

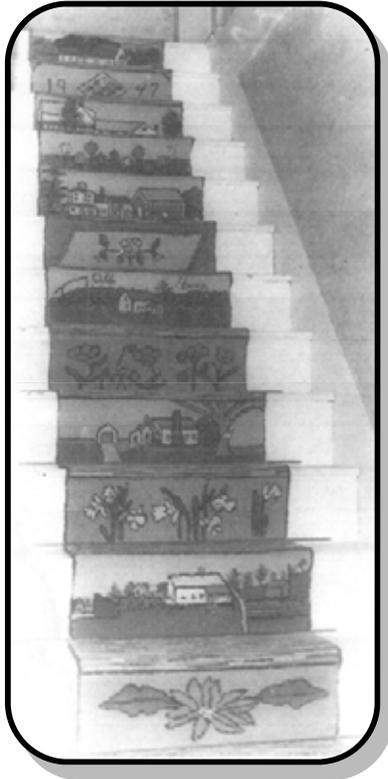
Sebago Historical Society Presents...
2012



SEBAGO ARTISTS
PAST & PRESENT
PART II

January 2012

Textile Artists Past & Present



Lucy Wezman Irish (1876-1954) found much time to devote to her hobby of making hooked rugs during her 30 years of being postmaster of the Hillside post office. A prolific rug hooker, Lucy made rugs for each of her five children, and then decided to make 13 panels to cover the stairs in their home. She began in 1946 with a picture that she designed herself of her birthplace in Naples, which is shown on the front cover of the calendar. She soon followed that with a depiction of the little schoolhouse in Hillside where her children attended, the Irish family homestead, the home of son Franklin on Hillside, and their cottage on Hancock Pond. It took a year to complete the runner, which also included flowers from her garden and a "hit or miss" pattern on the stairs themselves. The runner was cut apart and given to Lucy's children, who today proudly show off their mother's handwork.



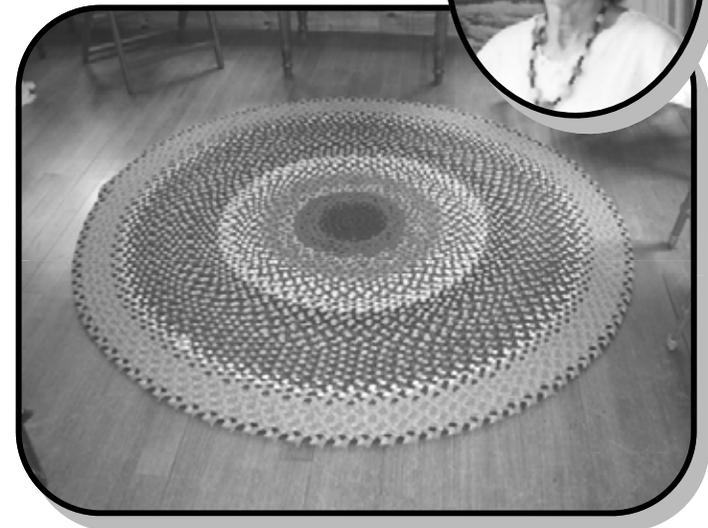
Lucy



Betty



Betty Sawyer lives in the old Daniel McKennzy house in North Sebago, and has filled it with beautiful braided rugs. She learned to braid after retiring in 1985, taught by her good friend. Depending on the size of the rug, it took anywhere from two months to a year to complete, with the final lacing step happening as she sat atop her dining room table. Her children and grandchildren now each have at least one rug of their own, which makes a total of about 35 rugs that she's made....so far.



