

Mussel Ridge News

A Free Publication of the Mussel Ridge Historical Society

Owls Head, Maine

Spring 2019 ~ Issue 42 www.musselridge.org



Back to Ginn Family

Ginn's point property, Once Owned by Captain Thomas Ginn, bought by his Portland Nephew

The Mussel Ridge Historical Society has found many group pictures of town events/picnics held on Ginn's Point and this article explains a bit about why this location was chosen for these events.

“At one time the property formed part of an amusement park operated for a time by the now defunct Owls Head, South Thomaston & Crescent Beach Electric Railway. Among its attractions was a fine swimming pool built while the property was thus leased.

A real estate deal of much importance was completed yesterday, when the Ginn's Point property at Owls Head, once owned by the late L. Wilbur Messer, general secretary of the Chicago YMCA was sold to Captain Ernest F. Ginn of Portland.

The purchase embraces some 15 acres of the finest shore front in Knox County together with three buildings- one the Ginn Homestead, which was remodeled a few years ago; another the cottage once owned by Walter H. Spear and known as “Bangalora;” and the third cottage known as “The Hermatage” which was built for Mr. Messer.

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Mussel Ridge Historical Society's Spring Event May 23rd

“What Was Going On Around Here During The Civil War”

by Local Historian David Sulin

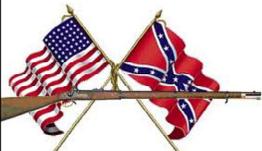
Potluck Supper at 6pm followed by the Program

All are welcome to the supper and program

Date: May 23rd

Time: 6 PM

Place Owls Head Community Building





*One of the many events held at
Ginn's Point.
The Ash Point Picnics*

With the completion of this deal the property goes back into the Ginn family, for it formally belonged to Capt. Thomas Ginn, who was an uncle to the new owner. Capt. Ginn sold to L. Wilbur Messer, whose widow disposed of it to Adelyn Bushnell Bradstreet, from whom it was taken over by a Rhode Island realty company.

The new owner, who is a former Rockland man, is a prosperous building contractor in Portland. He plans to spend his summer weekends at Ginn's Point, and the property also will be occupied by other members of the family."

December 29, 1928 Courier Gazette article

Other facts about the Ginns:

Ernest Ginn sold the land to Earle & Alma Good in 1948.

H. Wesley Ginn lived on Monroe Island and raised sheep. He was lost on the "Pentagoet" in 1989

Captain Alonzo Ginn owned the schooner "John Bracewell" in 1911

SOUTH THOMASTON—KNOX COUNTY.

1869

From Selectmen's Returns.

One Power.

The "Weskeag River Tide Power;" width of stream at the mill is 320 feet; power estimated at about 400 horse.

A good stone dam; grist, stave and heading mill in operation; grist mill could grind 50,000 bushels per annum. The stave mill and heading machine employ eight men and saw four to five cords wood per 24 hours; 1,200 cords wood about one year's stock.

Mills run the year round, and less than half the power is improved. Machinery is of good construction; the wheels are iron, of the Union patent.

Power owned by the Weskeag Mill Company, and all or a part for sale, or the balance of the power not occupied. The dam ponds the water back two miles, pond covers about 200 acres.

Quarry of granite easy of access by land or water, good for building purposes; very convenient location for mills and shops. Vessels can come alongside the mill and discharge cargo. A good chance to put in a flour mill and good market to sell in. The product of the stave and heading machine for the past year is about \$22,000. The stave mill and heading machinery are new, and have furnished a large amount of business to residents.

Market, Rockland, by water or land.

In 1869 Owls Head was South Thomaston. Very interesting article on the mill at the Keag that was for sale!



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Garden Snippets



I'm sure I'm not the only gardener who has been impatiently waiting for spring! It doesn't have to be a particularly bad winter to make it seem as though spring will never come. It really does take forever! And when some things start showing up and turning green, I get very impatient with all the plants who are later—and I assume they are all dead and will need replacing. I am slowly learning to wait.

I read recently that not doing the fall cleanup of cutting back perennials and raking leaves out of the gardens is better for the wildlife. There are many creatures—eggs, larva of various insects, bees and the like, that live in that leaf clutter all winter. Well, I think that's great. In the fall. Not so great in the spring! And one horticulturist told me that after we have three days of 50 degrees (not necessarily consecutive days) it's OK to do that cleaning up. So the spring cleanup is much more daunting than it used to be, but fall is a piece of cake!

This is the time of year when I can tell all the houseplants that will go outside are bursting to do just that. But it is really still too cold. Seedlings or plants that I've started indoors are anxious to get out—and I am anxious for them to do just that—but we have to wait till the soil as well as the air warms up. (What a lot of waiting is involved with gardening.)

