The Leeman House, The Willett House, & McGuire Point (1800s-1900s)

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MCGUIRE POINT ---------- ------ ---- --

Patrick McGuire, a tailor from Ireland, is said to come to Boothbay in 1730. He was probably a settler under Dunbar. At some point a Patrick and Margaret (Tully) Maguire of Boothbay exchanged farms with a Thomas Boyd in Bristol. McGuire Point is said to be named after this Patrick McGuire. There is an intriguing note in The Goudy Genealogy that states Clarks Cove is named after Elias Clark, who once owned the land surrounding it, except for “Dyer’s Point” on the northwest side. So perhaps the point went by other names that are now lost to antiquity.

The 1815 Bristol map finds the eastern half of McGuire Point was owned by the merchant Thomas McClure’s company. The 17 acre lot on the western half of the point that juts out into the Damariscotta River is owned by a McGregor.* [See NOTE] In the 1830s, William Thompson, newly from Boston, is said to have built the house now called the Willett House on McGuire Point. ** [See Note] On 14 April 1846 William C. Thompson married Hannah Kelsey.*** Hannah is the daughter of William & Esther Kelsey (2†), who are both buried at the Wentworth Point Cemetery. *3

WILLET HOUSE ---------- ------ ---- --

William C. Thompson is listed as a sailor on the 1850 census of Bristol, and a farmer on the 1860 census of Bristol. 4

On the 22 April, 1853, 49 year old Boatswain’s mate William C. Thompson of the Sloop of War USS Vincennes was admitted to the naval hospital in New York. 5 The Charlestown Mass. native had been suffering from bronchitis for a couple of weeks. He had received the usual treatments: purgatives, cough remedies, [?cups to chest], & general bloodletting. The day he was admitted he came down with diarrhea. Excepting the bronchitis, the doctor said his health was otherwise good, and described William as a small (?) man. There was no change in William’s condition by the 24th and on the 28th the doctor changed the treatment a little. Not until May 8th did William slowly begin improving. Week by week William made slow improvements. On June 19th, William asked to be discharged. On June 25, 1853 William C. Thompson was discharged to the USS North Carolina.

On May 5, 1857, a 45 yr. old William C. Thompson (born in Charlestown) enlisted in the navy. 6 He has no occupation at the time, but he has 28 years’ experience at sea, and has signed up for a 3 year enlistment. William has gray eyes, brown hair, a fair complexion, and he is 5 feet 3 ¼ inches tall. On the 1860 town tax records William has 1 dwelling house, 1 outbuilding on 25 acres, and he has a horse and a cow. On the 17th of May, 1861, [a still] 46 years old William C. Thompson of Charlestown enlists in the Navy at Boston for three more years. He is a blue eyed, brown haired, 5’ 3 ½ “ man. 7 William Thompson died July 20, 1864. 8 He is said to have died from injuries he suffered in the War of the Rebellion. 9 He is buried at the West Bristol Cemetery in South Bristol, Maine, south of the Wawenock Golf Course. *2

On March 8, 1870, Hannah petitioned the Middlesex County, Mass. Probate Court in Cambridge asking that the will of William C. Thompson, proved in Maine, be entered into that county’s Probate Court, as it appeared there is estate of the said deceased in Middlesex County; the judge then ordered that a copy of that will be filed and recorded in Cambridge. 10 On the 1870 census 70 year old Hannah Thompson is keeping house. Living with her is 16 year old Albert Kelsey, a farm laborer. 4 Also living with her is 50 year old Esther Foster, a domestic servant that can neither read nor write. 4 On the 1880 census 80 year old widow Hannah K Thompson is keeping house, and suffering from rheumatism. Living with her now is 38 year old Abby Brewer, a servant.

