

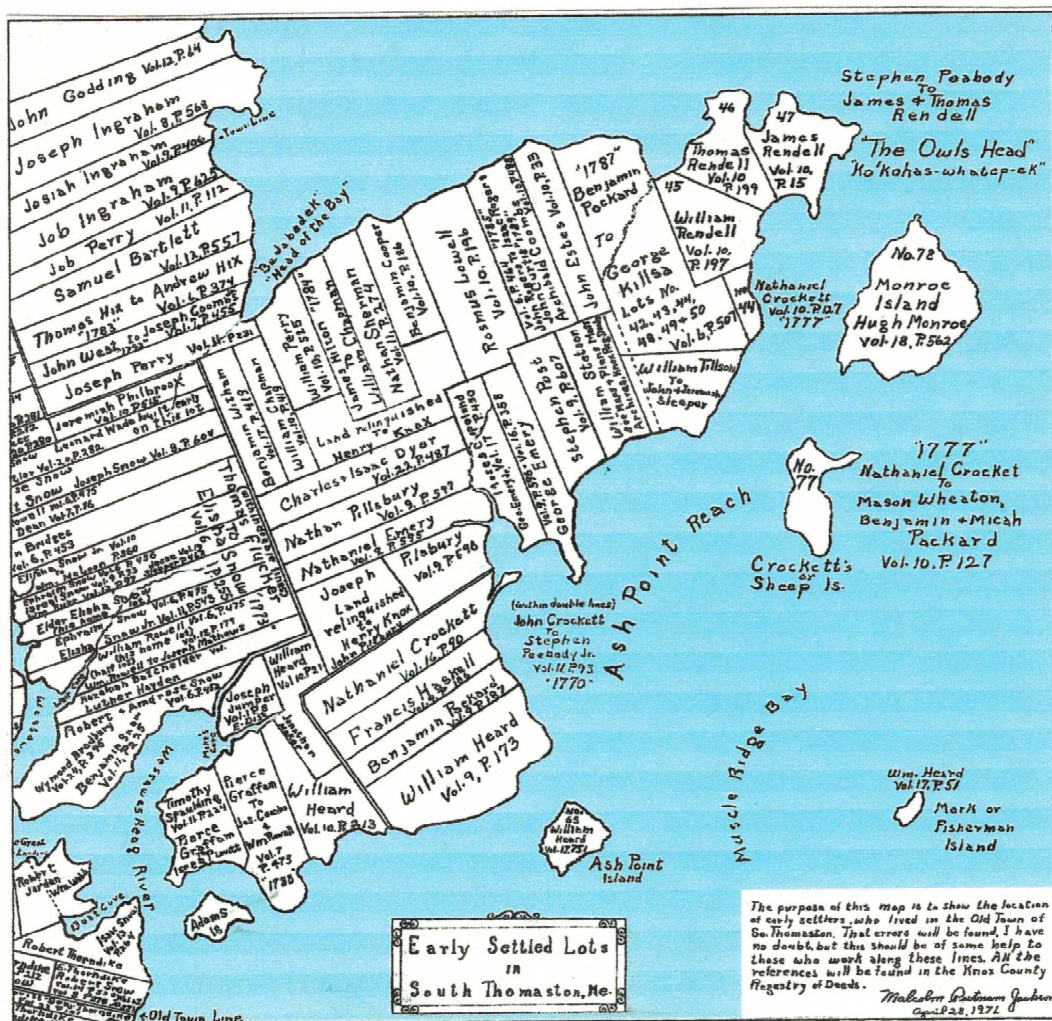
Mussel Ridge News

*A Free Publication of the Mussel Ridge Historical Society
Owls Head, Maine
Fall 2015 ~ Issue 28*

Owls Head in 1777

In 1774 Lucy Fluker married a book binder named Henry Knox. In 1783, the end of the American Revolution, found Knox, a retired major general, with very little income. With the war over, settlers and army veterans were drifting into Maine and settling on any unoccupied land that suited their needs.

