



Friends of the Winn House Newsletter

Fall 2007

Mission of the Friends of the Winn House:

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

Blanche Remembers...

(This is the first in a series of interviews with the late Blanche Hutchins Staples, carefully recorded and transcribed by Bill and Judy Baker for the Ogunquit Heritage Museum in 2004 and 2005.)



Blanche Staples

‘Down ‘t th’ Cove’
When I was young, all of my time was spent down at the Cove. We’d go down and if the fishermen left a pair of oars in a punt—that was what they used to row out to their boats—we’d get in and row off. They would get mad and they’d yell at us and

we’d hurriedly bring the punt back. But, actually, I think they enjoyed having us kids steal a punt and spindle off with them because we learned to row. We’d just go up and down the river. We wouldn’t go out in the ocean, because our mothers wouldn’t allow us to do that. We sat down in the punt—I could never stand up in those; I was too little. Our mothers would say, ‘Now, don’t you go in and get wet,’ ‘Oh, no, we’re just going wading,’ and so we’d go wading and of course fall down and get soaking wet. You could call us ‘Cove Rats,’ you’d be perfectly right.

Dories

I remember seeing people rowing those big dories, and standing up to row. They faced the bow, and of course when they rowed sitting down the bow was behind them. They were much too big for us children to ever row. The only thing we ever rowed was a punt. The dories were ill suited to be motorized, because the rear end was shaped like a triangle, and it sloped inward. The [base] of the triangle was at the top, at the gunnels, and it sloped down to the water and it also sloped inward. Also, having a centerboard interfered with installing an engine. That was one of the reasons

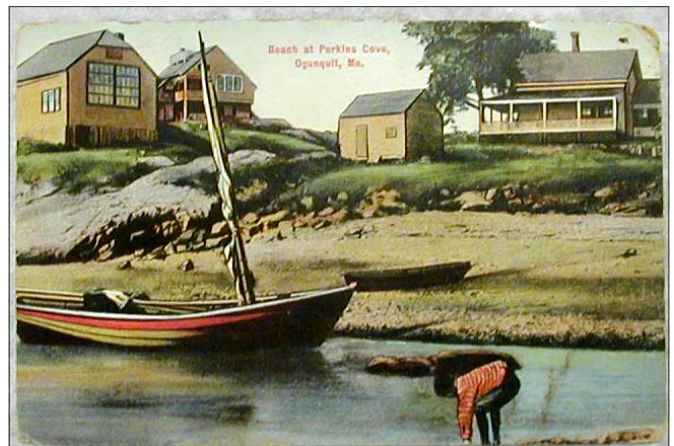
(See **Blanche** page 3)

You're invited...

Christmas By The Sea Open House
at the
Ogunquit Heritage Museum
Sat & Sun, Dec 8 and 9
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
18th Century Trimmings
Special Collections
Holiday Refreshments

The Ogunquit Dory Project

William Henry Perkins had his boat shop on Wharf Lane behind the Camera Shop, now converted into a cottage. He made dories for the fishermen adapting them for the rocky Ogunquit coast. Every town along the coast had its



Dory at Perkins Cove about 1900

(See **Project** page 2)

From the Bridge . . .

As winter joins us once again in Maine, many of you will head to warmer places. For our Board, we will continue to improve our fundraising efforts in support of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum – reviewing our successes and looking to meet new challenges.

Our success continues to be through the generosity of you - our members. Through your contributions exhibits such as the Lobsterman Shack and the Ogunquit Playhouse room educated both residents and visitors this year. Donations, combined with our biggest fundraising event, the 33rd Annual Antique & Art Show, have enabled the Friends to look to forward. Our Strategic Planning Committee made several recommendations and your Board's goal is to ensure that we provide enduring financial support to the Ogunquit Heritage Museum's educational efforts.

Our challenges will be to manage our growth in partnership with the Ogunquit Heritage Museum and to continue to have input and volunteers from our membership. We think with a little planning and some help from you, these challenges can be made into opportunities and have a great impact in the continued success of the Friends and the Museum.