Bristol Vital records state Hannah Thompson died, April 2, 1888, an 88 yr. old, and she is buried with William in the West Bristol Cemetery. 5 However one of her probate records state she died September 7, 1886. In probate her real estate at McGuire Point was valued at $200. 6 Her personal estate was valued at $13: 6 chairs each $1.50; 1 bureau at $1.50; 1 Secretary at $2; Dishes at $1; Bed and Bedding at $1.

The estate administrator, Edward J. Kelsey, (the son of Samuel Kelsey the shipwright) petitioned the court July 3, 1888, that Hannah Thompson had entered into a contract with Rosford Kelsey, but had failed to convey the McGuire Point property to him before she died. An 1881 will of Hannah K. Thompson stipulates her homestead farm would be left to her nephew, Edward J. Kelsey. Edward J. Kelsey died October 6, 1889.
Rosford Cyrus Kelsey (5\textsuperscript{v}) and Nellie (Ella) Francis Richards, both of Bristol, declared their marriage intentions 5 October, 1882.\textsuperscript{18} They had William Rosford Kelsey born Nov. 20, 1883 (1883-1961).\textsuperscript{5} Nellie (Ella) Kelsey died 26 November, 1883.\textsuperscript{5} Rosford, a carpenter, remarried to Nellie M. Chadwick. They were married by the Rev. E.A. Glidden Sept. 19, 1886.\textsuperscript{18} In 1888 Rosford and Nellie Kelsey became owners of the Thompson House at McGuire Point. 25 August 1894, tragedy struck this Kelsey household.\textsuperscript{19} Three ladies and the Kelsey’s 4 year old son Roy (6\textsuperscript{v}) were out on a boat at Clarks Cove. The boat overturned. The 3 ladies were rescued in an exhausted condition. Roy Kelsey was drowned.

1900 finds William R. Kelsey living in the Clarks Cove Road home of his Uncle William John Kelsey. At McGuire Point, Rosford and Nellie Kelsey (5\textsuperscript{v}) are living with their 9 year old son Horace A. Kelsey, and their 3 year old daughter Alta H Kelsey.

In 1912 Horace Kelsey married Myra Clifford, and they later resided down at the S Road. Horace was a crew member of the Newcastle, one of three small steamers operated by the Damariscotta Steamship Company in the early 1900s; it carried freight, passengers, and mail up and down the Damariscotta River. The marriage certificate lists 22 year old Horace Kelsey’s occupation: marines. At the 1918 South Bristol town hall celebration, off to the side, a delightful game of “hit the Kaiser” was played.\textsuperscript{20} Many relieved their feelings by plugging the ugly visage most successfully. This satisfactory sport brought the Red Cross some $15 or more in donations. Horace Kelsey (6\textsuperscript{w}) was the general in charge of the attack. Horace Kelsey was also a carpenter, and built cottages for the summer visitors. By the 1930s he and Will Alley were operating a boat building business down at South Bristol village.

Joy visited the Kelsey home at McGuire Point on Christmas Eve, 1916. A quiet home wedding took place at the present-day Willett House. Mr. and Mrs. Rosford C. Kelsey’s daughter Alta Mahala Kelsey (6\textsuperscript{v}) was married to local man Lynwood Goudy by the Reverend William Berriman. The couple later resided at Meadowbrook Farm on Route 129.

Rosford Kelsey died in 1925. Nellie Kelsey died in 1930. They are buried at the West Bristol cemetery with their child Roy E. Kelsey (6\textsuperscript{v}).
In 1926 the Kelsey House (Willett House) at McGuire Point was sold to a Douglas Cater (1870-1943), a physician of Medicine and Surgery from East Orange, N.J., and his wife Meriel (1865-1933). Douglas Cater married Meriel Hutchins in 1899 in Boston. They had two children. They had a son, Berkeley A. Cater (1900-1989). He attended Phillips Exeter Academy in N.H., and he then went on to Harvard. He married Irene Blenheim and they had a daughter named Elizabeth B. Cater (b1934). Mr. Berkeley Cater was a stockbroker for more than 20 years, with Taylor Bates and, later, with Laird & Company. In 1948 he joined Jersey Plastic and Die as a salesman. He retired in 1968 as vice president of sales.
Douglas and Meriel Cater also had Mary A Cater (b1902). She married Kenneth A Fisk. On the 1930 census Kenneth is listed as a real estate broker, and Mary is an artist, and they are living on East 68th St. in Manhattan. In 1940 they are living with Mary’s father back in East Orange. Also living in that household is Obie L Cherry, the butler, and Oramay Cherry, the cook.

