

# Friends of the Winn House

Newsletter Spring 2006

#### **Ogunquit Heritage Museum Celebrates Opening of Ell**

The Exhibit Committee is beginning its work for the new season. We have a lot to accomplish—new exhibits in the Ell, a new Sea Captain's room in the Great Room and updates for all rooms. The house was truly beautiful for Christmas by the Sea. We had about 75 visitors.

The Education Committee, with Carrie Charpentier, Chair, and Robin Fagerlund are hard at work developing two units for 4th grade children. These will be integrated with Maine Learning Results. Both are teachers and have a wonderful insight into the classroom and the children.

The first will be a "Sea Chest" filled with projects for children in the class room that will last for 5 weeks with the theme "Sea Captains and their Voyages." These will include things like life aboard a ship, cargos, weather, navigation, ships' logs, jobs aboard ship, etc. The kit will contain a teacher's guide and "props" that the children will use to better understand life aboard a "Coaster."

The second will be similar, but only offered at the Museum. It will be a visit plus activities for a morning or afternoon, and not quite as involved. There will still be teacher and student preparation.

Another feature might be a trip on the *Eleanor*, a schooner out of Kennebunkport.

**Jordan Freedman** has agreed to develop a web site for us. We already have a new URL which will be www.ogunquitheritagemuseum.org. We will develop it for the coming season and get links throughout town.

Along the Lines of Public Relations and advertising, we have contacted the Trolley Company about the possibility of putting a small sign on the trolley. It will cost \$500—this seems like a good investment.

A new Museum brochure is in the works. The Chamber has given us a gift of \$500 towards the printing and setup. This is a really nice gesture. They have been really supportive and still house the Littlefield Resource Library.

Our Coordinator Paula Cummings will be back this summer.

Barbara Woodbury Curator

#### **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**



Officially opening the Ell on June 28, 2005 are, left to right, Curator Barbara Woodbury, Meadowmere Sponsor Allyson Cavaretta, Selectman Jon Speers, FOWH President Bernadine Speers, Rotary President Eric Andrews, Winn House Committee rep. Wini Mason and Town Manager Phil Clark.



### Special Announce-

#### ments

The Board of Directors voted to sponsor the 32nd Annual *Ogunquit Antiques Show and Sale*, September 16 and 17, 2006. Volunteers will be needed. If you would like to help, please contact any board member.

A contest to name this Newsletter is now underway. Your inspiration may win and become the permanent name. Send entries to FOWH Contest, P.O. Box 723,

#### From the Bridge . . .

As I look over the very long list of contributors on the back page of this newsletter, I'm struck by several things. It is wonderful to see so many people who were charter subscribers three years ago who have renewed their memberships year after year. Even though I don't know all of you, your names have become very familiar to me. It seems like we are old friends! In addition to the charter members, I look forward to adding new names to our Friends list every year. I believe that indicates we have a growing presence in the community. My next thought is that we are fortunate to live in a place where local businesses contribute to the community. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in 2005!

It is also important that we acknowledge donors of historical artifacts to the Museum. We are taking a more prominent place among other heritage museums in Maine as our collection grows and is visited by townspeople and tourists alike. We hope more people will think of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum as a place to preserve history through their family memorabilia.

In the last *Newsletter*, we referred to 2004 as a transitional year. Now that direction is more apparent to all of us. The Winn House Restoration Committee is to be congratulated for completing the 6-year-long task of restoring the Winn House and the ell. The Town of Ogunquit will be taking a greater role in the maintenance of the building and the Park. The Town is also continuing to pay the utilities and the salary of our very able summer staff member, Coordinator Paula Cummings. This is the second year of the Museum Committee consisting of creative and energetic volunteers under the direction of Curator Barbara Woodbury. Her group is gearing up for new and expanded exhibits throughout the Winn House and the new ell. Their Education sub-committee is planning children's programs in the schools and in the ell which the Friends will help fund.

This delineation of responsibilities will make everyone's role more distinct. During the past year all efforts have been focused on completing the ell. With that behind us, the Friends can now focus on our primary role—education. To this end, the Friends will be funding materials for the exhibits throughout the Museum. This year the board is committing the Friends' resources to upgrading the old exhibits and setting up the new exhibits in the ell.

The Friends will also be building on the successes of the past three years with its ongoing programs of ghost storytelling for OgunquitFest, the popular 'Do you remember?' sessions that draw old-timers and newcomers for remembrances of the past, and the annual Perkins Cove History Walk. We hope you will visit the Winn House often this season. It will be open starting June first with expanded hours from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. As you look around at all the changes, remember it wouldn't be possible without you.

Bernadine Speers, Chair

#### **Charting Ahead**

*Sunday, June 25* Opening of the fourth season of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

August Perkins Cove History Walk

Saturday and Sunday, September 16 & 17 32nd Annual Ogunquit Antiques Show and Sale, Dunaway Center, School Street, Ogunquit

*Friday, October 20* OgunquitFest and Ghostly Tour *Saturday and Sunday, December 9 & 10* Christmas by the Sea holiday exhibit at the Winn House

#### **Your Board of Directors**



Your Board of Directors at a recent meeting. Left to right, Allyson Cavaretta, Treasurer Susan Meffert, President Bernadine Speers, and Secretary Barbara Woodbury.