February 2012

Musicians Past & Present



Evans Fitch

G. Evans "Buzzy" Fitch (1938-2002) wanted to learn to play the dobro, a Hawaiian wood and metal guitar, ever since he was a young boy. His quest to perfect this musical style led him in many directions, including a spot on the weekly Ken MacKenzie country music television show. In his teens he began playing guitar for the "Country Ramblers" a local group that played for dances and other social functions. After a stint in the Navy aboard the USS Boston, the Navy's first guided missile destroyer, Evans returned to Maine to work in his father's insurance business and further his musical career. He joined Sumner Morrill's band, the "Shiloh Mountain Boys", named after Sumner's farm, and they played Saturday nights to enthusiastic country music crowds. The Boot Hill Record Co produced the cassette tape shown above. Evans enjoyed playing bluegrass music in his later years, traveling around Maine to various festivals and private pickin' parties.



Sebago resident Andy Pappas is a self-taught musician who has been playing guitar since the age of 12. He has over 25 years of experience playing in rock bands and as a solo performer. Andy has also been involved in original projects, and has written and recorded some of his own material. Musical influences range from 60's and 70's classic rock, 80's alternative to 90's grunge and beyond. Andy currently sings and plays lead guitar for his cover band The Wayouts, playing all the best rock music from the 60's on up around the Portland music scene.



Andy Pappas

March 2012

Boatbuilding Past & Present

LaGrove Sanborn (1854-1933) operated a grocery store on the corners of Rt 114 and Rt 11 in East Sebago for many years. By 1870 the railroad had made its way up to the lower end of Sebago Lake, where a station was built. Small steamships would pick up the passengers and dry goods delivered by train and take them to inns and boarding houses all along the lake. Like many others of the era, LaGrove took advantage of this new opportunity and began building steamboats in his barn. He could transport supplies to his store and bring summer guests to the many farms that had opened their doors to summer visitors. His son Curtis carried on the boatbuilding tradition with his partnership with Carlton Martin and the Sebago Boat Company.



LaGrove on far right with his steamship "Minnetta",



Brenda

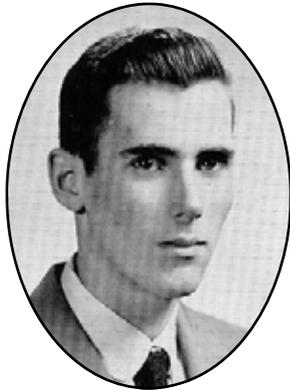


Don

Half century later there is another boat building business in Sebago, the Bear Creek Canoe Company. Don Moore began making fiberglass canoes in the early 1990's with a partner in Limerick. A few years later, he bought out the partner, and then in February 2004, Don and his wife Brenda moved the business to their Sebago home on the Swamp Road and began making canoes and kayaks in their barn workshop. The past few years they have produced about 200 boats per year, as well as making repairs on many others.

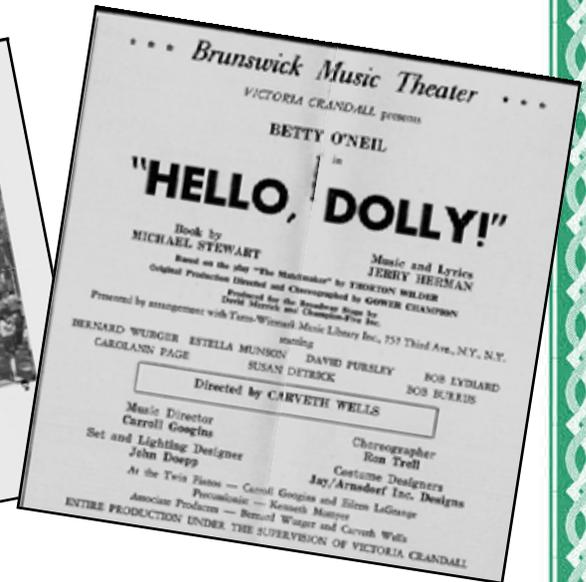
April 2012

Musical Talent Past & Present



Sonny Googins

Carroll "Sonny" Googins, longtime choral director at Brunswick High School, graduated from Potter Academy in 1958. He had begun taking piano lessons at the age of nine, eventually becoming the organist for the Sebago Center Community Church during his high school years and later organist of the Elijah Kellogg Church in Harpswell. He had a long, distinguished career with the Brunswick Music Theater as the music director of many productions, as well as performing on one of the twin pianos.