Dr. Douglas Cater practiced electrotherapeutics. In one case of a fractured patella, his treatment consisted of giving diathermy to the knee joint for twenty minutes, then thirty and forty minutes, followed by the static wave with glass vacuum electrode to the thighs and leg muscle for 5 minutes. In another case a female patient still had swollen legs and stiffness seven months after childbirth. Dr. Cater employed a wave current from a 12-plate static machine, the current taken from the positive pole for about 20 minutes through a glass vacuum tube; electrodes were applied all over the lower extremities. Three years after treatment Dr. Cater reported to the Committee on Static Currents there’s never been a slightest return of trouble, and the patients legs were as normal as they ever were.

Meriel Cater died in 1933: Douglas Cater died in 1943; they are buried at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y.

George Willett (1891-1986) was the son of Russian immigrants; he grew up in the Bronx. George graduated City College of New York with a Bachelor of Science degree, and he graduated New York University Law School with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Mr. Willett was a statistician for a few years and then he became a stock broker with a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1943 a broker friend offered him the use of a place he had in Maine. Perhaps Berkeley Cater was the stockbroker friend who offered George Willett the use of that house.*6 George asked his sister Dorothy Furman, whose husband Seneca Furman was away in the service at the time, and Dorothy’s son/George’s nephew, Dan Furman, to join him in Maine. They did. It
was reported that a Dr. and Mrs. Charles Richardson of Closter, N.J. and Jefferson spent a Sunday afternoon (26 August 1945) visiting George Willett at Clark’s Cove. George bought that William C. Thompson house and the 22 acres of land at McGuire Point in 1946. Another report from Walpole has George Willett of Clark’s Cove and his guests, Mr. and Mrs. Seneca Furman of New York City visiting the Elliott Fox family at Winthrop. At George’s suggestion, the Furmans bought a place in Pemaquid Harbor.

Figure 5: A 1977 New York Times article about George Willett. (Source: DMC Archives)
In a 1977 N.Y. Times article titled *Principles of a Millionaire*, Mr. Willett told the reporter diversification is a very good thing. He said, “Though not a particularly good trader” he nevertheless can sense “when things looked somewhat cheap.” One of his most profitable strategies was to wait until a purchase right (to buy an underlying stock at a fixed price for a limited time) was about to expire, and then purchase that stock for next to nothing. On some occasions, they become valuable, making up for all of the occasions when they expire worthless. Dan Furman recalls the entire side of the inside of the barn was covered in old stock certificates. George had the inside of the barn completely papered with these stock certificates. The barn was also full of boxes of these certificates when the DMC cleaned it out.

Dan Furman also tells the story of when his Uncle George used to get a milk delivery. The delivery truck kept hitting the barn, so George had the barn moved 5 feet closer to the house. Dan Furman describes his uncle as smart. George could be somewhat eccentric. He was kind to a variety of people. When one of his maids got sick, George payed the bill for the healthcare facility.

‘One Man’s Family’ was a favorite soap opera of George Willett. The radio plotline centered around stockbroker Henry Barbour, his wife Fanny and their five children. The television show focused more on the Barbour children. Even if Dan’s family were over as guests for dinner, he would interrupt dinner to watch.
George would go out to the gazebo where he would read the Wall Street Journal.

