

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

FALL 2014 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hamilton Sanctuary Opens New Trails

Thirty five years ago, the Maine Audubon Society's Hamilton Sanctuary on Foster Point officially opened to the public, and over time has expanded into 93 acres, with new marked trails opened this fall. There is a long history to the origin, evolution and present condition of this special place in West Bath.

Early colonial-era developers often subdivided large parcels of land by drawing straight parallel lines across the original parcel. Since people traveled and moved goods by water, they needed shore frontage, the same way road frontage is necessary today. Due to the irregular features of Maine shoreline, sometimes a lot would be divided by a body of water. Access to a remote portion might be via bridge, boat or crossing neighbors' properties. The original farm that eventually became the Hamilton property had two unconnected pieces of land, one along the Foster Point Road with the farmhouse and field sloping down to Back Cove; the other, a 26 acre peninsula across the cove, reached by boat at high tide or

walking over the next door neighbor's land.

In 1979, Millicent Hamilton conveyed the 26 acre peninsula to the Maine Audubon Society. At her death in 1986, she bequeathed them the remaining 48 acres. In December 2007, using private donations and public grants, Maine Audubon bought approximately 19 additional acres of an abutting parcel of land from Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kiss. (Interesting note: Mr. Kiss's father was Max Kiss who ran away from home in Hungary and came to New York City, penniless, in 1898. In his 20s, he invented Ex-Lax and, at the time of his death in 1967, presided over the largest laxative empire in the world.) By adding the former Kiss property to Hamilton Sanctuary, Maine Audubon established a land link between the two formerly disconnected parcels.

Although Maine Audubon owns the physical property of Hamilton Sanctuary, a conservation easement is held by Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, which monitors and enforces conditions of the easement. An easement is a legal agreement voluntarily given by a land owner which places restrictions on development or use of a property. As a matter of policy, Maine



Mrs. Alice Estelle Hamilton (left) and her daughter Millicent Hamilton, c. 1959.

Audubon sanctuaries prohibit pets, alcohol, firearms, hunting, trapping, fires, collecting, mountain biking, and off-road vehicles.

Hamilton Sanctuary is used by walkers, bird watchers and student groups from the West Bath Elementary School. Clammers and wormers

Continued on the next page



Millicent Hamilton's farmhouse is now the home of Hamilton Sanctuary's caretakers.

West Bath Historical Society presents its

**Annual Community
Christmas Service & Carol Sing**



December 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm
Old West Bath Meeting House
Berry's Mill Road, West Bath
Service led by Rev. Allison Smith.

Open to all. Donations welcome. Light refreshments.
FMI 443-8955 or 443-5907

Hamilton Sanctuary

Continued

use it for access to Back Cove mud flats. A public parking area with a wheelchair-accessible toilet is located south of the farmhouse. The display board near the parking area gate provides a trail map, and general information.

Trails begin across Foster Point Road, leading through natural stands of pine, spruce and fir with some deciduous trees. Other environments include salt marsh, ledges, mud flats, freshwater wetlands, meadow and the narrow gut next to Williams Island. Because of this variety, a wide range of birds and mammals may be found in the Sanctuary.

In her will, Millicent explained that this gift was made, “In memory of my mother, Alice Estelle Hamilton, whose joy in flowers and birds, trees and sky and changing tides, the animals that live in the woods and all the plants that grow there, awakened and nurtured joy in others.”

In a memorandum to Maine Audubon, dated October 29, 1984, Millicent wrote, “It is my request

that no building of any kind ever be constructed or placed in the field that is bordered on the east by the Cove and lies directly across the cove from the present dwelling. In fact, it was the desire to preserve this field un-marred by buildings of any kind that first led me to approach Maine Audubon about accepting my property here on Foster Point as a sanctuary.”

Since 1990, Millicent’s farmhouse (the oldest section built in 1773) has been home to Hamilton Sanctuary caretakers, Marianne Warner, a 5th grade teacher in Topsham, and Glenn Evans, a 10th grade biology teacher at Mt. Ararat. Their twin daughters, Morgana and Hillary, grew up on the Audubon property and are now away at college. Glenn and Marianne’s duties include maintaining trails and grounds and monitoring use by visitors. A Stewardship Committee of volunteers meets four times a year to help maintain trails, and recently, the Morse High football team joined volunteers to build bridges for the new trails.

—by Fran Soveral, with Audubon source materials and interviews with Lea Wait



West Bath School third graders enjoy the trails in 2004.

