

THE MIDDLE GROUND

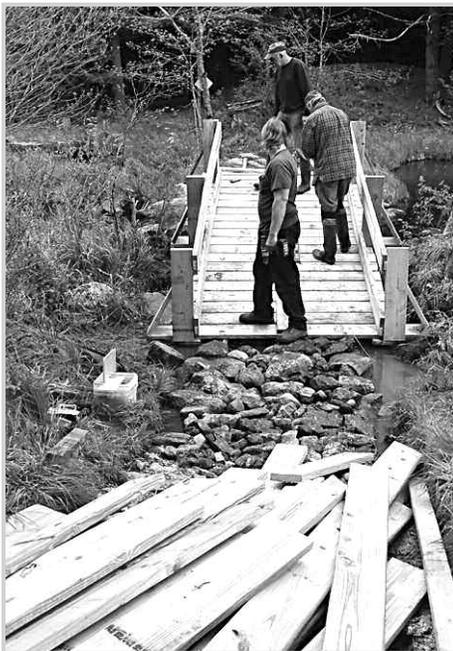
Daily Life & History of West Bath, Maine

FALL 2015 • PUBLISHED BY THE WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Over the Hills ... and Through West Bath

West Bath has an ATV club, founded in 2005, and called, appropriately, “Over the Hill” Riders. This catchy title relates more to the old song “Over the hills and through the woods...” than to the collective age of its members. Although, to be fair, a few of their 40 or so members could be counted in the over-60 crowd, their ages range from 8 to 80.

While all-terrain-vehicles are a modern invention, the “terrain” that they traverse is as old as the hills.



Bridge building in progress

Many ATV riders around Maine and elsewhere often get a very bad rap from their seeming indifference to the ground their huge wheels can dig up – degrading old bogs, logging trails and disturbing precious vegetation and habitats.

Not so in the case of the Over the Hill gang. Environmental preservation is a major part of their mission. The club maintains over 21 miles of trails, almost all in West Bath, which

can be used for ATV riders, but also for hikers, bikers and in some cases, horses. Many of their trails are carefully carved from the gentle curvatures of the land, and often include old roads or vestiges of footpaths or carriage trails, and in some cases travel for a bit along the paved surface of today’s roads, which of course, cover the old roads of yesteryear.

It is the confluence of the historic byways of West Bath and the ATV trails of today that makes for a good history mystery. Where were the old roads? What are their stories? How can we find out more?

From our archives, we do know some facts. Part of the trail that goes up behind Austin Road toward Route 209, for instance, passes by the “Lilly Pond.” part of land now owned by The Hyde School. At one time in the 1900s that pond was used for ice racing with horses. We are also researching the chapter on “Roads” from the invaluable book, “A Look Into West Bath’s



Over the Hill club members building a hill-bridge

Past,” written by the late William Purington. And we are working to ferret out history from various West Bath families who are among the 25 generous private individuals and

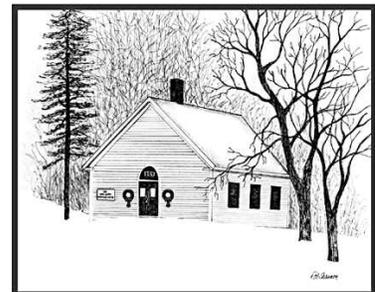
Continued on the next page



West Bath Historical Society presents its



Annual Community Christmas Service & Carol Sing



Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Old West Bath Meeting House

680 Berry’s Mill Road, West Bath

Service led by Stephanie Batterman, M.A., Theology.

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

Over the Hills ... and Through West Bath

Continued

entities, such the Town of West Bath itself, who have agreed to let the OTH club have use of their land.

Over the past 8 years or so, mostly due the diplomatic skills of Bill Hochgesang, many people have come around. He has personally knocked on doors of landowners throughout the town to make the case for allowing access. These landowners have done so mostly because they realize the value of having a group like the OTH Riders use their land responsibly for recreational purposes, and to maintain it to boot.

Bill and his wife, Carol, are the prime movers behind the club and their dedication is an important factor in their success in gaining new lands to ride, walk and keep in trim.