There was a small wooden dock at the point where Dan and George would fish: there was a canvas covered canoe. George Willett would go out fishing with Irvine Hatch. When Dan was 15 years old Irvine taught Dan how to shoot a shotgun, etc. One of Dan’s jobs was to clean Uncle George’s old 1940 Buick. Dan had to use a feather duster.

George Willett had married once. They separated, but they never divorced.

George Willett often invited neighbor Harold Rounds to dinner.

Chester Rice (currently town selectman) knew George Willett. He went fishing with George Willett almost every day all summer. George went mackerel fishing with Pinky Lane. Pinky had this way about him. He would mix oatmeal with something purple, some kind of secret ingredient. Then he put that chum in the water to get the mackerel to come. George and Chester would get a pale full of mackerel every time they went out.

Pinky would give up his lobstering every afternoon to take George Willett mackerel fishing. Pinky Lane would pick up George and Chester at a dock at Pemaquid Harbor. They would go out to a known spot, because Pinky knew where the mackerel were and they’d anchor at that spot. Then Pinky would throw his oatmeal out, and they would fish for 3 or 4 hours and come back in. He was an interesting guy.

Chester would mow George Willett’s lawn and his father, Mervin Rice, would mow the field. There were a lot of fields in this area back then. There were two big fields at McGuire Point.

George Willett had 3 maids. He had two African-American maids. The same ladies would come up to Maine with George year after year. He also had a lady up the road, Bee Kelsey, who worked at the Willet House all summer.

![Willett House after the University of Maine acquired it.](image)

Figure 7: Willett House after the University of Maine acquired it.
Mr. Willet referred to the Willett property as “Roads End.” He had a deep feeling for the land and water, and for its preservation and use. In 1975 George Willett donated his 22 acre property on McGuire Point to the University of Maine. The intent of the gift was conservational; he hoped to ensure the continuation of the place he loved in its then present natural state. He and guests stayed at Road’s End in the summer of 1976. There were plans to convert it into a dormitory, but existing fire regulations made the plan prohibitive. There were also plans for the Deans to use the Willett property as a director’s residence, but that never came into fruition. Instead when David Dean stepped down as director of the Darling Marine Center, and vacated the farmhouse, he bought land from Harold Rounds on the Clarks Cove Road, and he had a house built on it.

**MCGUIRE POINT**

Harold Rounds bought the farmhouse/100 acre property [old Kent homestead/central McGuire Point][next door to the Willett House] from his father in 1935. Harold’s daughter JoAnn McVicar nee Rounds, says her grandfather was a Strout Real Estate Agent, and he retired here in the 1920s.35

Around 1939-1940 JoAnn, her father, and her two brothers built the log cabin on the northwest shore of McGuire Point nearby the entrance to Lowes Cove. She was about 9 or ten years old at the time. It was a fun project JoAnn recalls. The kids learned to cut trees down, remove the bark, and it was like an exercise to teach the children to be woodsmen.

The Rounds had an apple orchard at McGuire Point. It was the original Clarks Cove Farm. Harold Rounds moved the farm to the present Ridge Rd. site. The Ridge Rd. site only had a barn. The house had burned down. Harold Rounds obtained an abandoned house from Warren and put it on the Ridge Rd. site. JoAnn describes it as having a gingerbread house’ look. It had a Victorian look with three pane windows.

JoAnn remembers George Willett at times invited her father over for dinner.

JoAnn’s brother, John Rounds is also a local long-time summer resident and neighbor and has been coming to Maine every summer since he was one years old. His family owns the land next to the Darling Marine Center’s Willett property on McGuire Point. John was kind enough to sit down and share his family experiences, local history, and some family photos. These are modified excerpts from that interview conducted in August, 2015.

John still has a map of the apple orchards that his father planted on McGuire Point, detailing all of the different varieties of apples.
[John:

I remember when I was a kid seeing sheep across the cove at Wentworth Point. They were on the hill, and I could see them from the log cabin at McGuire Point. John remembers there were a lot of fields around here in the 1930s.