Nathan Polhemus

Nathan Polhemus, a singer songwriter, attributes inspiration for his music to "living in this scenic area." He has a strong classical piano background, as well as jazz piano and guitar. At age 12 he started playing at local coffee shops and restaurants. Nathan has since sought out a variety of music genres and groups to perform with, broadening his audience and gaining valuable experience. Today he performs his own music and studies biology and piano performance at USM.

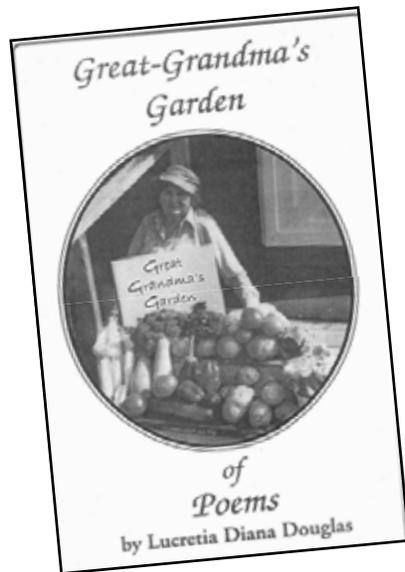


You may visit his website for more information:
www.nathanpolhemus.com

May 2012

Literary Artists of the Past

Lunetta Poor Chesszy (1872-1955), was the daughter of Sebago lawyer, Edwin L. Poor. She was educated at Hampden Academy and taught school for 30 years in local schools. A great niece of Sebago's Jonathan D. Poor, the mural artist featured in the SHS 2010 calendar, Lunetta's creative ability shone through her poetry. For Sebago's Centennial celebration in 1926 she penned these words, merely titled "Sebago" to be sung to the familiar tune "America the Beautiful." Her full poem can be found in the "Sesqui-Centennial Chronicle" by Fred Meserve, a copy of which is in the Sebago Historical Society museum.



Lucretia



Lunetta



Lucretia Decker Douglas, 1915-2007, was a prolific writer and widely known in the area as "The Cricket." As Sebago's correspondent to the Bridgton News, her column appeared weekly for many years. Her creative musings centered on her love for nature and gardening and her articulate opinions regarding politics and the world-at-large. Her political career is featured on the next page.

The Bridgton News
ATTN: Lucretia Douglas
P.O. Box 244
Bridgton, ME 04009

Dear Presidential candidate Douglas,

Here is a small contribution for your candidacy.

Hopefully, you'll accept this donation and not consider this foreign meddling.

Sincerely,

Yousef Prez

Yousef Prez
Haifa, Israel

P.S. When I go to Jerusalem, I'll say a prayer for you at the wailing wall.

Letter received
during campaign



Interview with Susan
Kimball WCSH6 news

June 2012

Sebago's Only Presidential Candidate



Newspaper article

If I Could Make a President

If I Could Make a President,
I'll tell you what I'd do-
I'd gather up a little bit of the best in quite a few
Of the men who made this country great
And of the failures, too,
For a President is no different
than folks like me and you.

In the 1996 and 2000-- campaigns, Lucretia ran for the office of the President of the United States for the Common Sense Party. Her poem, "If I Could Make a President," was put to music by Walter Bannon of Bridgton, who was personally invited to deliver a copy of it to President George H. W. Bush at the Cliff House in Ogunquit. This delightful video can be found on YouTube.com. Lucretia loved to discuss politics, being equally at ease shaking hands on the campaign trail or declaring her views in her column with a simple eloquence. She was not shy to ask for donations, but limited the amount from any individual to 3 pennies. Receiving twenty votes in 1996, she later shared this viewpoint: "Looking over the platform I had written for the Common Sense Party when I ran for President in 1996, I thought maybe after reading of all the violence in our country now, it is time to take some of the blame and do something about it."