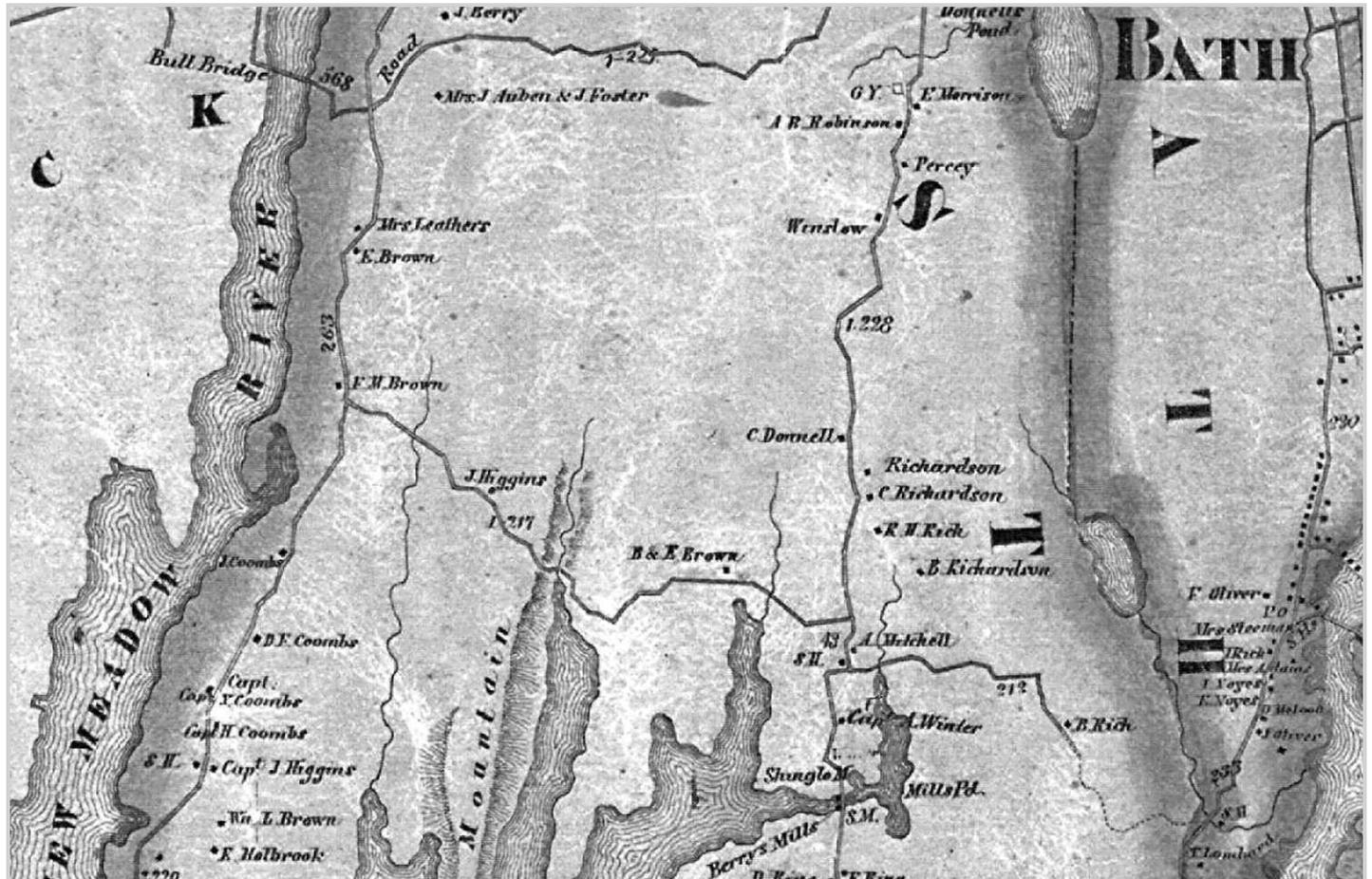
They are careful to build bog bridges and to skirt environmentally sensitive areas, and generally keep an eye out while they ride for blow-downs or any trail hazards. They also work with local land trusts, such as KELT (Kennebec Estuary Land Trust) on trail-building and brush clearing. And the club does other community work, such as the bi-annual road clean-ups they do in West Bath.