One category of plants that always appears early is the invasives. That's good, in a way, so we can see them and get them out. When we first moved here, bittersweet was the ruler of the place. We worked very hard on that and it is now manageable. The other 8 species of invasive that live on this one acre of land, I can pretty much keep up with. When I see places where invasives have taken over (Dodge Mt. road comes to mind—and practically every highway) I can't help wondering where it will all end up. I can continue the struggle on this little piece of land, but if huge expanses are not cared for, we stand to lose many more native plants and the diversity that goes with them.

Our first hummingbird arrived yesterday. That is always a very hopeful sign and one that promises entertainment. We could watch for hours the hummingbirds fighting over whose feeder that really is. Or who has the right to claim a particular “guarding” branch. That first hummingbird flew in and landed on the feeder—ate and ate and ate- and sat and sat and sat. He must have just arrived and been very tired and very hungry. He didn't move from the feeder for more than 5 minutes.

I hope you are enjoying your garden.

Marty Shaw

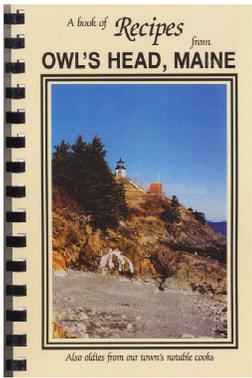


Jason Philbrook

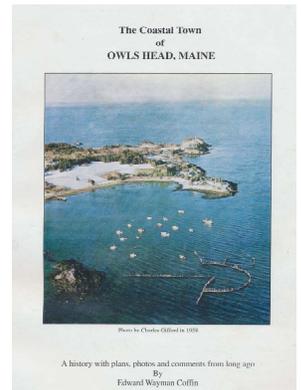
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Information Technology for
Midcoast Maine

Have you got memorabilia or pictures you'd like to share or donate? We are organizing pictures and documents at our temporary location at The Methodist Church in South Thomaston and would very much appreciate volunteers to help. We'll gladly accept them for inclusion in our archives or to be photographed. Cash contributions to the Mussel Ridge Historical Society are tax deductible and we'll gladly give you a receipt. We also have need of volunteers to help with our ongoing projects. The winter months are usually uneventful while the Spring and Summer can be busy. For info on any of these subjects, contact Rod Weeks at ledgemere1@gmail.com



MUSSEL RIDGE LITERATURE ORDER FORM



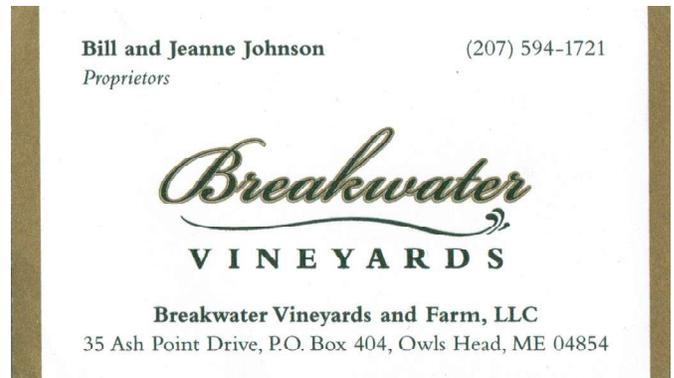
_____ copy(s) of "A book of Recipes from Owls Head, Maine" at \$15.00 each = \$ _____
 # _____ copy(s) of "The Coastal Town of Owls Head, Maine" at \$32.00 each = \$ _____
 # _____ box(s) of six note cards with envelopes at \$10.00 per box = \$ _____

Check if items are to be delivered: _____ OR, if they are to be mailed _____ (add \$3) = \$ _____

Both the O. H. Cookbook and the Coffin O. H. History book may be purchased at the Blue Yonder Coastal Artisans store at the Knox County Regional Airport.

_____ Total the column and make your check payable to **Mussel Ridge Historical Society** \$ _____
 Send your order & check to: MRHS PO Box 133 Owl's Head ME 04854

Your Name: _____ Telephone: _____
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Mussel Ridge Historical Society Volunteer – Membership - Donation Form

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ Town _____ Zip----- _____

Email Address _____

Our newsletter is sent to everyone on our email list and we don't share addresses with anyone.

