Winter 2017

Visit our website at:
www.sullivansorrentohistory.org

and Facebook page:
Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society

Phone:
207-422-0995

Email:
info@sullivansorrentohistory.org

Drop in at the Historical Society at the Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center on Tuesdays 1-3 p.m. in summer or by appointment any time.

Visit the Urann House!
Call (207) 422-0995 or email gandjedwards@gwi.net for an appointment.

This 2017 newsletter of the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society is dedicated to the memory of Roberta Cunningham

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016-17

The past 18 months have been busy as well as productive. The Society:

- Presented these programs in 2016: June - Jeanne Edwards shared a number of interesting stories from local history; July - Denis-Marc Nault from Maine Department of Marine Resources presented on the clamming/shellfish industry, with several society members and those from the general public recounting personal experiences; September - Sandy Oliver, Bangor Daily News food columnist, led a discussion with attendees about historical foods of the area.
- Presented the following programs in 2017: June - Larry Newman outlined the Sullivan Harbor Union Church's history; July - Jude Lamb told tales of colonial times; August - Tom MacMillan provided a worker's perspective on our historic granite industry; September - Brett Ciccotelli of the Downeast Salmon Federation discussed the history of anadromous fish from settlement to today.
- Opened the museum on Tuesdays for the season, thanks to the group of dedicated volunteers who provided coverage on a weekly basis. Held regular board meetings to conduct society business. Note: The membership is encouraged to attend board meetings and participate.
- Continued to make progress on the Urann Historic Home restoration project (see related story, page 2).
- Hosted a Maine Community Foundation-funded intern who worked on organizing the parts of our collection pertinent to quarrying and the local granite industry.
- Answered inquiries from all over the country about area history and genealogy.
- And finally, hosted the annual Lites Out program in October. More than 70 attendees from the Hancock, Franklin, Sullivan-Sorrento, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, and Steuben Historical Societies enjoyed pot luck at the Recreation Center. Speaker Brett Ciccotelli expanded his September presentation to encompass a wider area including watersheds in all the communities represented.

Historic Urann House
Rte 1 in Sullivan

Board President: Gary Edwards
Vice President: Jeanne Edwards
Treasurer: Lynn Dunbar-Murphy
Secretary: Thelma White
Programs: Jeanne Edwards
Scholarship Coordinators:
Gerald Gordon
Lynn Dunbar-Murphy
Curator: vacant
Board Members:
Gail Hastings
Janice Hosking
Marjorie Brady
Margaret Thurston
Gerald Gordon

URANN HISTORIC HOME PROJECT

Progress continues on our restoration project.

In December of 2016, the society completed the work being funded by the Davis Family Foundation. These efforts have included a face-lifting exterior paint job in the fall of 2015, some electrical work, repairs to the well, and restoration work in the front parlor. Part of the sill project will be completed this fall.

During the summer we were able to finish clearing out the basement with the help of volunteer labor from the Hancock County jail.

Gerry Gordon and Jeanne Edwards continue to keep the yard looking good.

Throughout the year, donations of historic furniture and other artifacts continue to arrive. It is getting to the point that we will need to find some appropriate storage.

Next steps: We will be seeking new grant funding for continued restoration work.

Cash donations for a grant match are always needed!

COLLECTION PROJECT

Our Maine Community Foundation grant this year supported an intern and the purchase of upgrades to the Past Perfect museum software.

Future progress on the collection project, when funding and volunteer help become available, will include :

- ◊ An inventory of the complete collection of family records, historical artifacts, and the archive of the Society.
- ◊ Continuing to accession the total collection. D.J. Deans has already devoted countless hours to this task, entering items into the Past Perfect database to make the retrieval and display of information faster and easier.
- ◊ Developing a plan for storing and displaying the collections.
- ◊ Gaining more storage space.
- ◊ Disposal of duplicate and inappropriate items (every effort will be made to get these to a better home).
- ◊ Re-examining our current displays with the goal of updating and improving them.

From the *Sullivan Weekly Bulletin*, Saturday, December 24, 1881:

LOCAL NEWS

"The schooners Aragola and Ann are now in port and will remain for the winter.

"The schooner Mary Jane Lee, Capt. Haggerty, arrived here on Wednesday, from Hoboken, with coal for the Milton company.

"Our young people in Franklin will open Christmas festivities in the Hall this evening. In East Sullivan, a Dance supper and other enjoyment on Monday evening. On Tuesday at Falls Hall, Sullivan, Mr. Dabill Brillant the Cuban pedestrian will show our people how ten miles can be walked inside of one hour and a half, square heel and toe.

"The weather during the week has been most remarkable for this season of the year; open, mild, sunny, rainy; and decidedly unlike Christmas time. The roads have been decidedly bad if not worse, and 'It has been a trial, and awful getting about.' As we are preparing to go to press the rain which has been pouring down for more than a day has ceased; the wind has veered round to the north and gives a promise of snow."

Note: Copies of the *Sullivan Weekly Bulletin* in CD form can be viewed at the Historical Society archives.

