

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

FALL/WINTER 2010 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tales From Brigham's Cove

West Bath has a number of coves, many of which have special stories. One of the best known – and the biggest – is Brigham's Cove which has a long history as a haven for lobster fisherman and recreational boaters as well. It is also reputed to be one of the best swimming spots on the coast, because it is protected and relatively shallow (10 feet at mean low in some spots, and just plain mud flats toward the head of the cove). That shallowness allows the sun to warm the bottom, which helps heat up the water to tolerable temperatures as the tide floods in.

The history of the cove is a bit murky, at least in written form. It is said to have been an important Indian carry point to portage canoes from the New Meadows River across a relatively narrow bit of land to the Kennebec. In fact the existing dirt road that starts at the head of the cove was named "Indian Carry

Road" in the 1960's by local residents when road names were mandated for 911 emergency purposes. The cove is a protected spot, good for mooring working fishing vessels and recreational boats as well. For catboat fans, Brigham's Cove is summer home to a goodly number of those classic beamy single-mast sailboats.

Two stories particularly strike our fancy.

Bones on the Island

The first story is a bit of a mystery. On one hot August day in 1978, a skeleton, believed to be at least 100 years old, was found partially exposed on the banks of Perry's Island, a tiny spot of an island near the very north end of Brigham's Cove – in a small enclave called Perry's Cove. (The Perry's were among the earliest settlers of the Phippsburg



Perry's Island

region – and interestingly, Brigham's Cove is split right down the middle between today's town lines of West Bath and Phippsburg, with Perry's Cove on the West Bath side.)

The gruesome discovery of these bones was made by two children who were playing on the island, which can be reached from the mainland at low tide. It is located about 75 feet offshore on a quiet inlet surrounded by summer cottages.

Sagadahoc Sheriff at the time, Arthur Tainter, in making the

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Sam Francis gives "blessings" to Kathy Totten and Tim Buckley as they hang the holiday wreaths (courtesy of Joan Drake) on the Meeting House.

West Bath Annual Christmas Service December 16

Christmas is almost upon us, and once again, the West Bath Historical Society will be hosting our annual Christmas Service and Community Sing at the Old West Bath Meeting House. It will be held Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm. This year's program promises to be lots of fun, with traditional carols and some surprise elements. Pastor Sam Francis will be leading the service, with a special guest fiddler, Hope Hoffman, adding the musical festivities. Susie Knowles will once again work those foot pedals at the historic old pump organ, and there will be six readings, including an

WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents its
*Annual Community
Christmas Service & Carol Sing*



Thurs., December 16, 2010, 7:00 pm

OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

Berry's Mill Road, West Bath

Service led by Pastor Sam Francis.

Music by Violinist Hope Hoffman.

Open to all. Donations welcome. Light refreshments.
FMI 443-4449

excerpt from the Buddhist prayer for loving kindness.

Come and embrace the holiday spirit, do some spirited singing, and join us afterwards for hot cider and assorted homemade goodies. ▲

Tales from Brigham's Cove

Continued from page 1

announcement, told the *Times Record* that he estimated the skeleton "... could go all the way back to Indian times for all I know," adding that the skull was cracked and many of the bones had deteriorated.

Tainter said the skeleton was on the bank near the high tide mark. He postulated that the recent high tides (several days previous to the find, the tides in West Bath crested at 10' and 9.6' respectively) had probably washed away part of the bank, exposing about two-thirds of the skull.

And could he guess at the identity of this person? "I don't know how you could do any checking; we'll probably never find anything." None the less, Tainter said that Maine's chief medical examiner, Dr. Henry Ryan, would be examining the skeleton that very day (August 30).

The skull and bones were found by 9-year old Ellen Hurd and 11-year old Eric Stinson, both of Lebanon. They were visiting the Lawrence Smalls who were summer residents at Brigham's Cove.

While Dr Ryan ruled out foul play, he could not be sure of the skeleton's age. "Whatever it [sic] is, the remains are old", he told the Portland paper. "We have nothing to indicate whether it is 500, 1,000 or 100 years old." But he added it was safe to say this discovery wouldn't warrant any on-going investigation. "The bones seem to be so old that if there was a murderer, then he's probably dead, too," deadpanned Tainter.

The medical examiner was to meet August 31 with a physical anthropologist from the Maine State Museum to examine the skeleton. "We're going to try to determine its age, sex and race using the expertise of the anthropologist", he said.

