

Join us for August History Happenings on Westport Island

August 2021 will be a busy month for **The Friends of Westport Island History**. Here's what is happening on Westport Island:

As part of Maine's bicentennial event **The Lincoln County Pilgrimage: Making a Living in Lincoln County, 1820 and Beyond**, Dennis Dunbar will be leading two History Trail caravans – at noon and 2 pm – on the pilgrimage kickoff day, Sunday, August 15. Learn about our island's history through the interpretative signs located at each of the 10 sites around the island. The caravans will meet at the History Center at Wright Landing on Ferry Road. For more information about other Lincoln County Pilgrimage events, visit lincolncounty2020.com/lincoln-county-pilgrimage.

Also on August 15th, from 11 am–4 pm at the History Center, is the grand opening of our **new exhibit "My Island Home."** The exhibit was previously in Maine Historical Society's Showcase Gallery in Portland. View and listen to the recollections of Verlie May Colby Greenleaf (1891-1992) of Westport Island including personal notes, photographs, and an interview of Verlie conducted in 1987. Photos and objects come to life with her words to give us a more vivid glimpse of her life and times here on Westport Island.

Don't miss **"Squam Creek History ALIVE: The Squam Creek settlement and early families of Westport Island"** on August 21 from 5 to 7 pm. This cocktail party will be at the beautiful Squam Creek Farm, the property of Louana and Ted Frois, and the historic settlement of Timothy Dunton, patriarch of the Dunton family. A presentation will be held at the Timothy Dunton cellar hole/sunken garden. Advance tickets sales only: \$20/Friend; \$50/Supporter; and \$125/Patron, benefitting the Friends of Westport Island History. RSVP to FOWIH19@gmail.com.

The **Wiscasset ArtWalk** on August 26 may be your last chance to purchase a raffle ticket for the beautiful, hand-made 20-block quilt created by Debbie Williams. The colorful quilt is on display at the History Center (open Sundays from 11 am to 1 pm). Raffle tickets are one for \$5 or six for \$25.

The **Annual Meeting of the Friends of Westport Island History** will be held on August 29 from 1 to 3 pm at the History Center. A fun time – with wine and cheese, picking the winner of the quilt, and a little business – electing trustees and officers.

August History Happenings

SUN., AUGUST 15:

Westport Island History Trail caravans
Noon–2 pm
Meet at Wright Landing (38 Ferry Road)

Opening of exhibit: My Island Home
History Center, Wright Landing
11 am–4 pm

SAT., AUGUST 21:

Cocktails and Presentation
Squam Creek History ALIVE: The Squam Creek settlement and early families of Westport Island

Squam Creek Farm, 91 West Shore Road
5–7 pm

SUN., AUGUST 29:

Annual Meeting of the Friends of Westport Island History
History Center, Wright Landing
1–3 pm

Folk Notes



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2021

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578

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THE FRIENDS OF WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY PRESENTS

Squam Creek History—Alive!
The Squam Creek Settlement and Early Families of Westport Island

Cocktails & Presentation at Squam Creek Farm
Home of Louana & Ted Frois ~ 91 West Shore Road ~ Westport Island, ME
August 21, 2021 ~ 5–7 pm

<i>Contributions</i>	<i>RSVP by Aug. 11</i>	<i>Advance Sales Only</i>
Per person: Friend: \$20 Supporter: \$50 Patron: \$125	Please mail checks to: The Friends of Westport Island History 91 West Shore Road Westport Island, ME 04578	Attendance is limited. Contributions benefit the Friends of Westport Island History and are tax deductible.

Please include number of attendees on check. For more information, please contact us at FOWIH19@gmail.com.

Newsletter Submissions

If you have an interest in contributing to the Westport Island Community Newsletter, please contact Rose at westportcommunityassociation@gmail.com or 215-7039. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. I would love to hear from you! I am looking for art, short stories, poems, notes of interest, birthday wishes, and anything else that is upbeat and island-note-worthy.

WCA Student Awards

The WCA is offering Student Awards of \$350 to students enrolled in post-secondary education or training for the upcoming year. Dedee at the Town Office has application forms. The deadline for submitting the application is August 21. Call Dick Barker, 882-4211, for additional information.