One asset the Knox family had was land that Lucy had inherited from her father, the very land that was being occupied by the settlers without title or compensation. Knox and his wife sold off lots earlier without much thought to the legality of their land title and soon found themselves being denied payment for the land they had inherited from Lucy's mother.



A partial plan shown above is of the first lots set off in the Owls Head section by Waldo and Knox.

Workday at Cooper's Beach Cemetery

Did you realize that there is a cemetery in the woods off Oak Run? It's Cooper's Beach Cemetery (never mind that it isn't even close to Cooper's Beach!). The first time the Cemetery Committee went to take a look, we couldn't find it either. However, after learning that the easement to the cemetery runs along the right side of a hedge between houses #6 and #14 on Oak Run, we took another stab at locating it and found the cemetery quite literally buried in the woods in a very overgrown plot. It is an old cemetery from the mid-1800's with six members of the Cooper family* buried there, but only three gravesites, each with headstones upended, were visible.



So, the last Saturday in September, the Committee, whose workday was organized by Dan Clough and Bill Gay, set out to clean up the graveyard. With a borrowed truck and all sorts of garden tools, we intended to discover what this cemetery was all about. We limbed up trees to provide an unobstructed path to the gravesites; we cut down a zillion saplings and raked an equal number of leaves and dug some dirt. In the process three more gravesites were revealed. The original three gravesites we had first seen were also dug out and all six head and footstones were brushed off. Five of the headstones are separated from their bases and lie face up. One of the headstones is still attached to its base, but upended. The graveyard doesn't cover a large area and all of the headstones and footstones are in a tidy row. Lots of lilies-of-the-valley, once covered up by leaf debris, should start filling in now.

This concerted work only took a few hours, but the result was spectacular. In the beginning, we had been stunned by how "lost" this cemetery had become, but are now very pleased with our initial efforts to restore it and encourage you to take a look. Please think about volunteering to help at the next workday or, like Sue Choate and Dan Clough have, "adopt" a cemetery and do what you can to make it a prettier place to visit our departed loved ones. If you have any questions or are interested in adopting a cemetery, please contact one of us.

Owl's Head Cemetery Committee: Ken Crane, Bill Gay, Michael Vonnannon, Dan Clough, and Andrew Carpenter

**Note: The map on page (1) shows Benjamin Cooper was the original land owner for the area where the cemetery is and extended to the ocean area known as Coopers Beach. This land was purchased from Henry Knox in the late 1700s.*

HOW DID IT GET HERE? While demolishing an old house that was built around 1800 this past week a coin was found. The coin was a one cent piece from Haiti (1846). Let me know what your ideas are on how it got to Ash Point? The home was on the William Heard property as shown on the map on page (1).
info@musselridge.org



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Chicken Soup (Served at our Craft Fairs) by Kay Dodge

2 cups chicken stock
2 cups diced potatoes
½ cup sliced carrots
½ cup sliced celery
¼ cup chopped onions
1 cup cooked chicken pieces

¼ cup butter
¼ cup flour
2 cups milk
8 oz sharp cheddar,
grated
1-1/2 t. salt
¼ t pepper



Adjust amounts for the number of servings you want. I usually use boneless chicken breasts because it is easier. Place chicken in a large pot along with sliced onion, a couple sliced carrots, a couple of sliced celery stocks, salt pepper, and a large bay leaf. Add about 3 qts. Water and simmer until tender. When done remove bay leaf, and toss. Put liquid and cooked vegetables in blender or food processor and puree for stock. Simmer diced potatoes, sliced carrots, sliced celery, and chopped onion in stock til tender. While vegetables are cooking make cheese sauce: Melt butter, add flour and stir well with a wire whisk. Gradually add milk and stir until thick and bubbly. Add salt and pepper, then quickly stir in cheese. Add chicken and sauce to the cooked vegetables, and heat but do not boil. Yields about 6 servings.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Mussel Ridge Historical Society members offer our heartiest “Thank You” to the Owl’s Head Garden Club for their maintenance of the flower beds and window boxes around town. They were a real joy to see.