Kerry Nelson photo.

Millicent and her mother, always addressed as “Mrs. Hamilton”, in the early 1950’s, shortly after Mr. Hamilton’s death.

The Hamilton family had lived in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel until the great depression when Mr. Hamilton lost his job. They moved to Foster Point in 1940. During her life in New York, Millicent enjoyed a privileged upbringing. Although, as an adult, Millicent was a very private person, bits about her past sometimes came to light. She had been a debutante and wore elegant evening gowns, which, along with a mink coat, moved with her to West Bath. Ms. Wait’s early memories are of Millicent tending extensive vegetable and flower gardens and a large raspberry patch.

The Hamiltons grew almost all their own food, canning their winter supply. In season, they sold vegetables and raspberries to summer people on Foster Point. From this money, they could afford meat once a week. Because they had no car, their postman would do a little shopping for them. Cooking was done on a wood stove, which also heated the house. Mrs. Hamilton did all the cooking, while Millicent took care of the outside work. The photo,

Continued on the next page



Millicent Hamilton and two young friends.

Who was Millicent Hamilton?

She was born at New Bedford, Massachusetts, on May 25, 1907, to Walter Irving Hamilton and Alice Estelle Burrill Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton, a Maine native, was manager at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, and wrote several books and manuals relating to the hotel business. Lea Wait, a well-known Maine author living in Edgecomb, has memories of Millicent spanning more than 30 years, first as young girl and later as an adult, bringing her own daughters to Millicent’s home. Ms. Wait met

Dave Hennessey to give Library Talk on Winter Point Oyster Farming Feb 7

David Hennessey, whose extended family runs the Winter Point Oyster Farm in West Bath, will be giving a talk on the whole process of seeding, nurturing, harvesting and selling their special oysters. His presentation will be a reprise of the very popular talk that Dave gave at the WBHS Annual Meeting two years ago. This event is part of the Patten Free Library's Town History Series, and will take place there on Saturday morning, Feb 7th from 10:30 to 11:30.

The Hennessey family has been growing "Winter Points" in the waters of the New Meadows from

their saltwater farm in West Bath since 1996. While the large saltwater farm tract has been in their family since early Colonial times, their oyster raising operation is a relatively new enterprise. It seems that the salt water in the Mill Cove area off the New Meadows River has just the right mix of salt water to fresh, at the right temperature, to produce the most delicious oysters. Most of the Winterpoints are sold to high-end restaurants and wholesalers.

According to one Portland fish dealer, "These oysters are of exceptional quality and consistency in their size, shape, cleanliness and flavor. The Winter Points are roughly three to three-and-a-half inches in diameter, deep cupped, thick shelled, and possess a medium salinity coupled with a hint of sweetness. I have no reservations in stating that

these oysters will exceed the expectations of even your most particular customers and fanatical oyster connoisseurs."

The schedule for the town history series is as follows:

January 24 – **Georgetown:** Megan G. Theriault, "The Artifacts of Georgetown"

January 31 – **Arrowsic:** Nancy Sferra, "History of the Mill Pond Area"

February 7– **West Bath:** David Hennessey, "Raising Oysters in West Bath"

February 14 – **Bath:** Charlie Burden, "A History of Bath Newspapers: Loving the Bath Daily Times"

February 21 – **Woolwich:** WHS Board, "Woolwich and the Civil War: A Story told in Artifacts" ▲