____ I Would Like TO HELP Preserve the History of Owl's Head in the Following Ways

____ Develop programs ____ Help with fundraising ____ Help on restoring the Homestead

____ Bring food for events or sales ____ Help with events ____ Have lawn sale

____ Staff the Homestead ____ Have truck ____ I have pictures that could be scanned

____ Research. I am particularly interested in the following areas ____ ---- _____

Have talent/service I could donate _____

____ I would like to help in another way. (Please tell us how) _____

____ I have historical items I might like to donate or loan

____ I AM JOINING the MRHS at the Following Level & My Check is Attached

____ 1 Year Regular (\$10) ____ 1 Year Sustaining (\$35) ____ Lifetime (\$100)

____ I AM MAKING a Tax Deductible Donation to the MRHS for _____ & My Check is Attached

I Would Like the Funds to go to the Following Area

____ General Operations ____ Archival Museum

____ Old Homestead ____ As the MRHS thinks is best

Signature of Person Accepting the Form _____

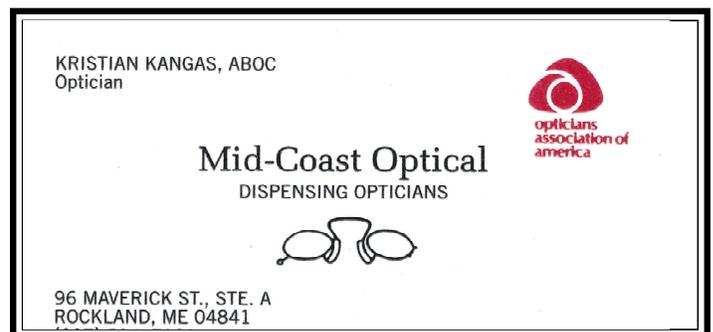
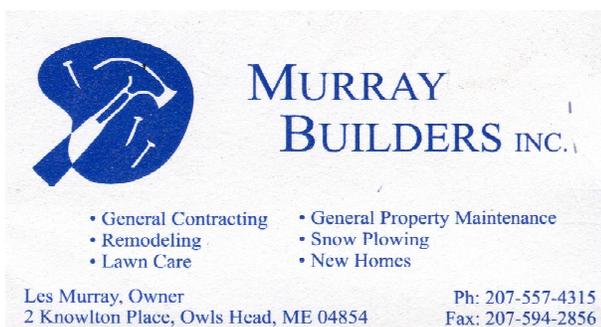
Mussel Ridge Historical Society, PO Box 133, Owl's Head, ME 04854 ballyhacme@gmail.com



**Rockland District Nurses
Association
Quiche & Coffee Fundraiser**

Owls Head Community Building
May 25 from 9 - 11 am

Donations accepted
rocklanddistrictnursing.org



**From “Rest Stops in Owl’s Head”
Her Inn, Restaurants and Boarding Houses Since 1800**

Compiled by Carol Jean Walker in 1982

LYNES HOTEL

“Owl’s Head even had its “less desirable” institutions. One such place was the Lynes Hotel. A question about this hotel, which was located near the current Humane Society’s Animal Shelter, almost always elicits a rolling of the eyes and a knowing chuckle from anyone who has heard anything about the place. “It was a tough place.” A house of ill-repute, so to speak.” “Land sakes, no, I don’t know anything about the place, I was never allowed near there.”

Helen Harlow Rackliffe Hill 93, from South Thomaston, remembers seeing the infamous establishment burn when, she was a teenager. This would mean that the Lynes met its fate in the late 1890’s. I have no idea when it first opened.

Horatio Knight of Rockland owns the land on which the hotel was built and believes he has discovered the foundation. Knight said he “knows only what he’s heard” but that the stone cutters who worked in the granite on High and Dix Islands were supposed to have come in from their week’s labor to spend Saturday night down at the Lynes.

I’ll leave it at that. Some stones are better left unturned.”

We will be offering a reprint of this booklet and it will be available this summer.



Some additional facts about the Lynes. A man by the name of Lynde owned it. Many quarry workers from Ireland, Nova Scotia, Wales and Scotland worked on Dix & High Island and came here on the weekend. These items were found recently at the burned ruins of the Lynes.



Clay pipes & Lynde engraved fork found at Ballyhac where the Lynes Hotel was located. This brand of pipe was used almost exclusively by the Irish.

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1893 Courier Articles

Ash Point—George Mason lost a valuable horse, May 4 . . . Mrs Ralph Crockett and daughter Margaret have gone to Surry on a visit....John Whalen has moved his family to Union....The storm of May 4 was quite destructive to our lobster fishermen... Charles Hanlon has commenced his Spring plantingMrs, M. J. Rowell is improving....Abel Learned of Rockland is fixing Angus Staples' sloop.....Miss I. R. Lattle of Crescent Beach visited at Ash Point, Saturday... School is progressing finely with quite a large attendance... Mrs. M. L. Snowman is suffering with a lame back.

