Museum, Sherman Hutchins was his father's right-hand man. He helped in the restoration of the Perkins House and Doudiet House, filled in as blacksmith and, upon Hoyt's retirement, became Building and Grounds Manager – a position he holds today. His wife, Patricia, began as a volunteer in 1975 working her way from program and docent coordinator to Curator and, ultimately, to her current position as Executive Director.

3rd Generation: Sherman Hutchins II and Al Hutchins grew up working in and around the Museum. Recently, Al designed and built the cupola for the new

Education Center. Joyce Hutchins Tarr's support of the Museum's programs include many summers of fireside cooking demonstrations in the John Perkins House.

4th Generation: While each member of the fourth generation has participated in various Museum activities over the years, Ellenore and Grace Tarr have especially taken the Museum to heart. Even as toddlers, they were eager to help their mother as she cooked at the Perkins House hearth. Today, they often fill in as docents and are willing volunteers for a myriad of behind-the-scenes activities. Grace has become the lead guide in the John Perkins House and recently offered a series of cooking classes in the new Education Center kitchen.

The Wilson Museum is fortunate to have the support of this devoted family who is passionate about its programs and mission.



Standing: Ellenore Tarr, Erika Hutchins, Julie Hutchins, Becky Hutchins, Grace Tarr, Joyce Tarr, David Tarr, Al Hutchins, Stacy Hutchins, Cora Hutchins, Hoyt Hutchins; Sitting: Sherman Hutchins, II, Trafton Hutchins, Pauline Hutchins, Sherman Hutchins, Patricia Hutchins, Harland Hutchins

First Robin Bray Award Presented

The Wilson Museum is pleased to announce that Jennifer Hildreth is the first recipient of the Robin Bray Award. This award, established by Bill and Barbara Jackson, is in memory of Robin Bray, an Orland teacher who supported student learning by advocating the use of experiences beyond the classroom.

In 2014, Jennifer, then a fifth grade teacher in Bucksport, outlined a series of sample units for use by classroom teachers utilizing Wilson Museum resources. These examples are intended to inspire teachers to look beyond their classrooms for learning experiences to incorporate into their existing curriculum or become the basis for new curriculum development. Additionally, Jennifer's class enjoyed a field trip to the Museum.

The Wilson Museum is uniquely equipped to offer extraordinary experiences to local school children. It is a local treasure where students can see and, in many



instances, touch artifacts that span time (prehistoric to early 20th century), disciplines (geology, archaeology and history, for example) and cultures (African, South American and Native American to name a few). The Wilson Museum looks forward to offering this award in the coming year and beyond.

Castine has been watching and learning as we

Countdown to the Sculpture



We learned about granite and stone cutting.

We learned how some rocks are made.



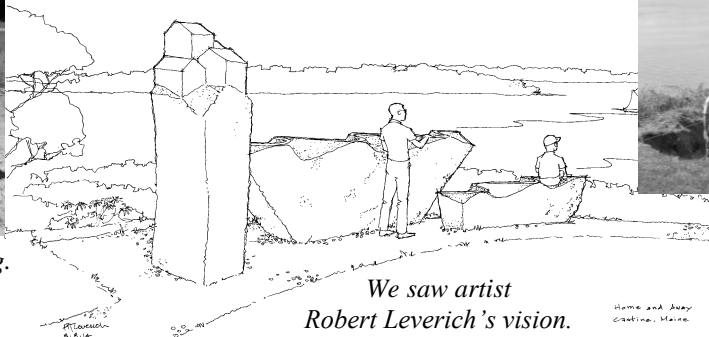
We learned how rock is carved.



The town sculpture committee organized, raised funds and kept the momentum going.



We visited SISS to see the rocks changing.



We saw artist Robert Leverich's vision.



We watched the foundation bases lowered into place.

The Committee volunteered to man the visitor tent and feed the sculptors.



We watched the 1st piece set on its base.

Then the 2nd.