The remains could have been uncovered from an old Indian burial ground, according to police and medical officials. After all, the cove



has been enjoyed by Native Americans for centuries, way before the white men arrived in the 17th century. Even as recently as the 1940's, residents remember Indians coming down to camp near the cove, building campfires, digging for clams and roasting them on the spot.

Several other theories were being considered by law officials as to how the skeleton got on this tiny island at the very head of a protected cove. Some felt a body could have washed up on and decomposed. Others believed it could have been buried during the last 100 years, or more than 200 years ago by sailors who plied these waters.

One interesting sidelight was brought up by Dr. Ryan: he had heard a report that Perry's Island might be haunted. "Someone told me that the island was included in a book on haunted islands," he said. "Wouldn't that be a story then?"

[Ed. note: we could find no follow up to this story. Does anyone know more about what the examination of these bones turned up? Where was NCIS when their forensic expertise was needed to solve this mystery!]

Boys Build Cabin on the Cove

The second tale is more straightforward, but nonetheless interesting. Two young brothers from Bath spent part of the winter and most of the summer of 1963 building a cottage at Brigham's Cove, just west of their father's existing cottage

almost at the water's edge. Gerald and Joseph Small, sons of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Small, who lived at 22 Lincoln Street in Bath during the winter, spent one day a week all winter cutting and hauling logs to be milled for their whimsical A-frame cottage. They cut down all the logs with a cross-cut hand saw. The rest of the work – setting posts and actually building the structure – was also done by the boys themselves. According to Gerald, who was interviewed by reporter David Swearingen for the *Bath Times*, the brothers only had one day when they could work together, because Joseph was employed by a Laconia, N.H. funeral home and only got one day a week off from his mortician duties there.

The structure was built on a slope. It is 9 feet wide by 36 feet deep, with a deck suspended from the front, facing the water, and supported by posts 10 feet high. The rear of the building is only a foot off the ground and rests on cement posts. The Cove's newest building had a living room, kitchen and bath downstairs, and a loft-like bedroom upstairs. The exterior was finished in a dark brown stain, with white scalloped trim.

Gerald was curious about the history of the ownership of the area and completed a title search of Brigham's Cove at the Sagadahoc County register of Deeds office at the court house. Here is what he found: The earliest the land holder of record was Leavy Dingley who sold the land to his brother Spencer for \$25 in 1824.

Leavy is buried in a small cemetery near the cove with his two sons. Spencer Dingley held onto the land until 1861, when it was sold to William Perry. Perry transferred the property to the cove's present namesake, James Brigham, in 1887. Brigham's brother Simon bought the land in 1892, and sold it to Annie and Michael Frye later the same year.

Here's where things got interesting. The land encompassed quite a lot of waterfront acreage on both sides of the cove all the way back to what is today a good portion of Birch Point. In two transactions, the Fries split the cove. They sold the area west of Brigham's Cove – now known as Birch Point - to J.E. Drake and F.E. Drake for \$200 in 1907. Some of that land is still in the Drake family. A fellow named Adolf Bernard Horn (we are not making this up!) of Havana, Cuba, bought the area now known as Brigham's Cove in 1906. Clearly he was not a native Cuban, but more than that we do not know.

Albert Craven brought part of the Cove from Horn later in 1908 (an early practice of real estate flipping). In 1925, Edwin Ramsey erected the first cottage at Brigham's Cove on land he bought from Craven. Horn

sold the remainder of the land to Ralph Dunton in 1926; he built his own cottage and created a development to sell lots to other prospective summer residents.

Early cottagers included Charles Small (parents of the brothers who built the A-frame), Kenneth Hunt, Madelyn Bruce and Layton Coombs. By 1963, there were 16 cottage owners, who gathered each summer at Brigham's Cove to enjoy swimming, water-skiing, sailing, boating, lobstering and social get-togethers in what Swearingen described as "...the quiet atmosphere of the cove."

At that time, most of the summer residents belonged to the Brigham's Cove Association, headed by Richard Minott of Bath. Deputy Chief of Bath Police Edward Newell was secretary/treasurer (so we can assume the association's funds were in safe hands!), while Everett White was vice-president. According to Minott, the association serves as spokesperson for the people of the cove to the town of West Bath, and Charles Small, an attorney, is the association's representative to the town. In addition to Minott, White, and Small, Bath area residents summering in the cove included George

Tyler, William Bruce, Wilbur Higgins, Bradford Belanger, Cecelia Wold, Edwin Ramsey (who still owned his original cottage) and Warren Grey. Donald Bruce, James Nevell and Harold Coles were Mass. residents with cove cottages. At Perry's Cove, on the east side of Brigham's, there were seven cottages, belonging to: Francis Bertrand; Harold, Lawrence, William and Raymond Small (all Smalls but not related!); Robert Fletcher, and Gardner Deering. Many of those who lived locally would snow shoe or ski into the cove during the winter months to check on their cottages and property.