Trail in Bittner's woods

“This year, we picked up two big trailer-loads of junk!”, says Carol) They are also a fixture in the Memorial Day and 4th of July parades in Bath.

Says one landowner, Sally Graves, “As a steward of this land, I am glad

Continued on the next page



1858 West Bath map, showing the area from Bull Rock to Mill Cove

Over the Hills ... and Through West Bath

Continued

to have it used by responsible people such as the ATV group to whom I have given written permission and by hunters or hikers to whom I give verbal permission.” Or from Bob Bittner, owner of WJTO radio on Austin Road, who owns 220 acres, much of it in “tree growth” conservation, “I consider my land as a gift of nature. Why would anyone not let a responsible group like that have fun with the land!”

And some tidbits from Purington’s book: “The earliest transportation means was by way of water, but later, footpaths were cut through the woods... One of the first roads that went through a portion of what is West Bath today, was built about

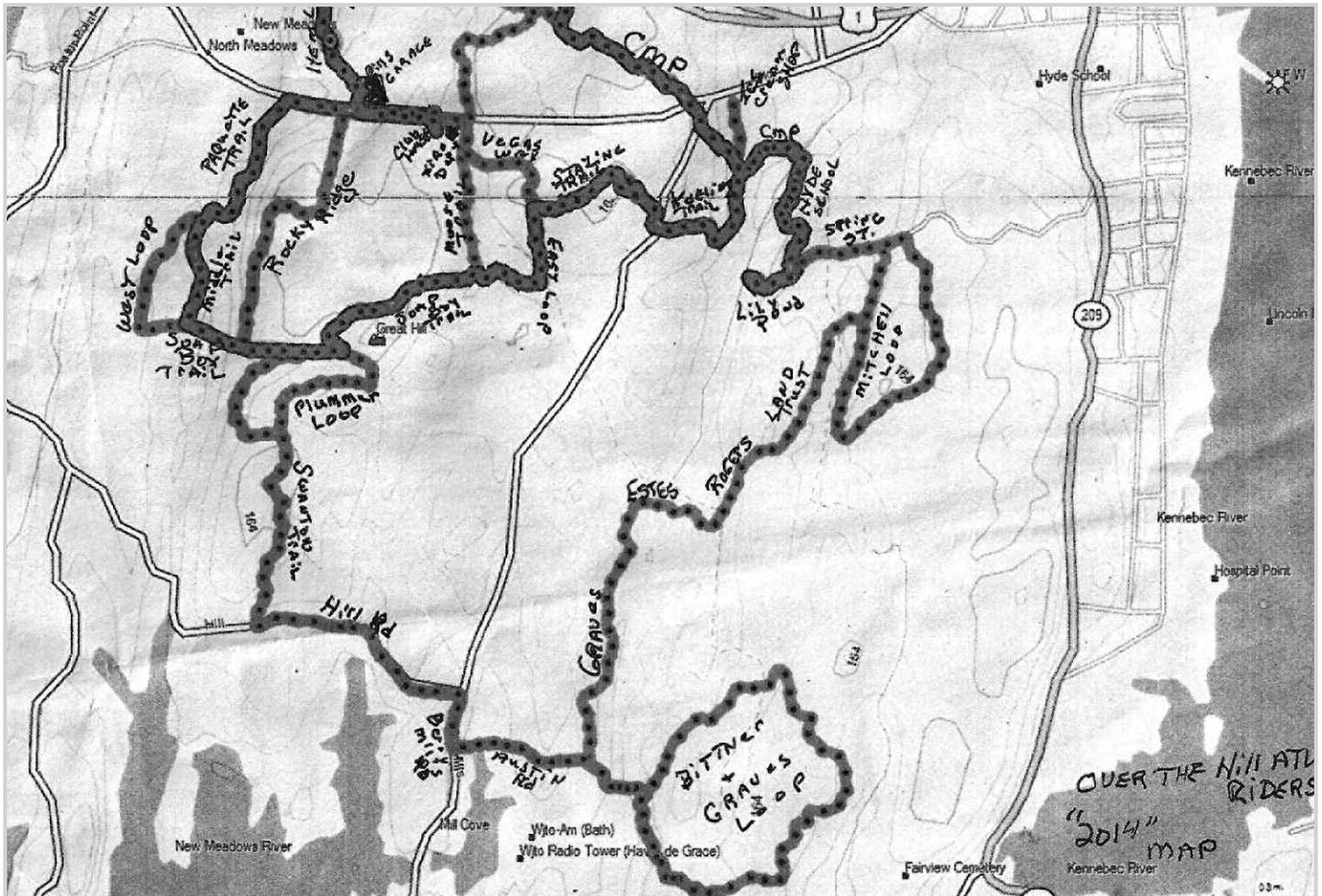


“Over the Hill” Riders preparing for the Memorial Day parade

1718 for the purpose of having a direct military route between Fort George in Brunswick and the Watts fort on Arrowsic Island....”

We will be exploring more of the history of the old roads of West Bath, partly in relation to the current ATV trails, in a special

history talk at the Patten Free Library on February 13 at 10 am. Save the date and be sure to come. In the meantime, if any of our readers have information on old roads, please contact one of our WBHS Board members, or archivist Kerry Nelson. ▲



Over the Hill ATV Riders’ 2014 trail map

Meeting House Gets a Wash n' Cut

The Old West Bath Meeting House has been fully restored and maintained by the Historical Society since 2001. But the old gal still needs some tender loving attention once in a while. This fall, a couple of maintenance problems really needed to be solved. Quickly. Thanks to Pete Guild, all were done in short order.

For one, a support board was needed under the back corner of the eaves to block critter intrusion. Pete installed that himself.



Tree-trimming at the Meeting House in November

Next was the roof, which has recently begun sprouting moss and other nasty organisms, mostly due to the fact the trees around have grown so big and leafy that they were blocking any healthy sunlight. Over time, that moss will degrade the roof structure. Pete