#### Friends of the Winn House Board of Directors

Bernadine Speers, *President* Barbara Woodbury, *Secretary* Susan Meffert, *Treasurer* 

Judy BakerEllen DannertBill BakerJim NadeauAllyson CavarettaBlanche Staples



### Friends of the Winn House Newsletter Spring 2006

Peter R. Woodbury, Interim Editor

Published twice a year, Spring and Fall, for Members of the Friends of the Winn House P. O. Box 723, Ogunquit, Maine 03907

#### Do You Remember?

Below is an excerpt from the Ogunquit Breeze, Winter 1973 Roby Perkins Littlefield, Editor

On the east side of Main St. at the Square was Joe Littlefield's General Store. Across the road on its west side was Lincoln Littlefield's grocery store and cobblers shop. Going north and on the east side of Main St., the first house was Mr. Barak Maxwell's. Greatly enlarged and changed, it is now The Village Inn. Mr. Barak, so he was always called, was a rather short stocky man, a bit bow legged. He dressed different from most Gunkiters, often wearing a Chesterfield style derby hat and a Prince Albert coat. In many ways he was Ogunquit's leading citizen. At one time he was State Senator, the Village Postmaster, Owner and



Barak Maxwell's Schooner Ocean Eagle at Ogunquit.

Manager of the Village Inn, the largest grocery store in the area, and chief owner of several small trading schooners based at Ogunquit Harbor. He usually owned a three quarter interest in a boat and a local man, who would be her captain, would own the other one quarter interest. The principle business of these schooners was hauling firewood, lumber and dried salt fish to Boston and bringing back various commodities.

Often in late winter the firewood would be piled 15 ft. high on his wharf and 6 to 8 ft. along the sides or Wharf Lane (now Beach St.) from Main St. to the wharf. Occasionally a schooner would take a load of dried salt fish to a the West Indies and bring back molasses, sugar and rum.

As proprietor of an Inn (the Old Maxwell House at the corner of Main St. and Berwick St.) Mr. Barak sold liquors. One day a woman from "up back" came to him and said "Mr. Maxwell, I wish you would refuse to sell my husband any more liquor. When sober he is as good a husband as anyone could ask for, but when he has been drinking he is ugly and beats me and our children and spends for liquor the money we need for food and clothing." Mr. Barak was so moved by her plea he could not sleep that night. In the morning he announced he was selling no more liquor, pulled the barrel spiles, spilling the liquor he had on hand, and the Old Maxwell House became the first temperance tavern in Maine.

Wells Beach was a well known summer resort with two good sized summer hotels before Ogunquit got started. Occasionally a 'summer boarder' strayed down to Ogunquit. Mr. Barak, realized that if more convenient access to the Beach was available, Ogunquit too might become a popular resort. Being a state senator, he got a bill to build such a bridge introduced in the Maine legislature. It failed to pass the first time. Two years later a similar bill was passed. The bridge was, built in 1888 and Ogunquit was on its way to becoming the bedlam it now is in summer.

In the next house at the top of the hill lived Jim Perkins, a fisherman by trade and a most friendly person. His wife, Lizzie, had a good voice and sang in the church choir for many years. As there were so many Perkinses of the same name it was customary to designate the women by adding their husband's first name. Mrs. James Perkins was called Lizzie Jim. There were also Lizzie Fred, Lizzie Bill and Lizzie Bumbo. Similarly there were Annie Mose, Annie Dane, Annie Esther and Annie Jack, all Perkinses.

#### Do You Remember. . . Live!



Over 40 people gathered at the Ogunquit Baptist Church on March 5th for our "Do You Remember IV" forum sponsored by the Friends of the Winn House and the Ogunquit Heritage Museum and moderated by Barbara Woodbury and Richard Littlefield.

#### We Thank Our

#### Friends of the Winn House

For Their Generous Donations in 2005:

#### **Gold Benefactors**

Jon and Bernadine Speers

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Peter and Barbara Woodbury

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#### Welcome Aboard to our New 2005 Members

The Charpentier Family Joe and Natalie Hakanson Wilber Littlefield Tony and Noreen Maurno Ray and Kay Hamlin John and Elizabeth Lane Margarette Florentino Susanne Heckaman Michele Hovde June Adams Johnson Barbara Hanson Treen Pete Littlefield Hazel Wambaugh



## Completion of the Ell would not have been possible without these special donations for The Winn House Ell Construction

**Continuing Support**Town of Ogunquit

Clerk of the Works
Gary Littlefield

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Newell Perkins

Fire Alarm System
Jackie Bevins

Windows and plaques Rotary Club of Ogunquit Kennebunk Savings Bank

**Restroom and door** Ogunquit Women's Club

Windows

Friends of Harriet Smith Littlefield Family Newsletter

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Plumbing and Plumbing Supplies

Dennis Sayward, Sr. Dennis Sayward, Jr.

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Marble Bench
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#### **Ell Ribbon-Cutting Party**

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters

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