the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society

E. BUELL

2018

Visit our website at:
www.sullivansorrentohistory.org

and Facebook page:
Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society

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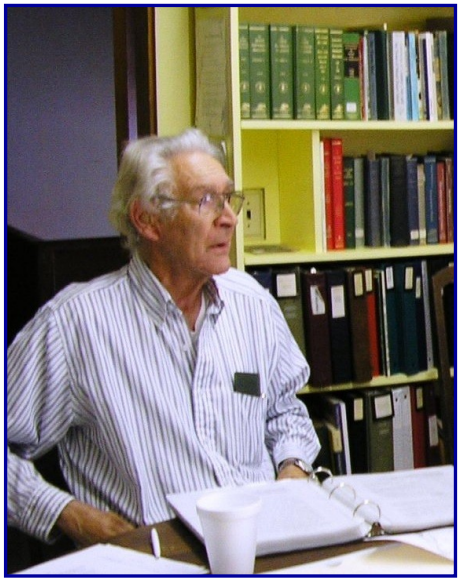
207-422-0995

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 newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Robert Potter, who died December 12, 2017. Bob was a former President of the Historical Society, prolific researcher, and author. Many of his works are housed with S-SHS. Bob is survived by his wife Barbara, a former curator at the museum, who continues to volunteer her time.

2018 IN REVIEW

The past year has been busy as well as productive. The Historical Society:

- Presented the following programs: In August at the Sorrento Community Building, Willie Granston presented "Marketing a Modern Bohemia: The Development of Sorrento, Sullivan Harbor, and other Down East Summer Colonies." This talk spurred a lively discussion of local land development in the late 19th century. In September, Dr. Robert Springer spoke at the Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center about the differences in sleep patterns, disorders, and habits from the past to the present and how continual modernization has changed the way we sleep.
- Had the archive open at the Rec Center on most Tuesdays all summer.
- Answered inquiries from all over about area history and genealogy.
- Hosted an intern to continue work on organizing our archival collection.
- Made further progress on the Urann Historic Home restoration project.
- Continued to work with the By-Way Committee and other local groups to engage local schools and introduce students to S-SHS. In July we hosted a summer class of elementary students at Gordon's wharf with The Friends of Taunton Bay to learn about the granite industry, shipping in the days of sailing ships, and the animal life in the river. In September, six students from Sumner High School worked on clean-up projects at the Urann house on the school's volunteer day.

Historic Urann House
Rte 1 in Sullivan

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

URANN HISTORIC HOME PROJECT

After we received a grant from the Davis Family Foundation in the amount of $8,500, work continued on our project to restore the Urann house. Paul Meynell's Acadia Post and Beam and Kenneth D. Jordan Movers & Riggers were contracted to replace the sills on the front and back of the house and to work at leveling the structure.

OLD HOUSE & BARN SCHOOLS

In August, Les Fossel's Restoration Resources did an inspection of the Urann house in order to help clear up mysteries as to when and how the house was constructed. Les does "Old House and Barn" schools, in which he works with building owners to explore the history of their historic homes. Seminars are held over a weekend with several properties, their owners visiting, evaluating, and discussing the properties as a group with Les. S-SHS is planning to hold a seminar in the spring and or fall of 2019 if enough participants are interested. There would be a fee to participate.

For more information or to express interest, contact Gary Edwards 422-0995 gandjedwards@gwi.net .

August 2018: Willie Granston shares his research on the development rush in Sorrento, Sullivan, and other neighboring coastal communities in the late 1800s.

September 2018: Bob Springer speaks on the causes and effects of altered sleep habits in recent history as lifestyles and occupations changed.

November 2018: Sumner High School students devote a service day to helping out at the Urann House.

COLLECTION PROJECT

An Nguyen, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Maine, worked at the archive this summer on our collection project. An concentrated on the house files, a project begun several years ago. We have files on nearly every home in Sullivan that will include current photos, historic photos, and other information. Homes will be cross-referenced with our family files when appropriate and possible.

SMELT BROOK

The Downeast Salmon (DSF) Federation asked the Society to research the history of the dam on Smelt Brook where it enters Flanders Bay through the old Watson farm. DSF had purchased the lot that the dam sits on, with the intent to remove the dam to allow fish passage up the stream. It was determined that Ellis Johnson installed this dam in the late 1960s. A call to his son Robert resulted in a complete photographic record of the installation. This information showed that the dam was not of any historical value and provided contractors an accurate picture for removal purposes. The work was completed in the late fall of 2018. DSF had identified several species, including smelt and tomcod that have been restricted. In December, just months later, spawning tomcod were observed already entering the stream.

DONATIONS

Donations of items, time, and funds are a necessary part of the operation of S-SHS. Without them we would not exist. Please consider 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.**

Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated!