Hamilton Sanctuary

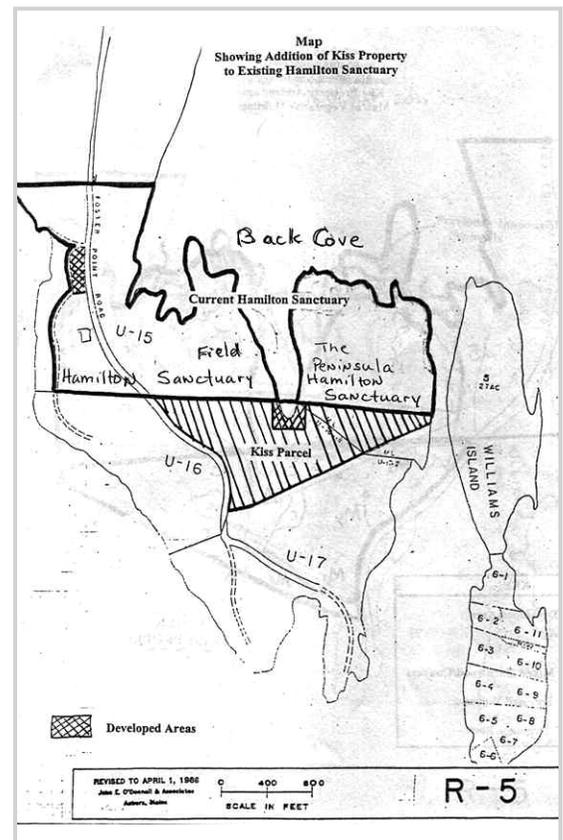
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circa 1959, showing Millicent and her mother in their garden wearing heavy coats (see page 1), is how Ms. Wait clearly remembers these women. Unless the weather was terrible, they preferred to be outdoors. Although the women didn't talk much about the past, they were very animated about the natural life around their farm. Sometime around 1960, their financial condition improved, and they built a small garage, bought a car and a stereo.

After Mrs. Hamilton's death, Millicent carried on alone. She learned how to cook in her 60s. She was a colorful character, remembered as a hard worker and very frugal until the end of her life. Millicent swam in the Back Cove from March until the end of October. She owned a gun and a series of small boats. Most boating was done within the cove. She took children for picnics along the Back Cove shore and taught Ms. Wait to row. Millicent was a smoker, using a dramatic 1920's style cigarette holder, and enjoyed her afternoon bourbon with ginger ale.

Longtime Foster Point residents still remember Millicent: listening with her parents on Sunday afternoons to opera radio broadcasts from New York City; cross country skiing on Foster Point; vigilantly chasing hunters off her property; having beautiful gardens; and taking children on nature walks. Some neighborhood children were intimidated by her very proper demeanor.

Let Millicent have the last word here. "It is a peaceful and beautiful bit of land that has been an important part of my life for many years, to roam afoot or to view from the water. It is home to the woodcock and bobolinks in the spring; to redwings, catbirds and song sparrows to warblers, and flycatchers along the marsh edge. It is spring and autumn grazing ground for the deer. My most fervent desire is that it continue unspoiled for the wildlife, and that many people in the years to come will find peace and joy there as I have done." ▲



A town property map showing the three parcels of land that make up the Hamilton Sanctuary. Back Cove separates two of the original parcels.

Maine Maritime Museum Honors Bill Haggett

West Bath's Bill Haggett, who has long been active in the community, was recently crowned with yet another distinction, as Maine Maritime Museum's 2014 "Mariner of the Year."

He is the ninth recipient of the Mariners Award, presented annually by the museum to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to Maine's maritime heritage, which has significant impact on the state's culture and economy.

On a balmy evening in late August, over 200 people gathered to celebrate Bill at a special dinner event in the Percy & Small Shipyard on the banks of the Kennebec.

Bath native, former BIW president and MMM Trustee Emeritus William E. "Bill" Haggett was honored for his lifelong support of Maine's maritime legacy, both in his professional career and for his extraordinary community service. According to the "RhumbLine" (the museum's

newsletter), Bill's selection for the award "... was enthusiastically praised throughout the evening as a well-earned distinction by those who gave remarks, and wholeheartedly acknowledged by the scores of friends, family and colleagues past and present who gathered to show their respect."

U.S. Senator Susan Collins was the evening's keynote speaker, and she spoke about Bill's many contributions to Maine's maritime heritage, "... not just as a leader in the shipbuilding industry but also through his decades of work as a trustee at both Maine Maritime Museum and Maine Maritime Academy." An Aroostook County native, Senator Collins said she could not let the opportunity pass to also recognize Bill for his leadership over the past decade in Maine's agri-



Photo courtesy of Maine Maritime Museum.

culture sector. (She was referring to the fact that he is currently chairman and CEO of Pineland Farms Natural Meats and Pineland Farms Naturally Potatoes, with headquarters in New Gloucester, Maine.)

Senator Collins also commended Maine Maritime Museum, noting its significant contribution to Maine's economy and its spectacular growth, both in terms of collections and in national and international recognition. She also highlighted the key role that the Museum plays as a catalyst for discussion of evolving maritime topics.

There were four former Bath Iron Works leaders present at the dinner. One of them, current BIW President, Fred Harris, spoke about Bill's instrumental role in landing two significant contracts that cemented BIW's position as a leading U.S. Navy shipbuilder – to build the DDG-7 and the Arleigh Burke Aegis destroyer.