July 2012

Hand Quilters Past & Present



Margaret Wentzell's (1922-2010) Cathedral Windows quilt depicts a multitude of colorful "window panes," the culmination of a time-consuming hand-worked process called reverse applique. The colored squares are placed in the center of folded muslin and stitched down, with stunning re-

sults. Margaret displayed this quilt at the first Sebago Quilt Show in 1997 at the Sebago Center Community Church.



Sandy Coburn learned the art of hand piecing in the early 80's from Ellie Lundstrom, a long time Chickadee Quilter. She learned appliquing a few years later from Betty Sanborn, another prize winning Chickadee quilter. All of Sandy's quilts are made this way, by hand, some taking almost a year to complete, since she fits quilting in between taking care of her gardens and horses. Living near the top of Winn Mountain in an old farmhouse that was once the blacksmith shop of John Winn's family affords her the peace and quiet to enjoy the hobby she loves.

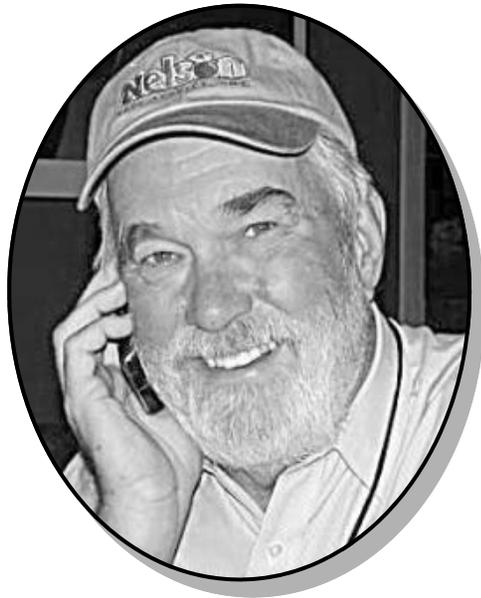


This red and white quilt featuring a basket design on point with red sashing was a wedding gift to Nancy P. Douglas when she married George K. Pike in 1886. The women who made it and signed their blocks were neighbors and family members: Asenath Pike Walker (George's aunt), Mary Douglass Chadbourne, Edith Douglas (Nancy's cousin), and Julia Pike and Ella Pike.



August 2012

Literary Artists Past & Present



Alan Crabtree is another prolific writer now living in Sebago. Alan and wife

Penny have lived on both coasts, while operating their web-based old book business, finally making it back to their New England roots after purchasing the former J. Meserve farm in Sebago. Alan's love of journalism has earned him a position as a columnist with the Portland Press Herald, as well as the Bridgton News. His "Maine Farmhouse Journal" is an eleven year account of the progress of renovating their old farmhouse, along with personal observations of daily life in an old house and in a small town. These stories and much more can be found on his website www.crabcoll.com



Alan has been a very active Red Cross volunteer, responding to many of the recent national disasters with hands-on help and recounting the stories of the survivors in his newspaper articles.



Lawrence

Lawrence Mason (1936-1963) graduated from Potter Academy in 1954 and attended Portland University, preparing to study law. He loved to write and contributed to the Portland Press Herald and the Bridgton News. His "This Is Sebago" is a vast, two volume typed manuscript which can be found at the Spaulding Memorial Library. Written in 1961, it is a thorough update of Fred L. Meserve's "Centennial History of Sebago", with Lawrence's own observations added throughout. Lawrence's life was cut short, when he died at the age of 26 from kidney failure.