And I remember in those early times, this was very much a clam cove [Lowes Cove]. It was frequently visited by clammers, as it is not now. I’m not sure why. People dig in there, I understand they are digging for worms, not for clams. And I remember digging for clams, because we used to have clambakes right there. That was the origin of our log cabin at McGuire Point.

Because there were these magnificent rocks extending out, and we would go down there before anything was there, and we would have clambakes. And I could remember doing that as a kid. We’d go down, and we’d start a fire, and we’d collect dry kindling, and some wood, and we’d bring it over, and make a fire. Then while the fire was going, we’d pull out the clams. We did the whole works.

And we’d do that, and that was an occasion to have. My grandfather and his wife would come down and join us. And that was also a place where we would go swimming, because it is warmer there, than swimming off the front side [southern side] of McGuire Point. The temperature of the water on the front side was more like ocean temperature. But back here where we built our cabin, if you go swimming as the tides are receding, it gets quite warm. Because all this water in Lowes Cove has been heated up and then it comes down past our cabin. So that was our swimming place. It’s still like that.

We did that fairly regularly. And to make things more comfortable, especially for my elderly grandparents, we built a little platform to sit on rather than just a hard rock. And then the platform turned into a cabin, and it was great fun. I really loved camping, so the idea of cutting down trees, and skinning them, and notching them, and measuring them, and stacking them up, was appealing. It was also quite a learning experience.

When I was a kid they sent me up to ride the tree down, because the forest was so damp you see. Even if you try to pull the tree down with ropes you’d still have to have somebody go up and tie a rope on it, and I was elected. That’s because I was like a monkey. I was little, and I loved climbing, and so I would go up there and ride this tree down.

Figure 9: The Rounds family log cabin being built at McGuire Point. (Courtesy of John Rounds)
Figure 10: The Rounds family log cabin being built at McGuire Point. This is in the wall stage; they’re peeling logs there, peeling the barks off the logs. So this is in the wall stage, and before then it was a platform, the floor, and then that’s how they started. (Courtesy of John Rounds)

Figure 11: The Rounds family log cabin being built at McGuire Point. (Courtesy of John Rounds)
Figure 12: The Rounds family log cabin being built at McGuire Point. (Courtesy of John Rounds)
I remember balancing myself on the ridge pole, again, because I was the lightest and the most agile, and I was sent up into the air to sit on this ridge pole, and drive in the spikes. We were using spikes to hold the logs in tight, I mean in addition to the notching. So the ridge pole is put up there and I would drive the spikes in.

I’m sure I was working at age seven [in 1938]. We lived on Long Island, New York, and we were only up here for two or three weeks, so beginning in the late 1930s this building project went on for a number of years.

I certainly was very happy when Wentworth Point was converted into a marine research center. I thought that was great. I’ve done a lot of sailing, and I’ve always been interested in the ocean.

John Recalls the pond that was there on McGuire Point where the brick works were. He says the pond was created for the brick yard. He remembers there were many ducks and the remnants of a wooden dam on the pond. He says now the pond is severely overgrown, filling in like all ponds do, and too small for the ducks to land.

[End of John Rounds recollections]
LEEMAN HOUSE

Alfred Hutchings (1799-1868) was born 20 June in Boothbay, the son of Jonathan and Mary Hutchings. Miriam Carlisle (1798-1884) was born September 7 here in Bristol at Clarks Cove, the eldest child of James Carlisle and Betsey Goudy. They were wed by the Rev. Nathaniel Chapman Nov 1, 1825. They were said to live in the house now known as the Leeman House. It was said to have been built by Alfred for his new bride. They had:

1) Mary Ann Hutchings, born April 16, 1828; married James H. Little on March 19, 1848. Both were of Bristol. Mary Ann died at Bristol September 1, 1903, aged 75 years, 4 months, 16 days.

2) Arena Marjorie Hutchings, born July 17, 1830; marriage intentions with Lorenzo Feltis on January 1, 1851, both of Bristol.