Jim Irving, President and CEO of J.D. Irving Ltd. based in New Brunswick, Canada and that country's largest builder of military ships, spoke about Bill's impact in propelling Irving to its leadership role in the industry and the forging of a strong working relationship between the company and BIW. Bill served as president of Irving Shipbuilding from 1992 to 1997, following his tenure at BIW.

After receiving the award from MMM Board Chair Dick Lemieux, Bill took the podium. He thanked everyone present for their support, not only for attending the event but more importantly for their support throughout his career. He spoke of how every significant accomplishment in his life could be attributed to the people with whom he worked. "I'm not an engineer; I can't weld. I'm not a farmer; I can't grow potatoes," he pointed out. "To get things done, I had to rely on the skills and expertise of others to make it happen." ▲

Meet the West Bath Town Hall Staff

For those of you who haven't visited Town Hall recently, we thought it was time to meet our team. We have two new staffers who have just been on board since September 22.

First is our new Town Administrator, Adam Garland, who has worked in municipal government since 2003, starting as a police officer in Augusta. In 2006, he joined the Richmond Police Dept., and in 2010, was promoted to Sergeant. In that capacity, he trained new officers, and provided firearms and Taser training. He also supervised officers, as well as handling many administrative functions. He continues to serve as a reserve officer in Richmond, and assists with officer training. Adam holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from the U of Phoenix in Arizona, and a BA in

Management from Bluefield College in Bluefield, VA. He lives with his wife and daughter in Litchfield.

Next is Brandi Lohr, our new Town Clerk, who most recently worked for the Town of Bowdoinham as Recreation Director and Deputy Town Clerk. Brandi grew up in Bridgeville, PA, and moved to Maine in 2008. She and her husband and 3 kids live in Bowdoinham, where, in addition to enjoying her family, she is very involved in her community, where she coaches youth basketball and softball and serves on the Ararat Youth Basketball League Board.

And let's not forget Julia House, town treasurer/tax collector and deputy clerk, who is the "old China hand", having been with us for more than three years. Before that, she worked for Bert's Oil. Julia has lived in Phippsburg all her life and says, "I really enjoy working for and with the residents of West Bath." ▲

The Littlefield School Flagpole Rises Again!

Who says you can't teach an old flagpole new tricks? It was clear that the rickety pole that flew its colors over our historic and now restored Littlefield School was on its last legs. Too short to allow the flag to fly free, it had resulted in several tattered flags over the past few years, rubbed and ripped by the wind in their continual contact with the school's cedar shake roof.

The original salvaged pole broke in half about 4 years ago, and was replaced by a simple temporary pole. That one finally gave up the ghost this fall. Enter our hero, Pete Guild, who managed to resurrect a sturdy old pole from his parents' cottage. Let him tell the story:

"Back in the early '70's, Buddy and Mamie Guild had just finished winterizing their Birch Point summer home from an open beam, uninsulated "camp" into a four season cottage. When the deck was complete, Buddy searched for a suitable tree to fashion a proper flagpole. Over in his favorite woods, called Green Point [ed. note: now a preserve for public hiking, managed by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust], he found the perfect spruce.

"It was just the right diameter and length, and nearly straight as an arrow. He cut her down with his chain saw, and dragged it back home behind his Toyota "Jeep."

"He began the long job of trimming all the limbs, and removing the bark carefully with a draw shave. After months of puttering around with the tree, it was looking like a real flagpole. However, it was still awful "green" so Buddy stored it under the garage for a couple of years to dry out. In the meantime, he designed a base, using two pieces of galvanized steel ship channel (most likely Ed Drake "purchased" them at BIW for Buddy) which he used for a hinged base to allow the pole to be up-righted, and lowered rather easily. Over the next few summers he built a cinder block and concrete base, and set the channels in place; there's a date on the base of 1985, so Buddy had not been an awful hurry."

For the next twenty plus years the pole Buddy had built served them very well. Unfortunately, time, moisture, and carpenter ants took their toll, and eventually the lower five feet of the pole became quite rotten. Pete, who now lives with his wife Sandy in the Guild "cottage," deciding that its useful days were over, cut off the bad lower end to the point where the wood was still like new, and stored it (once again!) under the garage.



The new flagpole goes up at Littlefield School.