Mr. Daggett and family of Milford, Mass., have moved to the Geer homestead....Mrs. M. J. Rowell is improving.... Mrs. Hannah Hall died at her home May 23, aged 83 years. She was a kind neighbor and will be sadly missed....Leon Learned and Miss A. Frank Staples, who have been visiting at Angus Staples, have returned home to Rockland.... Will Staples of Surry is at work for George Mason....Mr. Brown of Seal Harbor has bought a sloop of Eugene A. Snowman Messrs. Hurd & Witham are catching plenty of bait in their weir... Misses Fannie and Theresa Hanlon attended the Teachers Convention. FridayEugene Dyer visited his brother last week....Miss Marion Carlett of Rockland visited at her brother's, Sunday...Mrs. Paul Roach of Rockland visited Janies Whalen's last week

Crescent Beach --- Was opened to the public Friday with a ball which was largely attended and was a most enjoyable affair. The pavilion has been brightened up with new paint, beautified with attractive decorations, and is in splendid trim for the season's business. Crescent Beach was opened to the public May 19, with a dance. All had a good meal would do well to call there, as we see as usual the smiling countenance of the host and hostess and everything will be done for the guests' comfort....Sidney Emery and bride have arrived home from Massachusetts where they have been the past winter ...A brother Leighton has purchased Rose Hill cottage of Alonzo McCusick and will remove it to his farmHiram Small has his weir nearly completed.... Mr. and Mrs. Willie Smith have commenced housekeeping in Anthony Dyer's house....Alonzo McCusick will remove his family to Rockland.

Owls Head.— Miss Celia Emery moved into her brother's house last week and will conduct the dressmaking business there. She will be assisted by Miss Ella Emery....The Timber Hill School began May 1. Miss Isabelle Lattie teacher... Miss Katie C Emery will teach a term of school in Lincolnville, beginning May 8....Alonzo McCusick has taken charge of school. Miss Daisy Maddocks will teach the Owl's Head school, beginning May 16—Miss Lizzie Jackson teaches the Ballyhack School. The term began yesterday....The Thursday storm raged with fury in the vicinity of Crescent Beach. The end of the long wharf got badly twisted and six small boats broke from their moorings and piled high and dry on the beach.

Please let us know any names you recognize history@musselridge.org



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We have lost another longtime Memorable Owls Head Resident



Mildred T. Wiley, 91, passed away peacefully at the Sussman House in Rockport, April 20, 2019.

Born January 20, 1928 in East Union, she was the daughter of Donald E. and Esther Watts Tolman. She attended local schools and graduated from Rockport High School in 1947.

She married John Carver Wiley, June 29, 1947 and together they made their home in Owls Head where she since resided. During the early years of their marriage, Mildred and John worked together at Crie Hardware in Rockland. While raising her children, Mildred worked as a cook 17 years with School Administrative District 5 and continued in that profession at the Talbot Home, an additional 14 years.

A long-time active member of First Baptist Church of Rockland, she taught Sunday School, worked with the Pioneer Girls, and was a member of both the Kitchen Committee and the Faithful Ernest Workers Class (F.E.W.)

She is survived by her son, Donald and his wife Geraldine; her daughter, Susan Riopel all of Thomaston; five brothers, Ernest Tolman and his wife Patricia of California, Alfred Tolman of Hope, Lloyd Tolman of Missis-

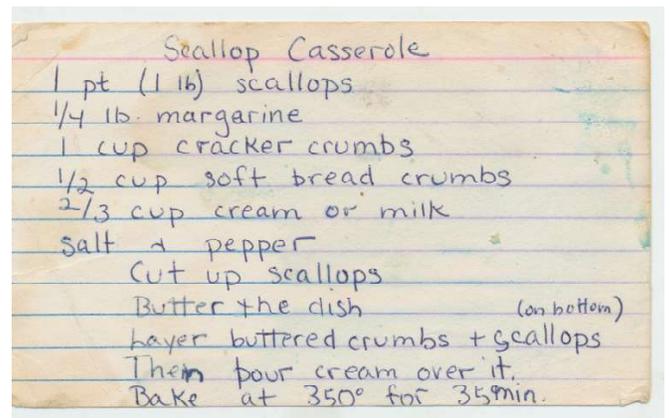
sippi, Paul Tolman and his wife Florence of Appleton, Richard Tolman and his wife Sandra of Thomaston; three sisters, Arlene "Betty" Paulsen of South Thomaston, Geraldine Barker of Minnesota, Maxine King of Rockland; four grandchildren, Christopher D. Wiley and his wife Dani, James E. Wiley and his wife Danielle, Jonathon Riopel and his wife Laura, Sarah Riopel; seven great-grandchildren, Brady, Abby, Caitlyn, Tyler, Harper, Isabella and James, many nieces and nephews, as well as several other extended family members.

She was known for her cooking, that is an understatement!

Calendar Activities/Events for the MRHS

- May 23rd - 6pm Spring Potuck and Speaker (Dave Sulin on the Civil War here on the homefront)
Owls Head Community Building
- June 11th- Bake Sale Voting Day at the
Owls Head Community Building
- July 21st - Community Picnic at the "Old Homestead" in Ash Point
- 2019 Homestead Open dates are Wednesdays from 2 - 4 pm
July 3rd thru September 25th

Mildred's Scallop Casserole Recipe



Hope you can join us as we celebrate the history of our town



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