3) Alfred Hutchings Jr., born March 25, 1832; married 1st, Sarah T. Wentworth, October 16, 1854; both of Bristol. Sarah died April 28, 1856. He married 2nd, Mary J. Page on January 1, 1861; both of Bristol. Alfred died May 10, 1886, aged 54 years, 1 month, 16 days; seafarer at age 38.

4) Susan Jane Hutchings, born September 20, 1834; marriage intentions, E.G. Robinson of Jefferson, February 11, 1856; she died October 17, 1914 at Manchester, N.H. Another source gave her husband's name as George Washington Robinson, born at Jefferson, Lincoln County, Maine on April 1, 1831.

5) James J. Hutchings, born February 13, 1836; died October 28, 1849, aged 13 years, 8 months, 15 days.

6) Augustine W. Hutchings, born April 17, 1839; died February 17, 1853, aged 13 years, 10 months.

7) Sarah E. Hutchings, born October 29, 1841; married Alden H. Kelsey, August 16, 1860; both of Bristol. She died 1915; approximate age 74.

Alfred Hutchings Sr. was a Master Mariner and Sea Captain. On the 1860 Bristol tax rolls Alfred Hutchings Sr. has 1 dwelling house, 1 outbuilding, 70 acres, 2 oxen, 5 cattle, 1 swine, and 9 sheep, Alfred Jr. has no real estate or livestock. Alfred Hutchings died March 15. 1868, aged 68 years, 9 months. On the 1869 Bristol tax rolls Alfred Sr. and Alfred Jr. each have ½ dwelling house, ½ outbuilding, 35 acres, 3 cattle, and 6 sheep. Miriam (Carlisle) Hutchings died September 28, 1884, aged 86 years, 21 days.

Alfred Hutchings Jr. died 10 May, 1886, and he is buried in the West Bristol Cemetery.

In 1886 the present day Leeman House was sold to A.J. Dodge. Asa Johnson Dodge (1848-1926) was born and raised in the northern part of Edgecomb, Maine. He is described in “Twenty Years at Pemaquid” as a jolly, roving lad. He drove a team called a “Peddler Cart,” dispensing dry goods and Yankee notions to the people all over the town of Bristol. He married the youngest daughter of James Partidge and Sarah Reed, Clara Frances Partridge of Bristol, on a Sunday, the 29th of September, 1872, and the young couple settled at Pemaquid Falls; they had seven known children. Bertha C Dodge Redonet (1872-1955) There was an infant born to them in 1874, and the infant died in 1874. They had a son, Walter Johnson Dodge (15 May 1876 to 18 May 1955). 4) Wintie M. Dodge (1878-1899). Arlita A. “Lottie” Dodge Parker (1883-1962) 6) Wilder Joselyn Dodge (1886-1896) who died in Bristol of Acute Myelitus at the age of 10. 7) George Burgess Dodge (1890-1969).
At Pemaquid Falls A.J. Dodge carried on a thriving business with a store from which you could obtain all kinds of goods, from a pump tack to a bag of grain. He became town treasurer, often presided at town meetings, and served his townsmen as representative to the legislature.  

Though A.J. Dodge owned the Leeman House, there is no evidence his family ever resided there.*7

The Pemaquid Messenger reported on the events of the 18th Bristol Agricultural Fair held at the end of September, 1887.29 One excerpt relates, “Here we find our friend Dodge engaged in following the advice of Rev. Mr. Evans, in his sermon published in the last week’s Messenger trying hard to “hit the mark.” A.J. is a good shot with a rifle as can be seen by the number of cigars in his coat pocket which represented so many bull’s eyes. If Dodge shaves his customers every time as closely as he did the bull’s eye, he ought to be pretty well fixed by this time. Our genial friend Edwin J. Ervine is also here disputing with A.J. the honor of being the best shot, but he is fairly worsted, and Dodge walks off in triumph, leaving Ed. to foot most of the bill for shooting.