As Pete relates, "This fall the old pole was removed, with some difficulty I might add, as the flag was nearly permanently snagged between the bale, and the roof ridge. It involved some tearing to get it free."

Pete resurrected his dad's old pole from under the garage, cut it to what he hoped would be the proper length, and notched the bottom so it would lock into the original pole support. He recruited Andy DeHahn, who happens to be a capable handy man in West Bath, who put 3 coats of paint on the mast and then helped hoist it into its final place on Sunday morning, the 28th of September. Buddy's pole has risen again; he would be tickled pink! ▲



COOK'S KORNER

Now that winter is upon us, let's consider the humble but vitamin-packed cranberry. Following are two different recipes – one very sweet and one very tart – to inspire your holiday menus.

[Note: Maine cranberries – a recently reintroduced and rapidly expanding crop – can mostly be found in farmer's markets in the late fall. And, high in antioxidants, they are good for you! In fact, two recent studies found that antioxidants, among their many benefits, appear

to provide some significant protection against Alzheimer's disease.]

Rich Cranberry Pie

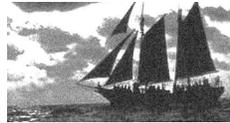
In a 10" glass pie plate, mix together 2 cups fresh cranberries, 1/3 cups sugar and 1/2 cup coarsely chopped nuts (pecans are best). In a mixing bowl, beat 2 eggs, and gradually add 1 cup sugar. Then mix in 1 cup flour, pinch of salt and then 3/4 cup melted butter. Stir gently and pour over the cranberry mixture. Bake 1 hour, or until very light brown, at 300 degrees. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

Raw Cranberry & Orange Relish

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 large orange
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 tbs. orange liqueur

Grind cranberries through medium blade of a food chopper. Then do the same with the whole orange, lightly chopped, including the rind (yup); but first remove all the seeds and white membranes. Put fruits in glass bowl and stir in the sugar and booze. Store in covered jar in the fridge. (This relish makes an excellent condiment for leftover turkey sandwiches!) ▲

CROSSING THE BAR



John E. Koehling, 48, of Shelbyville, TN, died March 3, after a brief illness. Born in 1966, he was the son of **James & Linda Koehling** of West Bath. He attended Morse High and served in the U.S. Army from 1985-'89, and worked for many years at Newell Rubbermaid in Tennessee. In addition to his parents, among his survivors are his parents; his sisters, **Kelley Keenan, Traci MacDonald** & her husband **Jed**, and his niece **Madison MacDonald**, all of West Bath.

Jacqueline Drake, 90, of Georgetown, passed away March 3 at her home with her family by her side. Among her survivors is her sister, **Beverly Lytton** of West Bath.

Alexander S. "Bubba" Coffin, 30, of Abby Lane in West Bath, died April 5 at Maine Med, due to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident, with his family by his side. He was born in 1983, the son of **Mary Coffin**, and graduated from Morse High in 2002. He worked several jobs in the area, most recently with Rick Leech Masonry. Bubba's greatest love was his daughter Erin. He was also a major baseball (Red Sox) fan from the time he could swing a bat, enjoyed the Bruins, Tae Kwon Do, and his guitars. He is survived by his mother, and, among others, his sisters, **Elizabeth Renaud** & her husband **Nick**, and **Samantha Coffin** & her companion **Shaun Roberts**, all of West Bath.

Mathew Joseph Perkins, 28, died April 8 in Plymouth, MA. Among his survivors is his paternal grandmother **Marian R. Perkins** of West Bath.

Frank Alvah Donnell, 86, of West Bath, died April 18 at Florida Hospital in Sebring. He was born on his family homestead in West Bath in 1927 and lived there most of his life. After graduating from Morse High in 1945, he served in the U.S. Army in Korea before earning a business

degree from Bryant College in Providence, RI. Frank then worked for BIW as director of Computer Programming, retiring in 1982. He remained active throughout his retirement as a member of the West Bath Grange, Solar Lodge of Masons, and trustee of Bath Savings, as well as treasurer and trustee of the Plant Memorial Home. He also served as selectman for the Town of West Bath, and served for over 60 years as President of the WB Cemetery Association. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, **Carol Donnell**; a daughter **Jennifer** & her husband **Gerald Mitchell**, and their children, **David** and **Amelia**, all of West Bath.

Louis E. Thibeault Sr., 94, of Brunswick, died April 19 at Horizon's Nursing Center. Among his survivors is a daughter, **Cheryl Farnham** & her husband, **Bruce**, of West Bath.