– Avery Meyers

[Ed. note: According to local gossip, Gerald and Joseph Small has a falling out, and Gerald ended up living in the cottage, even in winter, with a bottle for company and a loaded rifle which he was said to shoot off on a whim. But this is just gossip. The current owner, Dean Rowland, bought the Small's log cabin and the brothers' cottage as a package in 2000 and has updated the latter a bit, for his kids to stay in on their visits to the Cove.]

Goblins Haunt Littlefield School This Fall

Around Thanksgiving, a curious sight appeared in the windows of the newly restored Littlefield School. Big orange pumpkins, all painted with scary black faces, hung from each window. It was as if a bunch of creative kids had just had an art class in our little one room schoolhouse and then hung their art work for all passersby to see. But, you see, there are no school children there anymore, and haven't been since 1948. Could this have been the work of some happy goblins? Or maybe it was students from the past still haunting the school? Tune in and see what the Christmas holidays bring forth! ▲



Newly cleaned bricks are lined up in front of the Littlefield School ready to be laid out in a welcoming path. But check out the pumpkin goblins peeking out the windows!

CHANNEL BUOYS



BIRTHS

Addyson Melrose Randall, born April 5 to **Ashley Lynn Tate** & **Nicholas Randall** of West Bath.

Mya Marie Gray, born May 17 to **Michael Gray** & **Jailyn Hodgkins**, Brunswick. Grandparents include **Donna Gray** of West Bath.

Kaelyn Marie Alley, born June 2 to **Amanda** (Wenners) & **Joshua Alley** of West Bath.



Anderson Michael Brown, born June 20 to **Erin Faith Decker** & **Benjamin Thomas Brown** of West Bath.

Lessie LeRoy White III, born June 24 to **Lessie Jr.** & **Jamie Pagurko White** of Boothbay. Grandparents include **Mary & Lessie White Sr.** of West Bath.

ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. **Richard Homan** of Bath celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19. The event was hosted by their son, **Brian**, and his wife, **Kathleen**; their daughter, **Gwen**, and her husband, **Mike Palicte** of West Bath, along with their four grandchildren. The Homans, both graduates of Morse High School, were married on June 18, 1960 in Bath. Mrs Homan, the former **Loretta Barter** of West Bath, attended the Littlefield School in the late 40's.

WEST BATH STUDENT NOTES

Named to Dean's List for the spring 2010 semester:

Cassandra Green, Becker College in Worcester, Mass.

Aleecya Brown, **Amber Kienstra**, **Kathleen Kenstra**, **Kristin Orr**, **Chelsey Renaud**, **Tasha Sanders**, **Daniel Swiburne** and **Maura Walker**, UMaine.

Ashleigh Elwell, Univ. of New England.

George Boynton, UMaine, Farmington.

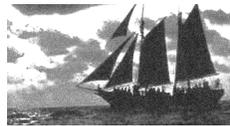
Kelsey O'Neill, President's 3.5 Scholarship Pin, UMaine, Orono.

Emily Powers, first honors, Clark Univ., Worcester.

2010 Graduates:

Hugh Goodfellow, BA; **Stephen Lemont**, Assoc. Degree - New

CROSSING THE BAR



Hazel King, 89, of Bath, died March 19 at her home. Her survivors include a son, **William "Trapper" King**, and his wife, **Linda**, of West Bath.

Mary E. Perkins Simpson, 93, died March 20 at Maine-General Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Center. Survivors include her sister-in-law, **Marion Perkins**, of West Bath.

Marguerite A. Hutchins, 92, a long-time resident of Bath, died April 7 at her home in Estero, FL. Among her survivors is her step-daughter, **Bette Ann McLean**, and her husband, **George**, of West Bath.

George Edward Hoskin, 69, of West Bath, died April 22 at the Maine Veteran's Home in Scar-

borough. He was born in 1940 in Houlton to **George Robert (Bob)** and **Elsie Louise Grant Hoskin**. He is survived by two daughters, 4 grandchildren, a brother and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Mr. Hoskin received a BA in Mechanical Engineering from UMaine and a BA in Business from UNH. He served as Lt. in the US Navy from 1963 to 1970. He was owner a local business, Hoskin Enterprises, in West Bath.