2018 SSHS SCHOLARSHIP

Madeline Bierman, a graduate of Sumner Memorial High School, is the 2018 recipient of the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society's college scholarship. She is currently studying International Affairs at the University of Maine Orono and has declared a concentration in International Security. In the fall semester she took courses in International Affairs, World Politics, French, Macroeconomics, and Math. Her spring courses focus on Political Islam, Anthropology, Microeconomics, French, and English. Beyond the classroom, Madeline has gotten involved with the Sailing Club; Best Buddies, an organization that promotes one-to-one friendships between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and students without intellectual disabilities; and the Black Bear Mentor Program. Her future plans include a summer abroad in Israel and a course in Terrorism and Response. As an aspiring Foreign Service Officer for the State Department, Madeline will continue taking courses in counterterrorism during her time at UMO.

She is grateful for the Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society's support in these academic efforts, and we wish her the greatest success!

THE AMAZING POT OF GOLD

Much of Sullivan and Sorrento history can be found in Johnson's book, "Sullivan and Sorrento Since 1769." Johnson, on page 29, relates a story of two farmers in East Sullivan who, while working their fields in 1840 or 1841, turned up a pot filled with gold French coins, and "also cases of silks and other dry goods." This must have happened on Lot #33 (Peters Map), as later Ebenezer Bean owned this land which was farmed by John and Josiah Ash.

Further information on this finding can be found in the Machias Union, July 8, 1856, edition. Visitors to Sullivan stopped at the Ocean House, a lodging house owned by Ebenezer Bean, son of Theodore Bean. This account is written by one of the visitors, who relates, "Just in front of the Ocean House, on a neck of land, some fifteen years ago, a farmer in ploughing his field turned out an old earthen pot containing nearly four hundred dollars in coins. It is supposed to have been buried by some French settlers at the time the English took Castine, nearly a century and a quarter ago." He goes on to add, "Every diligent farmer is sure to win golden pay, but it does not often turn up by the pot full, as in the case alluded to."

Jeanne Edwards

A History of Dunbar's Store

The Dunbar Brothers Store pictured was opened on that site opposite the Waukeag House in 1881. Prior to that date, the brothers—Charles, Emery, and Harvey—had operated a store in North Sullivan along with their granite and lumber businesses.

An ad in the December 24, 1881, Sullivan Weekly Bulletin promised "a first-class stock of goods, comprising groceries, teas, coffees, spices, sugars, flour and molasses. Canned goods of all kinds, tobacco and cigars, fruits and confectionery, essences of all descriptions, and a general variety of fancy goods" would be available at their new location overlooking Frenchman Bay. Granite, coal, and lumber were also available. When the store burned in mid-June of 1933, Harvey was the last surviving brother.

is receiving a regular supply of saloon goods in great variety. Fruit regularly by boat: oranges, lemons, confectionery, tobacco and cigars, with a selection of fancy pipes and various light fancy goods.

DUNBAR BROTHERS, SULLIVAN, have made considerable addition to their stock purchased a short time ago, and make a good showing in the line of Fancy [illegible] received a choice supply of canned goods, and a full assortment of groceries. They will command attention in their line of business, in a very short time.

CRABTREE & HAVEY, WEST SULLIVAN, have the largest stock of goods in their store they have ever had at one time; their selection is in goods for domestic consumption. Flour, meal, corn, and groceries of all kinds, with a selection of dry goods, boots, shoes and rubbers; they are doing a large business in granite; have forty men at work, eight oxen and a pair of horses.

GEO. W. PETTENGILL, WEST SULLIVAN; the Spring stock in this store is very large and of great variety; a good line of men's and boy's clothing, boots, shoes, slippers and rubber goods, prints,

Sullivan, April 1st, 1881.

GEO. DUNBAR & Co.

109 Milk Street.,

BOSTON, : : : : MASS.

MINERS' SUPPLIES,

STEEL, SHOVELS, WIRE ROPE, PUMPS, FORGES, BLACKSMITH TOOLS of all kinds, IRON, PICKS, STAMP SHAFTS, PIPING, BELLOWS, PULLEYS, ROPE, HOISTING APPARATUS, WOOD, IRON and STEEL BARROWS, BELTING, HOSE, RUBBER GOODS, OILS, and every article used for

Mining and Milling.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS.

DYER & CLEAVES'

Livery & Boarding

STABLE,

All orders by mail will receive prompt attention, and estimates furnished on application.

Address, A. W. PACKARD,
State St., (under Masonic Hall,)
Ellsworth, Me.

Dunbar Brothers'

New Store!

Opposite the Waukeag House,

SULLIVAN, MAINE,

Will open with a first-class stock of goods, comprising

Groceries, Teas, Coffees,

Spices, Sugars, Flour and Molasses.

Canned Goods of all kinds, Tobacco and Cigars, Fruits and Confectionary, Essences of all descriptions, and a general variety of

FANCY GOODS,

We solicit a share of public patronage, and will furnish our customers as cheap as any other firm

FOR CASH ONLY!

HARVEY W. DUNBAR—EMERY B. DUNBAR.

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In 1933 Harvey's son Emery opened a new store on the opposite side of the road. He expanded the operation in 1949, 1959, and 1969. When asked why he did not expand in 1979, he replied, "I thought I'd had enough."

A new venture called "Sullivan Harbor Independent Purveyors" is now refurbishing the Dunbar store, and it is due to open up as a deli and grocery in the coming months. The new business will be most welcome!

Can you identify these photos?

For confirmation E-mail: info@sullivansorrentohistory.org