Elaine S. Jacobs, 58, of Bath, died after a brief illness on May 5 at her mother's home. Among her survivors is her mother, **Rita McGuigan** of West Bath, and a sister, **Kathleen Perry** and her husband **Keith**, also of West Bath.

Robert P. Doyle, 98, of Round Pond, formerly of Bath, died May 23 at Miles Memorial Hospital. Among his survivors is a step daughter, **Nancy D. Smith** of West Bath.

Amilda M. "Millie" Szczepanski, 94, died May 27 at Hill House in Bath, following a lengthy illness. Surviving, besides her husband Kazimierz "Ski" Szczepanski of the Highlands in Topsham, are her five children, including **John Szczepanski** & his wife **Kara** of West Bath.

Marie Celeste DeMarco, 91, also a resident of Hill House, passed away May 29. Among her seven children and many survivors is her daughter, **Victoria DeMarco Pilgrim** & her husband **Derick**, and their children,

Zachary, Jesse & Argia Pilgrim, all of West Bath.

Muriel Lucille Gosselin, 85, of the Plant Home, died June 6 at Maine Med. Among her survivors is her daughter, **Elaine Secskas** & her companion **Chris Van Doren** of West Bath.

Thelma Ora Sylvester, 107, of the Plant Home died June 7. "Mamie" was born to George Stapes and Bina Emily Weymouth in Lincoln, Maine, one of ten children. The large family moved to Bath where she met her husband, John Sylvester. They were active members in the West Bath Grange, among their other pursuits. She was predeceased by her husband, and her son **Donald**. Among her survivors is her daughter-in-law **Jacqueline Sylvester** of West Bath, with whom Mamie lived along with Donald for many years, as well as her great-grandchild **Jerod Denson** of West Bath.

Donna Rae Smith, 63, of Passaic, N.J., formerly of West Bath, passed away July 8. She was born in Bath in 1951, the daughter of Leonard & Mamie E. Smith, and graduated from Morse High in 1969. She was very active in the Corliss Street Baptist, where, although visually impaired, she was renowned for her special singing voice. In fact, she is still fondly remembered for singing often at the Old West Bath Meeting House when it was a Methodist church. Donna was employed as a customer service representative for the Social Security Administration in New Jersey for 25 years. Her survivors live in the Bath area.

Mildred Morin, 90, of West Bath, passed away July 25 at her home with family. She was born in 1923 in Van Buren to Wilford & Lucy Doucette. She married Gilbert Morin and they moved to Bath to raise their five children. Mildred worked at the Hyde Home, Petit Nursing Home and cared for elderly clients in their homes. She was predeceased by her husband 32 years ago, and her son

CHANNEL BUOYS



BIRTHS

Lucien John

Lagasse, born April 6 to Nathan Lagasse & Lauren Kinne, Freeport. Grandparents include **Scott Kinne** of West Bath.

WEST BATH STUDENT NOTES

Tyler Tardif was named to Maine Maritime Academy's Dean's List for the 2013-14 academic semester.

Hilary Warner-Evans was recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective

collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. She is pursuing a degree in anthropology at the U of Maine.

Joshua Rossetti and **Mollie Underwood** were named to Dean's List at the U of Southern Maine for the fall 2013 semester.

Kyle Hietala, a student at Morse High, was named a 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholar. He is among the 141 outstanding American high school seniors to be selected this year, honored for their accomplishments in Washington, D.C. in June.

Thirteen West Bath School 4th and 5th grade students and music teacher Jill Palmer participated in District III Honors Music Festival on Oct. 25 in Brunswick. They were chosen based on their skills and passion for music. Students

attending were: **Sophia Barber, Colleen Cashman, Fionna Cashman, Audrey Crews, Edward Crews, Olivia Cunninham, Isaac Ensel, Aviva Feinberg, Abby Hinds, Samantha Melquist, Isabel Strelneck, Wren Tetrault** and **Drew Walden**. WBS continues to receive accolades from the musical community for having the highest percentage of students, compared to all schools in the Mid-coast, who are voluntarily participating in band and chorus.