recruited Maine Powerwash Pros to mitigate the situation. In October, the guys brought in their equipment

and gently cleaned the roof. It was a tricky business to get the moss under control, while not blowing off the roof shingles.

The third, and correlative issue, was the trees themselves, which were sorely in need of trimming.

After evaluating some bids, the Board decid-



The Meeting House getting a roof wash in October

ed to go with Timber Tree Trimming who got things tidied up in less than a day, and let the sun shine in. That work was done on Nov. 3rd.

The fourth maintenance task was to rehab the original old window shutters, which badly needed scraping and painting. Enter a generous West Bath gentleman who volunteered (and insists on anonymity) to take them down, one by one; then hand scrape, sand, and repaint each one. All 16 are now refurbished and re-hung in their forest-green glory. The whole community should thank Mr. Anonymous by admiring his handiwork when driving by! ▲



COOK'S KORNER

Fall is all about apples. And West Bath cooks, then and now, have much to offer in unique and delicious ways to prepare this ubiquitous autumnal fruit. 2015 has been a bumper year for apples, so roll up your sleeves and get to the stove to make one of the following ...

Aunt Nelli's Apple Cinnamon Bundt cake

Grease & flour Bundt pan

Mix together ...

1-1/2 cups cake flour

1-1/4 sugar

1 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

2 tbs. cinnamon

1 tsp allspice

1 tsp powdered ginger

Mix well and stir into dry ingredients ...

2 eggs

1/2 cup oil

4 tbs. orange juice or apple cider

1 tsp vanilla

Meanwhile coarsely chop 6 tart apples; stir in:

1/4 cup brown sugar

2 tbs. cinnamon and

1/2 cup chopped walnuts.

Pour half the batter into pan.

Sprinkle apple mixture all around and add balance of batter.

Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Serve, if you like, with **rum sauce**:

Melt 1/4 cup sugar in 1-1/2 cups cider plus 3 tbs rum in sauce pan.

Stir 2 tbs. corn starch into 1/2 cup cider & mix well.

Add into sauce and stir until thickened. ▲

Annual Community Christmas Service & Carol Sing to Be Held Thurs. Dec. 17 at West Bath Meeting House

An old-fashioned Christmas is coming again to West Bath. A traditional candlelight yuletide service will be held at the Old West Bath Meeting House on Berry's Mill Road on Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm. This beloved holiday celebration is a free community event.