Terry Morang deserves our kudos too for mowing the town’s cemeteries and around the Community Building. Likewise, Ed Dodge who has kept the lawn mowed at our Old Homestead on Ash Point Drive. A lot of acreage to mow this Summer. Thanks to Adam Philbrook for bush hogging around the Old Homestead. Thanks Fellas.

To all those townfolks who picked up litter while on their daily walk or took the extra time to mow and trim along the roadside, we extend our sincerest “Thank You” for your efforts.

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History of the Owls Head Baptist Church by Beryl Borgerson

The following excerpts from the early history of the church up to about 1900.

That same year in May or June 1784, a church was constituted in Oliver Robbins' barn. It had 50 members. The elder Case preached here for eight years. The membership of the church increased to 123. They came from all the surrounding areas. The church building was erected beside the old Cemetery in South Thomaston, on the Dublin Road. The building burned to the ground one February night in 1889 after being struck by lightning. Helen Harlow Hill, who was a little girl at the time, tells that there were three claps of thunder and three flashes of lightning, the last one hitting the steeple. This church was the mother church for most of the Baptist churches in the surrounding areas; some being St. George, Thomaston, Rockland, and Owl's Head being the youngest.



Rather than travel the five miles to meetings, the Owl's Head residents voted to hold worship services in Timber Hill Schoolhouse. Until now, they were members of the South Thomaston church. The old records tell us of these meetings and the beginnings of the Owl's Head Chapel...

"June 26, 1886. Regular meeting of the church. We are looking forward to the time when We shall occupy our new chapel now building at Owl's Head."

"June 25, 1887. Church meeting in the unfinished chapel. It is good to meet and talk of the way."

There were three more meetings, held in the chapel during the summer months, then on Oct. 29 another was held in Timber Hill Schoolhouse—Too cold to meet in an unfinished building, don't you suppose? At this meeting it was voted to transfer back to the old church edifice (the mother church) at South Thomaston for Worship and business.

Nov. 26, 1887- Meeting at old meeting house at South Thomaston village. On motion of Deacon Mark Ames, voted to dismiss the following members to organize a Baptist Church at Owl's Head

B.A- Emery	Mary B. Grant
Lizzie.O. Emery	S. P. Brown
Susie E. Emery	Mary A. Brown
Clara H. Emery	Annie L. Emery Farnsworth
Sidney P. Emery	Iona F.Arey
Margaret C. Emery	J. A- Philbrook
N; B. Maddocks	H. L. Pillsbury
Ruth A. Maddocks	Achsa S. Perry

These people met in the home of Capt. B. A. Emery on Nov. 30, 1887 to formally organize themselves into a church. Those chosen to be the first officers were: Sidney P. Emery, church clerk, Brothers Bradford A. Emery and James A. Philbrook and Brother Philbrook to be treasurer. The early records of the church were destroyed by fire when the home of Deacon J. A. Philbrook, clerk, burned on April 3, 1905. The members searched their memories, notes they had made, with written records at the Convention headquarters and a report written by a minister and read at roll call of 1901.

The first mention in the records of a minister is Rev. J. T. Lightfoot, a student from Newton, coming in June of 1888 for the summer months. His salary was \$9.00 per week. Three of this was paid by the Convention and \$6.00 paid by

the church. William Moore followed Rev. Lightfoot until June, 1889. Other ministers were Rev. S. Hill in June and Rev. M. J. Kelley in July and Rev. J. H. Barrows in Oct. of 1889. No mention is made as to who they were or where they came from. In September of 1888 this church was admitted to the sisterhood of the Lincoln Baptist Association. The first missionary collection of \$7.50 was made this year. At the end of the year the report made:

Clerk: Sidney P. Emery	Rec'd. by letter 16	Total membership 16
	Total benevolence \$7.29	Total Home expense \$451.71
	Number of scholars in Sunday School 40	Average attendance 30
	Money raised in SS \$1.46	

This report gives us an idea of how scarce money was in these early days and how dedicated the early members were to God.