SPECIAL KUDOS

Joel Merry, of West Bath, and sheriff of Sagadahoc Country, was elected chairman of the State Board of Corrections. Merry has served as Sagadahoc sheriff since 2009. His wife, **Donna**, is a former board member of the West Bath Historical Society. ▲

Crossing the Bar

Continued

Gilbert. She is survived by her daughter, **Linda Belanger** & her husband **Richard** of West Bath with whom she lived; as well as three other children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Robert Wilton Adams Sr., 83, of West Bath, passed away at Hill House July 27. Born in 1931 in Bath, the son of Harold & Marion Bates Adams, Bob graduated from Morse High in '49. He joined the US Air Force in 1951 and served during the Korean War. In 1956, he met the love of his life, **Martha Jane Wood**, and they were married at the Winter Street Congregational Church.

After retiring from BIW in 1989, he fulfilled his dream of lobstering, with Martha as sternwoman. Bob was an avid golfer and skier, and was a trustee for many years of Sabino Hall Improvement Assoc. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two children, Sandra Waters of Chicago, and Robert Jr. and his partner Laura Plunkett of Westport Island; four grandchildren; four

great-grandchildren; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

Helen Arsenault, 77, of West Bath, passed peacefully at Hawthorne House in Freeport Aug 1 after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's, with her family by her side. She was born in West Point in 1937, the daughter of Ralph and Mildred Smith Doughty. She graduated from Morse High in 1957, and married **Robert Arsenault** that year. She worked for several retailers over the years, including W.T. Grant and most recently at L.L. Bean. She was devoted to her children, and a talented crafter.

In addition to her husband, she leaves behind two children, David Arsenault & his wife Terri, Susan A. Hunt & her husband Frank, both of Phippsburg; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; two brothers, a sister-in-law and many nieces & nephews.

Mary E. Voorhees, 89, of Sun City Fla., died Aug 15 at Gosnell House in Scarborough. Born in St. John, New Brunswick, to John D. and Ann (Butler) Connors, she was educated there and then worked in the Boston area in the early 60's where she met and

married **William H. Voorhees**. The couple lived in West Bath until relocating to Florida in in 1994. They continued to enjoy summers at their cottage at Quaker Point. She was employed by Kennebec Wharf & Coal, as well as BIW from which she retired in 1988. She was predeceased by her husband and parents, as well as 5 siblings. She is survived by her son John Voorhees of Bath, as well as three sisters, and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Holly Doherty, 47, of Falmouth, died unexpectedly in Farmingdale on Sept. 7. Among her survivors is her brother **Paul Lindahl** of West Bath.

Benton V. Sturgeon, 87, passed away at Parkview Adventist Medical Center on Oct 22. Among his survivors: his daughter, **Kerry E. Nelson** & her husband **Albert**; his granddaughter, **Elizabeth R. Nelson**, and his sister-in-law, **Mary (Dot) Mullen**, all of West Bath. [editor's note: the Board of the West Bath Historical Society and our membership extends our sympathies to Kerry, who continues to be our steadfast and sharp-eyed archivist as she has for more than a decade.] ▲

TOWN CRIER



Dog licensing renewals for 2015 began on October 15th, with licensing due by January 1. Dog owners who do not renew by February 1, 2015 will be charged a \$25.00 late fee in addition to license fees. The Town will host a **Rabies Clinic** (for dogs & cats) on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014 from 10:00 am to noon at the West Bath Fire Hall. Dog Licensing and renewal can also be done On-Line! Search for “Maine Dog Licensing Online” and you can complete your registrations in minutes.

2015 Snowmobile Registrations are now available. 2015 Boat Registrations will begin 1 December 2014. Snowmobile, ATV and Boat re-registrations can be done on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/>.

Maine’s Rapid Renewal program allows you to re-register your vehicles and trailers on line. Go to the Maine.gov website <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>.

Note that **unpaid 2012 property taxes** will go to foreclosure on January 31, 2015.

On January 13, 2015, the **RSU 1 Withdrawal Referendum** vote will be held at the West Bath Fire Hall. Polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm. Absentee ballot requests are now available. Thursday January 8, 2015 is the last day to request one.

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@westbath.org, or call us at 443-4342.

– Brandi Lohr, 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, paid advertising or political opinion.

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



Organizers of WBHS’s Annual Candlelight Christmas Service, to be held Dec. 17, are all smiles as they stand behind the thriving holly bush at the Meeting House. Left to right: Reverend Allison Smith, who will be leading the service, and Board members Raise Bittner, Sally Graves, Beth Brewer, Leah Zartarian and Amy Wesson.

THE MIDDLE GROUND

West Bath Historical Society

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