With the turning of the calendar, I must look back once more time as the Friends bid farewell to Blanche Staples this year. As a founding member of the Friends, her influence and input will be missed. Many of you contributed to the Friends in her memory and we thank you especially for such gifts. Our best wishes to her family and we just know she is telling someone, somewhere, all about Ogunquit.

And through the support of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum, Ogunquit's best stories will be here to tell by us all.

Thank you for your membership and winter well!

Allyson Cavaretta, President
207-646-9661



Charting Ahead

**Winter hours at the Museum:
Thursdays, 10 - 4**

Project (from page 1)

Dory builder, each was unique, but William Henry was known for his excellent stable dories. They were sailing dories so fishermen didn't have to row the heavy boats home with their catch. They were sometimes as long as 22 feet.

This year, as a special educational project, the Museum is building an Ogunquit dory. We have working with us, a Maine boat builder from South Berwick, Bob Eger, who is currently building the replica of the boat Washington used to cross the Delaware River. Bob will be our guide and will help us through the process. We will start building in late June and with fingers crossed, we will have a launching party in September.

We have a wonderful enthusiastic committee, that is ready to get started. When the boat is ready to travel, we will bring it to the Museum to be painted and rigged. Our group is Mike Horn, Bob Winn, Brad Sterl, Carole Lee Carroll, Gary Littlefield, Chris Woodbury, grantsperson Bobbi Treen, Bob Perkins, recorder Pete Woodbury, and keeping everyone on track, Barb Woodbury, chair.

This is truly an exciting project. If you would like to help out, let us know. We will happily take donations too!

Barbara Woodbury, Chair

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Peter R. Woodbury, *Editor*

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The Friends of the Winn House
P. O. Box 723
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Curator's Report . . .

We had a wonderful summer with lots of visitors and great comments about the museum and the exhibits. Our new brochure was printed with the help of a gift from the Chamber of Commerce. We will distribute them in the spring to all hotels.

We had our 'Do You Remember?' in October, featuring the Grand Hotels. It was fun and interesting to hear about a bygone era of orchestras, events and afternoon tea. The Grand hotels will be one of next years exhibits. The others being about famous authors and cartoonists who lived in Ogunquit. Did you know that Victor Brenner, the man who designed the Lincoln penny, lived in Ogunquit? If you have information, photographs or memorabilia that would help with our exhibits, please let us know at 646-0436. I am at the Museum on Thursdays from 10-4.

We were all saddened by the death of Blanche Staples. Blanche was one of our very special docents, who charmed our visitors with wonderful stories about Ogunquit. We will all miss her sprit and that wonderful twinkle in her eye. She loved talking to our visitors. She loved the Ogunquit Heritage Museum!

We thank Paula Cummings for her dedicated work and knowledge of Ogunquit.

See you at Christmas by the Sea, Dec 8 & 9!

—BAW



The 33rd Annual Ogunquit Antiques Show & Sale in September at the Dunaway Center was a great success.

Wanted

Clean copies of the *Friends of the Winn House Newsletter* for Spring 2005 and Fall 2005. We are interested in copying them for the Archives and to post on our web site.

*Please send to the Editor,
Pete Woodbury, P.O. Box 912, Ogunquit, ME, 03907.
We'll return them promptly!*

Blanche (from page 1)

that they changed the designs of the boats when they started using the engines. They didn't use outboards, because they hadn't been invented, but they did use engines to motorize the boat. They also used them for hoists, for hauling their lobster traps, so they didn't have to pull them by hand.

Fish and Clams

My mother would go to the Cove and if a fisherman had just come in and if they had codfish, they'd give it to her, a big five pound codfish, and she'd bake it. But if it were a haddock, they'd charge five cents a pound. She'd pay all of twenty-five cents for the whole thing. My father went clamming up on the clam flats and we had clams in every way you could think of! We had clam chowder! And we had fried clams! And we had scalloped clams! We were sure to have at least steamed clams and we were sure to have clams at least once or twice a week, because they were free.