On the History Trail

Westport Island's Fur Trading Post

By 1676, a fur trading post was sited at the northern tip of Westport Island, directly opposite Wiscasset Point. Native trails led down Birch Point in Wiscasset to the shore, where natives traveled by canoe to the Westport Island trading post to trade furs for goods like knives, cloth, wampum, and, sometimes, even rum or guns. The trading post site was well situated to trade with the natives in the Sheepscot Valley and lower Kennebec area. It was central, accessible, and defensible. The fur trade was a vital source of income for the Plymouth settlers as they struggled to repay debts incurred by investors in their journey to the new world. Furs, especially beaver, were in high demand in England, and were plentiful here, and profitable. A group called the Plymouth Proprietors were granted exclusive rights, by England's king, in 1629, to the Kennebec area (15 miles on either side of the river) for fur trading purposes to help them pay those debts. In late 1669, the Plymouth Proprietors leased their Kennebec tract, and their trading rights, to the partnership of Obediah Walker and Edward Naylor.

Walker and Naylor already ran a trading post on the south side of Merrymeeting Bay. Walker, a wealthy Boston merchant, provided the cash while Naylor contributed his many years of trading experience as a "truckmaster" (one who does the actual trading and knows the Indians personally). The fur trading post they established on Westport Island (Jeremisquam, as it was called then) was established just at the beginning of the hostilities with the natives. King Phillips War with the native Americans started in 1675 and raids in our area caused settlers to abandon their homes and flee to Newagen for safety. Obediah Walker, after starting our trading post, died in 1676, at the start of hostilities, at the age of 33. Edward Naylor continued as "truckmaster". However, Naylor had legal, financial, and domestic problems. Naylor was so deeply in debt that in 1672, he surrendered his interests and profits in his partnership with Obediah Walker in order to pay off a £330 debt to Walker's heirs. The Westport Island fur trading business appears, then, to have gone to a Mr. Delano who continued to operate the trading post and improve and fortify the site. The Delano family arrived in Plymouth in 1621 and were well-known loyal Puritans and merchants in the Plymouth Colony.



Figure 1 Fur Trade with the Natives on Jeremisquam's Squam Point (now Clough Point)



Plant sale photos provided by Donna Curry



Bands for Books: Tickets on sale now!



The Friends of Wiscasset Public Library hope you will join us at the 2021 Bands for Books fundraiser on Labor Day, September 6. This year, Bands for Books returns to the beautiful Seafield Farm in Wiscasset. You'll want to wear your dancing shoes because the ever-popular Salty Dogs will be playing. This event is always a lot of fun – great food, wonderful music, and fantastic auction items – all in support of our library. You can purchase tickets (\$20) at the library or by emailing Wiscasset.Library.Friends@gmail.com. Check the library display case and watch the website for a preview of the auction items.

Westport Island Community Association

Westport Island Yard Sale

A great day was had by sellers and buyers on Saturday, July 17th from 8-1. Our promotions seemed to work and got the word out far and wide in Maine that it was the event not to miss. We had over 40 Westport Island families participate. The 90 maps given out before the bridge were just a small sample of the hundreds of people that spent the day roaming the Island for treasures. The Westport Community Association sponsored this event as part of our mission to foster a sense of community and to provide projects and events in the best interest of residents of Westport Island. There was no monetary benefit to the WCA, all promotions for the sale were paid for by the WCA. There was no charge to the Westport Islanders for participation. Many thanks to the WCA members for making this happen and to Jean and Gaye for their support. A lot of new friendships were made and good times were had.

WCA Plant Sale Overview

Beautiful Wright Landing was the location on June 12th, of the Westport Community Association Plant Sale. We had donations of plants from 20 families and they amounted to over 200 plants. The Horticulture Committee from Wright Landing split many of their beautiful flowers for us to sell and gave away many yellow iris for free to those attending the Plant Sale. Many thanks to our volunteers for their potting, transporting, selling, promoting, and helping to make it a success. The money collected from the sale of the plants goes to the WCA for future events and programs.



WCA - Old Community Church

A dusk ceremony to celebrate the future wedding of Kristin Neil and Harrison Stierwalt, daughter of Karen Neil and granddaughter of Bill and Susan Christman of Westport Island was held on Monday evening, July 20th. The antique lamps were lit for a beautiful ceremony performed by our own Gaye Wagner.