Stephanie Batterman will preside over the service, which is ecumenical and open to all. Carols will be sung and scriptures and poems, including a Native American prayer for peace, will be read by community members. The historic old pump organ will be played once again by Susie Knowles. Home-baked goodies & cider will be served afterwards,

courtesy of the West Bath Historical Society, which is hosting the event. The evening's offering will be shared with the Bath Area Food Bank.

The West Bath Historical Society is happy to welcome Stephanie in leading our annual holiday celebration for the first time.

A Bath native, she returned to the area in 2007. Since 1967, she and her husband Dean had lived in Rochester, N.Y. While there, in addition to raising three daughters, she received a Master's degree in Theology from the St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry and worked as an Adult Faith Formation Coordinator on a parish staff for many years. She taught theology in the religion teachers program for the Diocese of Rochester. She then worked at a Spirituality Center where she was trained as a Spiritual Director; work which she began in 1985 and continues to do today.

Since returning to Maine, she has been a volunteer chaplain at Mid Coast Hospital. She has also presided at memorial services for

TOWN CRIER



News – Madelyn Hennessey has been newly elected to the Board of Selectmen. We will be doing a profile on her in the next issue of Middle Ground.

- Dog licenses are available now. Register before 1/31/2016 to avoid a late fee
- Rabies Clinic will be held Dec 12th, 10-12 at the Fire Hall
- Snowmobile Registrations are available



Desmond's Funeral Home and is currently a Notary Public, specializing in wedding ceremonies.

She and Dean are members of Grace Episcopal Church in Bath where she is inaugurating a spiritual direction ministry and occasionally preaches at Sunday Services. ▲

New Addresses for Old Buildings!

For as many years as anyone can remember, the old school house and the "church", aka the Old West Bath Meeting House, had always been fixtures on Berry's Mill Road. But ask anyone what the exact street address was for either of them, they'd be stumped as posts!

Now, thanks to a joint effort between the WBHS and the Town of West Bath, both of our precious historical buildings have an actual street number posted on the sides of their respective historical signs.

Those numbers are, for the record: 363 for the Littlefield School and 680 for the Meeting House. Next: directions to each will be posted as official GPS destinations.

See the photo of Pete Guild on page 8 of this issue of Middle Ground. ▲



Stephanie & Dean Batterman opened a gallery within the Littlefield School this summer, to display and sell their crafts – colorful landscape quilts for her and skillful creations turned in wood for him. The gallery was open each Saturday and Sunday from July 11 through September 13. This was a new and successful use of our historic schoolhouse. The "pop-up gallery" attracted many visitors, both to buy the Battermans' wares and to visit the school, some for the first time.

CROSSING THE BAR



Alice L. Puia, 98, passed away April 19 in North Port, FL, with her family by her side. She and her family and friends enjoyed spending summers at her cottage on the New Meadows in West Bath.

Agnes May Beers, 94, passed peacefully on May 4. Among her survivors is daughter **Barbara** & her husband **Rich Ullman**, of West Bath.

Diane M. Hathorne, 75, died May 30 at Boothbay Green in Boothbay. Among her survivors is her brother, **Frank Sparks** of West Bath.

Barbara G. Temple, 94, passed away peacefully at Hill House on May 25. Among her survivors: her son, **Bruce Temple** & his wife **Suzanne**; and a granddaughter, **Michelle Lewis** & her partner **David**, all of West Bath.

Joseph Leopold Jaffrey Madore, 94, of Richmond, died June 5 after a

long illness with his family by his side. Among his survivors is a daughter, **Jo Ellen Brilliant** of West Bath. He was buried beside his wife of 66 years, **Velma**, in Orchard Hill Cemetery in West Bath.

Maria C. Hilton, 82, of Campbell's Pond Road, died June 11 at her home. Born in Georgetown in 1933, a daughter of Sumner and Arlene (Hinkley) Mains, she attended local schools and was a homemaker, as well as a foster parent. She is survived by her husband, **Richard K. Hilton**, two daughters, and two sons, including **Mike & Gwen Palicte** of West Bath, and 13 grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Cecil Mains and her ex-husband, **Fabian Palicte**.

Lloyd A. Hill, 86, died June 16 at the Maine Veterans Home. Among his survivors is his step-grandson **Joshua Burden** of West Bath.