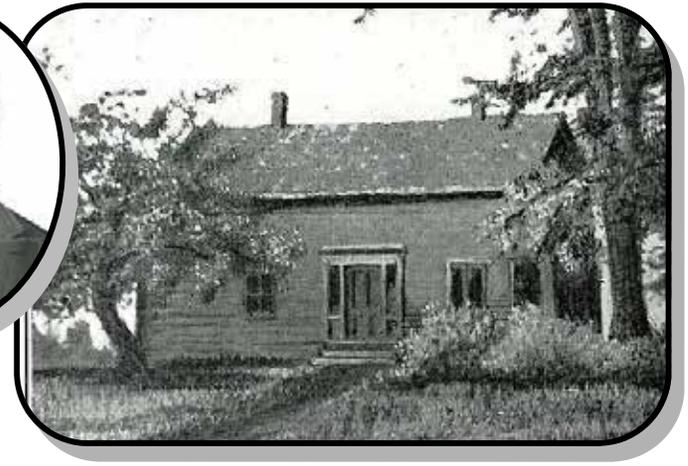
September 2012

House Wrights Past & Present

Asa Irish (1793-1881) was a skilled carpenter and framer of the old-fashioned barns. Many of the houses and barns in Sebago and adjoining towns are monuments of his good workmanship. A 40' x 60' post and beam barn at Hillside Farm, pictured in one of his daughter-in-law's hooked stair runner sections was one Asa designed for his son Charles' home. It featured a king post truss up the middle of the roof section and rods that kept the barn so sturdy that it lasted over 100 years, finally being struck by lightning and burning down in 1974. Never idle, he abhorred it in others, and kept busy working almost to the day of his death at the age of 87.



Asa Irish



Asa's home on Tiger Hill in Sebago



This house on Hog Fat Hill was completely restored by Grove

Grosvenor Howeomb has always had a love of the history of architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries. For thirty years, Grove has been working on older homes and learning first hand how they were constructed and enjoying reproducing interior and exterior architectural details. Using this knowledge, he began purchasing and restoring neglected antique houses in the area. He strongly believes in saving a part of our local history for future generations



Grove Howeomb

October 2012

Textile Artists Past & Present



Edith Chadbourne

In an age when many women made clothing for themselves and their families, we have the history of Edith Chadbourne (1867-1935). She was the eldest daughter of George Douglas, Jr., and lived on Douglas Hill her entire life. In April of 1894 she married James Chadbourne and together they ran a summer boarding house. "Mother was busy. She hooked rugs and made sheets out of unbleached muslin. She made our clothes, and knit our mittens and stockings. She was a hard working woman, preferring to scrub our clothes on a wash board instead of using a washing machine, which she felt didn't get them clean enough," wrote her daughter Grace Snow, in her autobiography. One of Edith's hand made dresses now belongs to her great grand daughter.

Lin Grønzø discovered her passion for heirloom sewing after moving to Sebago in 1999. "My husband and I moved into the Sebago House, owned by his family since 1865, and there I found inspiration for my creations in many family heirlooms. My favorite creations are one-of-a-kind heirloom Christening gowns and baby dresses".



Lin's first entries at Fryeburg Fair won two blue ribbons. She has been a consistent blue ribbon recipient ever since.