Roberta Gallison Cunningham
1942-2017

This Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Roberta Cunningham of Hancock and York, who was a major supporter of our society. From 1992 on, Roberta and her husband, Rich, spent summers in Hancock on the Point Road in the original Sam Ball (one of her ancestors) Farm, enjoying their property and relishing its history. While in this area, Rich became president of the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society, and Roberta was our secretary. Roberta was constantly working on her genealogy and looked forward to the day when she could give each grandchild a complete, organized book of their ancestors. Family meant everything to her.

Roberta and Rich both worked tirelessly on the Urann House Project. Roberta scraped tile, catalogued the wallpaper in the house, and never lost her enthusiasm for the project. Rich worked on restoring windows, gifted many of their historic items to the Urann House collection, and could be seen weed-whacking the ditch during the summer months.

In addition to her genealogical interests, Roberta had a fondness for old quilts—she even had scraps from a Civil War period quilt—and loved old dolls. Her obituary notes that she was a past president of the Doll Collectors of America. She organized a "tea with dolls" while working with us.

Roberta, a Doyle descendant, was fascinated with the letters written back and forth between the Doyles who remained in Sullivan and their pioneer relatives who moved West. She was so excited to meet with their pioneer descendants on one of their many trips.

We all miss Roberta. She was never down. She was an enthusiastic person. She and Rich enjoyed working together and loved their family and their lives. We have benefited from knowing her.

DONATIONS

Donations of items, time, and funds are a necessary part of the operation of SSHS. Without them we would not exist. Please think about participating in one or more of the following opportunities:

- **Monetary donations for:**
  - **The Urann House project**
  - **The Collection project**
  - **General operational costs**
- **Items of historic interest from the area (for the museum or the Urann House)**
- **Family history, genealogy, photos, etc.**
- **Your time and talents for small projects or work days.**

2017 SSHS SCHOLARSHIP

Cameron Nault, a graduate of Sumner Memorial High School, is the latest recipient of the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society's college scholarship.

After making the most of his four years at Sumner, in and out of the classroom, Cameron is continuing his education at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, where he is planning to major in management. He is a cadet participating in Army ROTC in hopes of earning an aviation contract and a commission into the Army as an aviation officer.

He is excited and grateful to have the opportunity that the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society is helping to make possible. We wish him every success!

ENGAGING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN LOCAL HISTORY

How much do you know about the people who settled here, raised their families, and made the changes that have brought us to today? How much do you know about what it was like to live in the early days, in the Revolutionary War, in the Civil War, through industrialization, through two world wars and the conflicts since the end of WW II? Have you ever wondered about the first families to settle here that many of you are descended from?

The Society has a large collection of genealogical information, records, photographs, artifacts, publications, and more that tell the story of how Sullivan and Sorrento evolved from a vast forest that was home only to Native Americans and our animal friends, and of how it became the communities that are here today. Homes, schools, businesses, and a network of streets and roads are commonplace in today's world. How many of you are aware of the resources that we have? Have you ever stopped by the museum with your kids or made arrangements to visit? Have you attended one of our programs?

Since I have been involved I can only remember two students from Sumner requesting information for a report. When we had students from Sumner history classes help place American flags on the graves of the veterans interred in York Hill Cemetery, very few knew who Daniel Sullivan was.

At two recent meetings that I attended, the topic of how to engage local folks in our local history was discussed. The Schoodic By-Way Committee, which has made use of the resources of the historical societies in the communities that the by-way travels through, is actively working to introduce the wonderful natural and historic features that make up the by-way to those who live here. At Lites Out, an event held for six local societies, a discussion was had about the same topic, especially where it concerns our young people.

The consensus at Lites out was that it is utterly important to better engage our youth as well as adults in our history. To that end, it was agreed that we all would like to join forces with the By-Way Committee and RSU 24 to make local history important.

Gary Edwards, SSHS President

WHO'S BURIED IN GRANT'S (PAUL DUDLEY SARGENT'S) TOMB?

Patriot Paul Dudley Sargent, life-long friend of Lafayette, with his wife Lucy Saunders and their children, moved to Sullivan following the Revolutionary War. He is listed in the 1790 U.S. Census as a resident of Sullivan. According to historical reports, he had been involved in shipping but arrived with little as he had lost a great deal of money because of the war. Col. Sargent received his land through the Revolutionary War Land Grants of 1776-1780.

He and Lucy built a home in Sullivan Harbor somewhere close to the memorial. The house has been demolished. After her husband's death in 1827 or 1828 (sources vary), Lucy sold the property in 1835 to William Freeman, reserving the right for family members to visit the family tomb. Lucy died in October of 1840.

According to an October 1981 letter from Edward S. Steinbach, II—whose great grandfather was J. Samuel Johnson, grandson of Paul Dudley Sargent—Paul's grandsons J. Samuel Johnson, Ignatius Sargent, John Dudley Sargent, and Charles J. A. Johnson placed "the monument over the tomb…."

This letter to the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society also listed other remains buried at the site. They are:

Harriet Elizabeth Sargent (their daughter),
Julia Sargent Johnson (their daughter) and her husband, Dr. Abner Johnson,
Sarah Allen Sargent Gordon (their daughter) and her husband, Robert Gordon,
Mary Sargent Johnson, daughter of Dr. Abner and Julia (Sargent) Johnson,
John Sargent, son of Col. Epes Sargent and brother of Col. Paul Dudley Sargent, and
Margaret Whitney Barnard Sargent, his wife

Jeanne Edwards