And, finally, the 3rd stone was set in place.



And then came the exciting day when the truck loaded with the sculpture arrived.



Thank you, Bob!

Children and adults came from "Home and Away" to celebrate Castine's sculpture. Thank you to everyone who helped – it was truly a community effort!

Prehistoric Artifacts

Documented by French Researchers

For one week this past May, the Wilson Museum hosted two French archaeological researchers, Élise Tartar and Florent Le Mené. The two were studying a part of the Museum's Collection of Paleolithic artifacts. Élise specializes in prehistoric osseous technology, which includes bone and antler material worked into tools. Florent specializes in early lithics, a term which refers to stone tools. The current work that brought them to Castine focuses on the Aurignacian (approximately 40,000 to 26,000 years ago) occupations of the Vallon de Castel-Merle in Dordogne, France. They are part of a research program directed by New York University's Randall White that is working on the site of Abri Blanchard. Abri Blanchard was first excavated by Louis Didon from 1910-12, and in 1916 John Howard Wilson purchased a collection of Abri Blanchard artifacts from Didon. Randall White visited the Wilson Museum to survey these materials in 2008, and this visit by Élise and Florent provided an opportunity for a more in-depth study of the artifacts.



Toward the end of their visit, Élise and Florent gave an informal presentation on the materials to Museum Trustees, staff, and local scholars. They gave an overview of Aurignacian culture and technology and highlighted artifacts of particular interest from the Abri Blanchard material in the Museum's Collection. The two researchers also talked about the reasons behind their work in re-examining previously excavated materials. One hope they expressed is the possibility of finding a core or flake excavated from Abri Blanchard that can be matched to another found at the nearby site of Abri Castanet. Such a match would provide evidence that the two sites, currently considered separate, were actually a single large site during the Aurignacian.

Elise and Florent recently sent a report of their research containing detailed information about the Wilson Museum collections studied as well as informative background on the original location of the artifacts. The researchers will share with the Museum any future publications that draw from evidence found in the Collection.

Sisters Reunited for a Short Visit

One morning this July, Lucy Perkins came to visit her sister Polly Perkins in their childhood home. While this may not seem like an unusual occurrence, it's important to know that Lucy died in 1866 and Polly died in 1863. The two youngest daughters of John and Phebe Perkins sat side by side for perhaps the first time in about one hundred and fifty years.

July's get-together was a reunion of the young ladies' portraits. While Polly's portrait is part of the Wilson Museum collection and hangs in the parlor of the Perkins House, Lucy's portrait is part of a private family collection on loan this summer to the Castine Historical Society for their exhibit "*Mr. Madison's War*" *Castine and the War of 1812*.



It was a pleasure hosting this reunion. Thank you to members of the Ames family (pictured above) and the Castine Historical Society for making it possible.

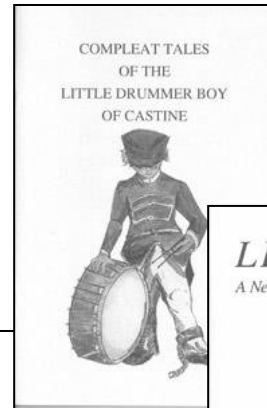
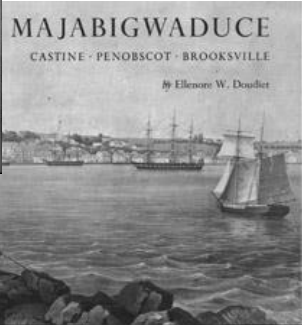
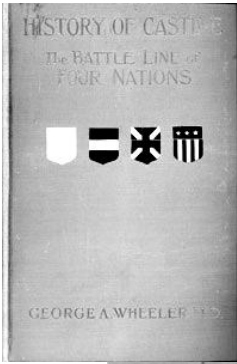


Ideas for Gift Giving Season

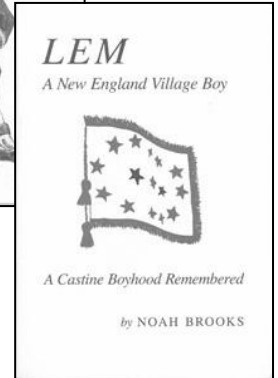


Visit our website:

www.wilsonmuseum.org/books_prints.html
for these and other great gifts.