Dad Drove a Street Car

My father, for a while, drove the street car and he was a speed demon! The streetcars used to start at the top of Scotch Hill, where there was a turnaround. So they drove up, turned the car around and then drove it back again. The streetcar used to go right down Shore Road until it got to the Chapman House (which is the awful pink thing now—the Pink Lady or something—it was run by the Chapmans). After that he'd go up to the top of Pine Hill.

In those days you could go to Kennebunk on the streetcars by connecting. It also went over to York Beach, and I think, to Portsmouth. It didn't go across the Piscataqua River, there was a ferry there in the beginning.

(To be continued next issue)

**The Mission of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum
is to Preserve and Share the History
and Culture of Ogunquit.**

The Ogunquit Heritage Museum
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www.ogunquitheritagemuseum.org

Membership Roster . . .

Builder

Blanche Staples

Benefactor

James Nadeau

Sponsor/Business

Norman & Marcia Beal Brazer

Peter & Barbara Woodbury

Patron/Business

David Adams

Amore Breakfast

The Beachmere Inn

Jonathan's Restaurant

Meadowmere Resort

Moores Sparhawk Corp

Muriel Price Brazer

Phil Cavaretta Family

Marilyn Eimon

Natalie Hakanson

Robert & Karen Hanson

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Lois Proctor Mack

Paul & Winifred Mason

Louis & Patricia Mason

Susan Meffert

Paul & Ruth Sampson

Mary Leigh Smart

Joanne S. Tomao

William B. Tower

Family/Dual

Adrian & Ellen Asherman

John Cavaretta & Randy Coulter

Ralph & Nancy Davison

Scott & Beverlee Drury

Martin & Fay Fitzgerald

Jordan & Muriel Freedman

Ray & Kay Hamlin

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Michael & Helen Horn

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Gordon & Donna Lewis

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Stuart & Eva Nudelman

Grover & Margaret Perkins

Lyman & Patricia Pope

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Gene Sengstock

Jay & Jean Smith

Harold E. Staples

Bernard & Elaine Stein

George & Joan Yorke

Yorke Associates

Single

Sally Alexander

Jayne Randall Anderson

Marena Bragg

Paula Cummings

Arnie Ginsburg

Beverly Hallam

Susan Heckaman

Barbara Hilty

Sylvia Hutchins

John Ladderbush

Les Lafond

Deborah Marathon

Bruce Martin

Betty Staples

Patricia Weare

Jeanne Young

Student/Senior

Diana Abbott

Eleanor L. Adams

Wyatt Littlefield Baker

Erika Becker

Roger W. Brown

Roy & Fran Bruning

Charles & Eileen Dahill

Judi Dineen

Sybil DuPuis

William Eaton

Mrs. John Florentino

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Jeanne F. Gagne

Frank J. Glazier

Nancy M. Glendenning

John & Catherine Goodwin

James & Julie Habas

Syndey Henderson

Herbert Hoffman

Michele Hovde

Carol Kobus

Alan & Leila Kupper

Lorraine Latulippe

Ryna Lipkind

Arthur Littlefield

Marjorie E. Littlefield

Zana Littlefield

Paul McGowan

Anthony & Noreen Maurno

Deborah Meigs

Charlotte Moody

Evelynne Neill

Madelene Nowell

Janet Perkins

Helene Rutledge

Michael Staples

Delores Strauss

Virginia Tank

Steven & Julie Twombly

Jean Wallace-Fearon

Hazel Wambaugh

Raymond & Suzanne Wiggins

Norman & Dorothy Wilkinson

Steve & Linda Williams



*Do You Remember? On Oct 14, 2007 the topic was **The Grand Hotels of Ogunquit**. Many people gathered, at the Ogunquit Baptist Church for an afternoon of reminiscing and fun. A video tape will be available at the Library and the Museum.*