Demorise M. Swain, 85, of Bath, died May 6 at Mid Coast Hospital. She was born in Bath in 1924, a daughter of **Albert Joseph** and **Helen (Turcotte) Reno Sr.** She graduated from Morse High and, in 1946, married **Chester E. Swain** and they resided in West Bath. She was past

president of the West Bath Fire Dept. Auxiliary and an active volunteer, and loved spending time with her family, including her great-great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband; three brothers, **Albert**, **Phillip** and **Arthur Reno**; three grandchildren, **Peggy Ann**, **Richard Allen**, **Robert Douglas Renaud**; and **Robert Douglas Renaud**. She is survived by two sons, **Chester E. Swain** and his wife **Barbara**, of East Brunswick (formerly of West Bath), and **Lawrence Reno** and his wife **Diane**, of West Bath; one sister, **Virginia Ambrose** of West Bath; eight grandchildren, including **Lawrence (Buddy) Renaud** and his wife **Maria**, of West Bath; 21 great grandchildren, eight great great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

England School of Communication, Bangor.

Ashleigh Tate, Southern New Hampshire Univ.

Members of the Southern Community College Bath campus and University College at Bath/Brunswick Student Association hosted a graduation dinner May 7 for graduates of the UMaine and Southern Maine CC systems who attended a number of their classes at the Mid-coast Center for Higher Education in Bath. The dinner was attended by nearly 20 graduates, their family and friends, center faculty and staff. Among those attending was **Sandra Smith** of West Bath, who received a BS degree in mental health and human services from UMaine, Augusta.

Morse High names 10 top-ranked seniors, according to academic performance

Among those honored were two West Bath Students:

Meagan Hennessey topped the list as valedictorian. She plans to extend her softball career to play at Colby College, where she will major in environmental science. At Morse, she rounded out her athletics as a member also of the basketball and soccer teams, while also leading the National Honor Society. She was awarded a number of academic kudos for her work in Advanced Placement and honors classes, and also received the Yale Book Award and Rotary Youth Leadership Award. She was a member of Student Community Liaison council, Varsity Club, Girls Perspective Book Club and the school band. She volunteered at the Chewonki Foundation's science camp and was an athletic instructor at the Bath Area Family Y. Meagan is the daughter of **Juanita Wilson-Hennessey & Mike Hennessey**.

Fifth on the list was **Marissa Wales**, who plans to attend a training school for foreign missions before moving to China to work with children. She was Morse's Third

Chelsey Lee Renaud graduated summa cum laude from UMaine. She earned a bachelor of science in elementary education. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Chi Omega Sorority. She also received the college's Presidential Achievement Award. Currently employed by Children's Schoolhouse in Bath, she plans to return to UMaine to seek a master's degree in counselor education. Chelsey is the daughter of **Maria & Lawrence Renaud**. Her grandparents are **Norman & Bette Sanford** and **Lawrence & Diane Reno** – all of West Bath.

Honor Essayist and worked in child care and volunteered at CareNet to prepare for her future work abroad. She was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Marissa is the daughter of **Roland & Donna Wales**. ▲

George F. Walker Jr., 83, of West Bath, died at his home in Clarksdale, MS. He was born to George and Anne Galvin Walker, and grew up in Spencer, Mass. Following service in WWII, he graduated from Clark University and then received an MBA in Industrial Management at Worcester Polytech. He joined Johnson Steel and Wire in Worcester, ultimately becoming president. In 1962, he moved to Clarksdale, where he founded Delta Wire Corp.

Walker was very active in community activities, especially organizations related to education and higher ed opportunities. He was Chair of the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior College and also active in many other civic activities, including as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center, and on the Board of Directors of the Miss. Industries for the Blind. He was a devoted Rotarian, and was often a

guest at the Bath Rotary Club, when he was at his summer home on Quaker Point in West Bath.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gladys Constantine Walker; two daughters, including **Annie Walker Merry** and her husband **Mark**, of West Bath, as well as six grandchildren.

Margaret Edith Wetherington, 66, of Maryville, TN, formerly of Bath and Seabrook, NH, died May 17. She graduated from Morse High in 1961. Among her many survivors is her sister, **Joyce**, and her husband, **Edward Morse**, of West Bath.