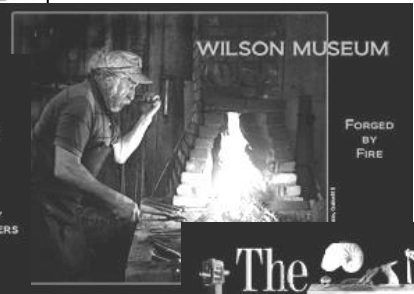
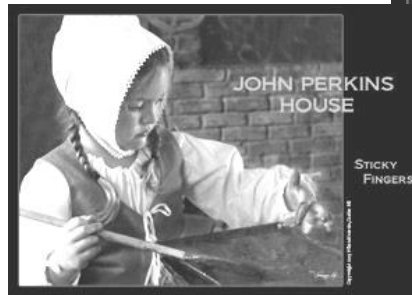
Books for the younger set,



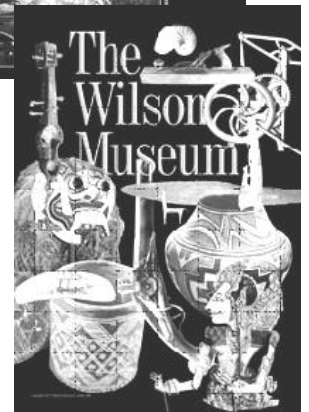
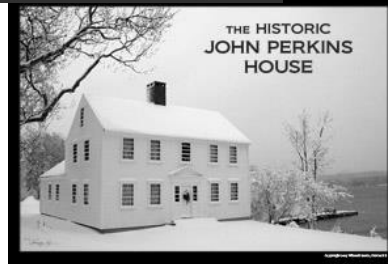
Books on history,



Image taken from map in Wilson Museum. Copies of original map (reprinted, 23" x 35") are available for \$18, plus shipping & handling.



Prints,
Puzzles,
and more!



A gift membership would bring treasures all year long.

Board Members Elected at 2014 Annual Meeting

On September 23, 2014, the Board of Trustees met for its Annual Meeting and election of officers and Board members (see side bar on page 2 for complete list). Officers elected for a one-year term:

- President Harry Kaiserian,
- Vice President Temple Blackwood,
- Treasurer Donald Small,
- Secretary Johanna Sweet.

Two Trustees, Temple Blackwood and Jeanmarie Reed, were re-elected for their second three-year term. Two new Trustees were appointed to each fill a three-year term. We are pleased to introduce our newly-elected Board members:



Robert Downes has served as strategist, consultant, advisor, and analyst to many high level domestic and international politico-military officials and organizations. Now retired, Bob makes his home in Orrington.



Johanna Sweet has been a storyteller for the past thirty years travelling as far away as Uganda and Guatemala as part of educational outreach programs. A published poet and educator, she is now retired from a rewarding teaching career and lives in Castine with her husband, Pedrick.

WILSON MUSEUM
P.O. Box 196
Castine, ME 04421

WILSON MUSEUM

May 27-September 30
Weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 2-5 p.m.

JOHN PERKINS HOUSE BLACKSMITH SHOP & EDUCATION CENTER

July & August
Wednesdays & Sundays
2-5 p.m.

Volunteer Heroes!

Thanks to devoted volunteers Christine Bates and Carolyn Corey the Castine Cemetery project is moving along toward completion.

Carolyn and Christine bring a background in data entry to the work as they spend one day a week entering photos and gravestone transcriptions to the cemetery database. They also bring enthusiasm and a passion for the project.

www.wilsonmuseum.org/cemdata

Thank you ladies!