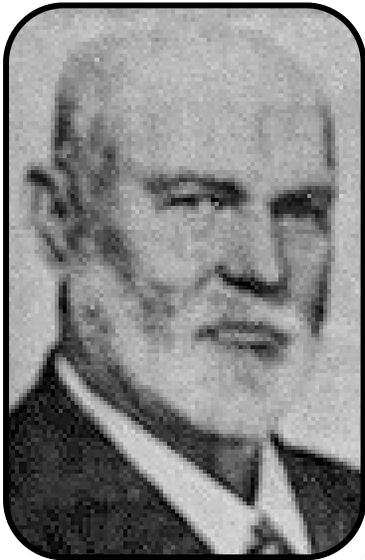


Lin Grønzø



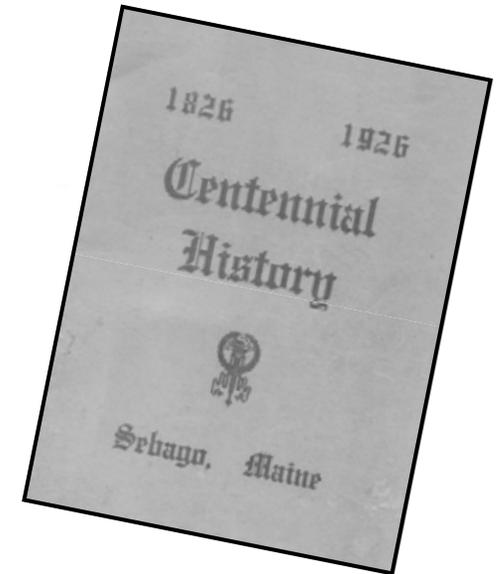
November 2012

Literary Artists Of The Past



Fred Mészervé

Fred L. Mészervé (1869-1950) was very active in town affairs, holding many offices, and then representing Sebago in the Maine Legislature in 1937. The son of John and Matilda (Douglass) Mészervé, he grew up in the old farmhouse that his grandfather built, now the Crabtree residence. In 1950 he and his second wife, Lillian, moved into the old family homestead down the road, across from where they operated a store. Fred was a tall man, with a beard and often wore long coats. He played a key role in the Sebago Centennial Celebration in 1926, from which he compiled the "Centennial History of Sebago, Maine, 1826-1926.", earning him the unofficial title of Sebago's first historian.



Franklin

Franklin Irish (1909-2005) was the son of Howard and Lucy (Wegman) Irish of the Hillside section of Sebago. Like his mother, Lucy, and his great grandfather, Asa Irish, both featured in this calendar, he was truly a "jack-of-all-trades," focusing on carpentry, plumbing and electrical work until the day when a license was required. At that point he turned to writing. Franklin has left behind a wealth of wonderful stories that capture the culture of his times and they are compiled in his book, "Life in the 1900's." He tells of hunting trips in the old days, going "up North" with Carlton "Lucky" Dolloff and Elmer "Bunk" Martin to hunt deer. And then there's his tale about going fishing for Pollock and catching a lobster. It sounds unbelievable, but he claims it happened. You'll have to ask one of his sons about that story. Franklin was also instrumental in starting the Sebago Branch Duckers snowmobile club.



Franklin & Helen Irish

December 2012

Woodworkers Past & Present



Edson Brown, (1887-1974) made a clock for "something to do" while he was recovering from a severe attack of lead poisoning back in 1936. This led to an interesting clock repairing hobby that added income and pleasure to his retirement years. He mended clocks for people living as far away as New Jersey and New York. He said, "I mend the ones the jewelers say aren't worth fixing". Mr. Brown taught industrial arts at Potter Academy, where he honed his furniture making skills. Many local residents today still marvel at the child sized table and chairs that he crafted for their children. Examples can be seen at the historical society museum. Ann Burns will never forget the Christmas morning when she was 10 years old and found a dollhouse under the tree that Edson had made.



Edson Brown

Dave Twombly worked for an overhead door company for 25 years and during that time he became proficient in making custom carriage house style doors for garages. He opened his Sebago Millworks business in 1994 where he continued making the custom doors for the next 15 years. Like many woodworkers, he turned to furniture making in addition to his business orders. For a number of years Dave made antique-style jelly cabinets, one of which he donated yearly as a prize at Sebago Days. Retired now, he still makes the occasional door when a customer sees the beautiful work he's done for someone else.



Dave



We wish to thank everyone who contributed photographs and information, which is as accurate as we can determine.

Calendar Committee

Sherrill Brown, Suz Cummings and Susan Gassett

Cover illustrations are sections of the hooked stair runner created by Lucy Wezeman Irish.

Sebago Historical Society thanks you for your continued support of our calendar.