The new chapel at Owl's Head was completed in Dec. 1889 and dedicated on Dec. 12 with Rev. Albert Green of Warren presiding at the dedication service.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A NEWS CONTRIBUTOR?

We're putting together three articles for future issues of the NEWS. The first one asks you to finish the phrase, **"You Know You're in a Small Town When_____"** with events and words that are indicative of a small town. Jon Lowe says, "when you get a letter with just your name and zip code for the address."

In our piece, **"Mamma Said, _____"** we're looking for those bits of wisdom and wise cracks Moms or Grandmas dished out that were so unique they actually became family lore. When Mrs. Christie sealed her mandate with, "...no ifs, ands, buts, or maybes about it!", the discussion was over. Don't waste her time or your breath trying to negotiate.

Lastly, we're hoping our readers will come through with plenty of memories about, **"Our Homemade Holiday Decorations"**. Everything from carving pumpkins to making Easter baskets or Independence Day buntings will be welcomed. Please keep your written entries to about one paragraph.

We also accept stories on almost any topic if it can be related to the history of Owl's Head, or Knox County or the State of Maine. Please keep written manuscripts to about one page (8½ x 11) in length. Your items will be printed exactly as submitted and be sure to include how we can reach you.

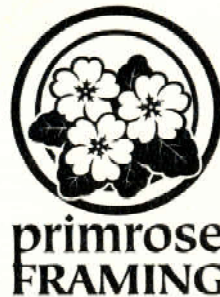
Contact us at 207-594-2438 or cmphome@midcoast.com or mail to:

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FROM THE DUSTY GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK

This piece is taken from an article we published last Fall. As the trees turn color and the Holidays approach, our woods and fields seem more inviting than ever. Here are a few tips that will make your outing much more enjoyable and ensure you'll be back in the woods another day.

Make sure you can be seen by hunters that might be in the woods with you. A hat and jacket or vest of fluorescent is the prescribed color. If walking alone, make some noise by whistling or singing.

Knox County, Maine, is notorious for its infestation of deer ticks. Hundreds of cases of Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis have been reported locally. Whenever outside, especially near tall grass and shrubs, it's a good idea to pull your socks up around your trouser legs and generously spray the rest of yourself with insect repellent. A good hot shower with plenty of soap after your outing is added protection from those little rascals. And, the danger exists even in winter as ticks are still active under the snow.

Be sure to get permission to cut boughs, berries or firewood on land that does not belong to you. All Maine land is owned by someone and the penalties for such activities without permission can be severe.

Lastly, you can show your appreciation to the landowner by closing any gates you pass through and carry your lunch litter home with you. Any human waste should be buried at least 6" deep.

"YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN A SMALL TOWN WHEN ...

Deena Carafelli says, "When the library is open only a couple of days a week on the honor system. Instead of books being returned late, (or never) we get more back than were checked out!"

Andrew Caprenter says, "When you order a pizza and the next day everyone asks How was that pizza you had last night?"

Mr. Anonymous is certain only in a small town could you borrow your neighbor's shovel and return it without him knowing that it had been taken. But, to preserve the trust of a good neighbor, you feel obliged to tell him. To which he replies, "Help yourself. It's right there if you ever need it again."

Phelps Bristol thinks it's, "When you go downtown Saturday morning and find only ATM transactions available, but all the public doors into the Main Street bank are unlocked. When you notify the police that the bank is open but no one is there, they simply reply that they'll check it out. Going on to the mall you notice that the branch [*office of the bank*] is busy and meet with the manager whose spouse is called to please go lock the home office doors and thank you very much. At the end of your discussion about home equity lines of credit, the manager's phone rings. It's the police department. . . . asking if someone will kindly go and free the officer locked in the downtown lobby!"