Nina Robichaud, 89, of West Bath, passed away July 18, while living in Copperhill, TN, where she lived with her son Paul Robichaud. She ran a successful antique and used furniture shop, The Rustic Barn, for 40 years and was also a licensed real estate broker. She was predeceased by another son, **Henry Robichaud**, who died at age 22, and her husband **Harry**, who passed away in 1980. Survivors include her daughter, **Judy Robichaud** of West Bath.

David A. Dolan, 51, of West Bath, died July 28. He attended Bath schools including Morse High, and loved to play guitar and draw. He is survived by one son; two brothers; one sister, and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Henry Savage Jr., passed away Aug 17. His survivors include two brothers, **George & Kenneth Savage**, both of West Bath.

Dana E. Orr, 61, died Aug 18 at his home in Litchfield. Among his sur-

Continued on the next page

David Paul (Beav) Bourget, 59, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 23. "Beav" was born in Bath in April, 1956, the son of Raymond & Jane (Leeman) Bourget. He graduated from Morse High in 1974, and always took great pride in being a Morse alumnus, never missing a reunion.

Though born and raised in Bath, both West Bath and Phippsburg could also claim him. Beav was a



member of the Phippsburg Fire & Rescue for over 40 years, at one point serving as Assistant Fire Chief. He was an EMT as well.

He will be greatly missed by all at the fire department, especially his very dear friend, Jimma Totman. "Beave made an impression on everyone," Totman told the Times Record. "...He had a big heart, and he was always there for anybody."

In 1988, he moved to West Bath with his wife **Patricia (Patty) Bennett** and daughter **Rachel Marie**, to a house on Quaker Point which he built himself. He felt strongly about community service, and was still serving as a West Bath selectman, a post he had held for the past 9 years, until his untimely death.

Beav's faith was important to him and he was a regular communicant of St. Mary's in Bath. According to many reports, he lived his faith every day, which

could be witnessed by his commitment and loyalty to family and friends and by the kindness which he always showed to others.



Paula Nelson, chair of the West Bath selectmen, also praised Beav for his strong sense of community. "He was just an amazing, amazing individual. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to learn from him." Besides his wife and his daughter, who now resides in Phippsburg, other survivors include his mother **Jane Leeman Bourget** of Bath, two sisters; his mother in law **Rita Bennett** of Bath and West Bath, as well as his brother-in-law **Tom Bennett** also of West Bath. ▲

Crossing the Bar

Continued

vivors is a brother, **Alan Orr** & his wife **Judy** of West Bath.

Audrey “Kim” Carpentier, 57, died at a local Brunswick hospital Aug 24. Among her survivors: a step-daughter, **Hilary Warren** & her husband **Philip**; and grandchildren **Amaya** & **Philip Warren Jr.** of West Bath.

Clarence A. Warner Jr., 92, died Sept 13 at Hill House. Among his survivors is his grandchild, **Ronald Warner** of West Bath.

Wesley G. Chadbourne, 82, formerly of Plympton, MA, died peacefully on Sept 22 at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough. Among his survivors is his daughter, **Suanne C. Snell** & her husband, **Rich**, of West Bath.

Alice Anita Travis Bowden, 80, passed away at Hawthorne House in Freeport on Sept 23. Among her survivors: her brother **John Travis** & his wife **Kathy** of West Bath.

Edward R. Dauphin, 81, of West Bath, died peacefully at home among his family on Sept 24. He was born in Bath in 1934, the son of Octave & Mary Lena Dauphin. He served in the Navy as gunner’s mate in both Korea and Vietnam, retiring after 20 years. He loved hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors at his private campground, where family and friends always looked forward to his gatherings. His favorite hobby was carving duck decoys.

He is survived by his children, George Dauphin of Bath, Catherine & her husband **Samuel Russell**, of West Bath, as well as three other children; 12 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Edit Note: **David Hall**, a long-time Bath resident and active community member, died October 7. A memorial write up will appear in the next issue of Middle Ground. Our condolences to his wife, Nancy, and his children. ▲

CHANNEL BUOYS



BIRTHS

Gunnar David Hughes, born May 14, to Drew & Jenise Hughes, Wiscasset. His grandparents include **Jeff Lucas**, West Bath.

Benjamin Breton Liberman, born Aug 25, to **Jonathan Liberman** & **Erin Connolly**, of West Bath.