William E. Greig Jr., 94, of Topsham, died May 23 at Cadigan Lodge. He was born in Concord, NH in 1915, the son of Nellie Atkinson and William E. Greig, but was schooled in Maine. Following high school, and forgoing a scholarship to Bowdoin, he moved with his family

to a farm on Berry's Mill Road (now the Ireland farm) and worked with his father to help pay off the mortgage. In 1940, he joined BIW where he met Emily Fox whom he later married in 1945. He served as a Merchant Marine on Liberty Ships during WWII, later returning to BIW where he moved into the purchasing department; he was very proud of his negotiations in purchasing the large red and white crane that still looms large at the Yard. He began selling life insurance nights and Saturdays; though part time, he was as successful as many full timers, winning paid trips to national conventions. He and his family moved to Topsham in 1949, and he was very active in many civic pursuits. He is predeceased by his wife who passed away in 2009. He is survived by their four children; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, and his brother-in-law. ▲

More Kudos for WBHS

Maine Spirit of American, a chapter of the Spirit of America Foundation, has chosen the West Bath Historical Society to receive the 2010 Spirit of American Award for outstanding community service! The letter we received in early December began: "Congratulation. Maine Spirit of America is very impressed by what your group has been doing (from information on the Internet and other sources)."

WBHS, along with 9 other volunteer organizations in Sagadahoc County, will be honored at a special ceremony, 6:30 pm, Wednesday, Dec 15 at the Topsham Grange #37.

Other winners this year are: Friends of Doubling Point Light

(Arrowsic), Oasis Health Network (Bath), West Bowdoin Baptist Church (Bowdoin), Second Baptist Church (Bowdoinham), Georgetown Historical Society, Phippsburg Fire Dept., Enterprise Grange @173 (Richmond), Topsham Grange #37 and Chop Point Inc. (Woolwich).

Spirit of American Foundation is a non-profit public charity that was established in Augusta, Maine in 1991 to encourage and promote volunteerism. You can check out their website at www.spiroaf.com. ▲

Clean Up Day at Littlefield School a Success!

On a sweltering Saturday morning in mid-September, WBHS

Board members and friends rolled up their sleeves, snapped on work gloves, and got to work on lots of little clean-up chores to spruce up the newly restored (but not yet spic and span) Littlefield School.

Floors were swept and vacuumed. The cellar was cleared of construction debris. Some loose molding was nailed in place. The wainscoting was cleaned with soap and toothbrushes (indeed!) and then given a finish oil. The new molding was stained to match the existing wood. Several garbage bags of junk were carted off. And crumbling cement was chipped carefully off a mess of old bricks – some from the original school chimneys and others donated.

Thanks to a whole lot of people. A few mentions here: Joan Drake for



Patten Free Library

Library History Series to Feature West Bath on February 12

The Patten Free Library's 7th annual town history series will include a presentation this winter by Victoria Pilgrim on the "History of Foster's Point". The series is jointly sponsored by the Library and the Bath Historical Society. Again this year, Raymond James and Associates, Inc. will be the financial sponsor of the Series.

The full schedule of the 6 towns (all of which are served by the library) participating in the series is as follows:

January 22 – Phippsburg: John Bradford: "Lost and Found: The 1607 Popham Colony's Fort St. George"



Young Howard Bubier

Photos courtesy of Victoria Pilgrim

January 29 – Woolwich: Allison Hepler: "The History of Route 1, Woolwich"

February 5 – Arrowsic: Fred Kahrl: "Arrowsic's Great Expectations: From Bald Head to the Baker Farm"

February 12 – West Bath: Victoria Pilgrim: "The History of Foster Point, West Bath"

February 19 – Bath: Barry Sturgeon: "The Davenport's of Bath: A Legacy for Generations"

February 26 – Georgetown: Libby Bishof: "Maine Moderns: Art in Seguinland, 1900-1940"



Old Bubier (now Pilgrim) Farm

For her West Bath talk, Victoria is now gathering old pictures and remembrances from those who have lived – or still do – on Foster's Point. If anyone would like to share old photos or stories, she would love to hear from you. Call her at 443-3907, or e-mail: vicdekep@comcast.net.

This event is always popular, so try to get to the library a bit early on Saturday, February 12, before the scheduled 10:30 am start. The talks are held in the Community Room on the second floor.

We look forward to a good West Bath audience.