Hannah Suanne Wiley, born Sept 13, to Nathaniel & Sara (Snell) Wiley, Scarborough. Her grandparents include **Suanne** & **Richard Snell**, West Bath.

WEST BATH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Named to USM Deans List for the 2014-15 Academic year:

Morgan Elizabeth McDonough

Graduating from Franklin Pierce University:

Rachel A. Rossetti, with BA in Psychology.

Top academic achievers at Morse High, Class of 2015, include:

Morgan Quigg, who lives with her parents **Rebecca** & **Michael Quigg**, restaurant owners. Morgan received the Wellesley College Award and various other academic awards for outstanding achievement. She has been an honor roll student all four years and is a member of the National Honor Society. She was active in many school and outside pursuits, including cross country, track, Morse Drama, school playwright, Amnesty International and the Green Club. She also volunteers with the Art Van and is employed by Beal Street Barbeque. In her free time, she enjoys running, writing, playing music and singing. She plans to attend college, hopefully Concordia University in Montreal, to major in Playwriting.

Her dreams for the future include writing, particularly novels.

Andrew Ceglinski, formerly of West Bath, resides in Bath with his parents Daniel & Amelia Ceglinski. He received the Yale Book Award, and many other outstanding achievement kudos. Andrew is a member of National Honor Society, participates in the Long Reach Swim Club and Morse Swim team, which he helps coach. He’s also employed by the Bath YMCA. Andrew enjoys reading books and articles online, and meditating. He plans to attend Colorado College, possibly deferring to work on an organic farm in New Zealand. His hope for the future is to die with no regrets. ▲



Board members Amy Wesson, Beth Brewer (front); Leah Zartarian, Ivon Boyer (back) ready to greet visitors at the Meeting House on July 4th.

WBHS Holds Open House

Both the Littlefield School and Old West Bath Meeting House were open to the public from 10-2 pm on Saturday, July 4, during Bath Heritage Days festivities. Docents greeted visitors at each building and we estimate that over 70 people, many with their children, visited one or both buildings. The event was free and light refreshments were available. The WBHS board has decided to hold such open houses at least once every two years. Meanwhile, to tour either of our buildings, contact Amy Wesson, President, at 389.4498 or awesson59@gmail.com and she can help arrange a visit. ▲

Become a Member!

If you are reading this newsletter, you're probably already a member. (Check insert in this issue, to join, if you haven't.) But you should know there are many ways that you can also help the West Bath Historical Society. If you are interested in any of the following, or have other thoughts about getting involved, please give us a call. (Amy Wesson, President, at 389.4498 or Town Hall, 443.4342.)

- Donate or lend old photos or document for our archives, or just share memories.
- Research West Bath subjects.
- Help with Middle Ground.
- Take part in an oral history project.

- Get involved with a building preservation project (cleaning, painting, carpentry, etc.)
- Provide refreshments for our public events.

And of course, you could always get involved by joining our Board of Directors. ▲

Bulletin: Our faithful treasurer, Pete Guild, has gone well beyond his term of service and asks for a skillful replacement ASAP. He will even train and nurture this person. Does anyone want to step to the plate, or know someone who would? Please call Amy at the number above. ▲

THE MIDDLE GROUND

Volume 16, No. 2 • Fall 2015

Published by the
West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394, Bath, Maine 04530

Board of Trustees & Editors:

Amy Wesson, President
Pete Guild, Interim Treasurer/Secretary
Sally Graves, Secretary
Bob Bittner, Raisa Bittner,
Beth Brewer, Ivon Boyer, Sally Graves,
Amy Wesson, Leah Zartarian
Avery Meyers, Editor; Kerry Nelson,
Archivist; Fran Soverel, Middle Ground
contributor; Betty Fitzjarrald, Littlefield
School Advisor

Contributors: Brandi Lohr, Kerry Nelson
Designer: Tim Nason

Distribution:

Carol & Bill Hochgesang
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)

THE MIDDLE GROUND

West Bath Historical Society
PO Box 394
Bath, Maine 04530



Pete Guild at the Old Meeting House sign on Berry's Mill Road, with the new address number (#680) which he has just added to our historical marker. He did the same at the Littlefield School (#363).