See you there! ▲



Pete Guild and Cindy Fahay clown around with old bricks.

broom duty; Pete Guild for cleaning the bricks; Cindy Fahay for scrunching up in the cellar to sweep out cement chunks and deliver stacks of brick up to Pete; Lonnie Fitzjarrald for carpentry duty; Mike Fahay for a beautiful staining job; Raisa Bittner for cleaning the windows, Ivon Boyer for creative brick laying; Judy Barrington, Robin & Erik Hansen and Bill & Carol Hochgesang for brick donations. And the list goes on

–Avery Meyers

School Desks Emerge from Rehab

Old school desks of various sizes, and badly in need of repair, were taken under the wing of Board Member (and furniture wizard) Ivon Boyer. Over the period of about a month this fall, Ivon worked his restoration magic on the desks in his home shop, and returned them to the Littlefield School to be displayed with pride. The desks do not match, and are not original to the school, but they are all from the same turn of the century vintage school furniture which would have been used up to the day that Littlefield’s one room classroom was shut for good in 1948).

The actual teacher’s desk, dating back to April, 1898 based on a metal label (see accompanying photo) found on its underside during its repair, was salvaged from the school during restoration and Ivon was able to bring that back to life as well. All of the school desks were donated from people in the community, including Peter & Carolyn Stackpole



Photos by Pete Guild

and former board member Susan Levey. And believe it or not, Board president (and notoriously thrifty scavenger) Avery Meyers, actually found one large pair at the town transfer station!

A mystery remains: where did all those original Littlefield school desks go? Does anyone know? ▲



COOK'S KORNER

These cold winter days call for a nice warming chowder recipe. And we thought it fitting that we share a famous West Bath concoction created by the late (See *Crossing the Bar*, pg. 4) and legendary Demorise Swain.

As her son Chet recalls, she started cooking at an early age and worked at various West Bath eateries, including Gil’s, and the New Meadows Inn. Her husband was very active in the fire department, (as was Chet), and on big fire calls, especially on cold winter nights, the wives used to get together and make warm food for them. And Demorise’s fish chowder was always a big hit.

In 1983, Chet started Swain’s Market (in the building that now houses Coastal Trans). At first, he only sold groceries, but soon got to thinking that maybe he could enlist his mother to do some cooking, so we “added a little eatery” and it was a roaring success, especially the fish chowder. He sold the market in ’89 (“we were all burned out), but the chowder recipe lives on, thanks to Deb Bruce, who has kept a copy to this day. As she remembers ... “I had never had fish chowder until I met Demorise. She had me hooked from the very first taste!! When I asked her how many potatoes to use she said whatever amount I wanted to use! I have always felt blessed to have had her as a friend.”

Demorise Swain's Fish Chowder

3 lbs fish

1 large onion chopped

Potatoes, peeled and chopped small (amount is up to you)

1 lb. butter - (not margarine)

4 pints of cream

Boil the potatoes until done; drain.

Put the butter, onions, fish in a big pot. Cover with about 1 inch of water. Cook five minutes. Add the potatoes to the fish and butter.

Add 4 pints of cream.

Heat through. Add salt & pepper to taste. Do not boil! ▲

TOWN CRIER



Thank you West Bath voters for a 63% election-day turnout on November 2nd, with 1019 ballots cast!

Reminders: Have you re-licensed your dog(s) for 2011?

Renewals are due on Jan 1, 2011. Renewals after 31 January will be charged a \$25.00 late fee. Also: get ready for your 2011 recreational season by registering your Snowmobiles.



Please Note: The lien process for unpaid taxes from 2010 will begin in June. 2008 unpaid tax liens will face automatic foreclosure January 17, 2011.

Meeting Notifications – Residents who would like an e-mail notification of any Town or Committee work session or other public meeting may submit their email address to the Town Clerk at townclerk@west-bath.org, or call us at 443-4342.

The Town Office counter is open on Mondays now until 5:30 pm to accommodate our residents.

On behalf of your Town Office staff, I wish everyone safe and joyful holidays!

– Rob Morris, Town Clerk

THE MIDDLE GROUND

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We publish researched historical materials, local news and events that may be of later historical interest.

We do not print gossip, ads or political opinion.

To provide news items, historical photos or documents, or FMI, contact Avery (443.4449); or Kerry (443.5118)

THE MIDDLE GROUND

West Bath Historical Society

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Bath, Maine 04530



Photo by Pete Guild

Restored school desks stand in graduated rows, facing the Teacher's desk and the blackboard, both saved from the original Littlefield School. Can't you just envision a row of kids with pencils poised?