The June 13, 1889 Pemaquid Messenger announced A.J. Dodge has sold the “Old Frenchman” to Capt. J. E. Bradley and advertises for sale his other horse with wagons, sleighs, harnesses, &c. He will sell at a big bargain.30 The advertisement: For Sale _ 1 good family horse, harness, and a double-seated Northey Wagon; also 1 sleigh, 1 double sled, rigged for either single or double horse, 1 double horse peddler’s cart, 1 double horse express wagon, three seated, suitable for baggage or passengers, 1 set double harness. All of the above property will be sold at a bargain. Call on or address A. J. Dodge, Pemaquid.

Next month Mr. Dodge placed an ad for his store in the Pemaquid Messenger; it read.31

Don’t Forget!
That we expect
60 Barrels
Extra Flour,
Via Sch. Susan today. Come and get a barrel for
ONLY $5.75.

Every barrel warranted. If you get a poor barrel return it at our expense.
Extra nice corn and meal at 55c.
Per bushel.

A Bang-up Good Tea at 35 cts. Per Pound,
A First-Class Molasses at 40 cts. Per Gallon.

Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats
& Caps, Boots & Shoes,
Crockery and Glass Ware
AT COST.

Come and see the Big Trades. This advertisement means CASH, and we want every one able to pay Cash now to know that we mean business.

Ellis & Ford.

A.J. Dodge, Manager.

His brother, George Dodge of Boston, visited A.J. in August, 1889. In the Lincoln County Directory of 1891 the store of A.J. Dodge has dry & fancy goods, corn & meal, groceries & provisions, crockery & glassware, hardware, paints, oil, & gas. He is also an auctioneer, and a boot & shoe dealer; there is a practicing dentist over his Pemaquid store.

In September, 1892, the Pemaquid Messenger reports: Our people were startled Wednesday evening [September 7] by the report that A. J. Dodge’s horses attached to his grocery cart had run away in Walpole, and that he had been picked up insensible by the roadside. His wife was sent for and his son and Rev. Mr. Preble also went. The report they brought back was that the accident was caused by the breaking of the hole strap, and that Mr. Dodge had received a bad scalp wound and was injured about the back, but it is hoped that it will not prove serious. He will come to his home today. Mr. Dodge had his back injured several years ago by being thrown from his wagon, and had never fully recovered. He is one of the most active business men, and his many friends deeply regret this misfortune.
The next month Mr. Dodge posted the following notice in the Pemaquid Messenger: Notice. I am laid up and hard up, need every dollar that is due me to pay my debts and am obliged to ask all those having long standing accounts with me to call and settle their accounts at once and help me out of a hard place. – A. J. Dodge, Pemaquid, Me. Oct. 13, 1892. 34

On 4 April 1893 Asa J. Dodge became postmaster in Pemaquid. 4 On May 10, 1894, A.J. Dodge posted another notice in the Pemaquid Messenger: A.J. Dodge announces an auction sale on Monday [May 14] next at 10 a.m. of the balance of his stock of goods consisting of groceries, crockery, etc., a horse, wagon, buggy, peddler’s cart, platform scales, showcases, etc. The goods will all be sold to the highest bidder, for Mr. Dodge intends to engage in business elsewhere.

A.J. Dodge sold the present day Leeman House to Frank Rapelye in 1894. In 1895 Asa J. Dodge was compensated $305.30 for his service as postmaster of Pemaquid. 4 The post office was at A.J. Dodge’s store which was located where the mansard-roofed former Red Men’s Hall is today. 43 A.J. Dodge was postmaster during 1899, being assisted by his wife and family. 28

The Dodge family removed to Boston, and A.J worked with his brother George in the embalming chemical business. 43 George Dodge had been running a printing company, and when a local (Boston) embalming chemical company couldn’t pay its printing bill, they gave George the company. That was the Egyptian Chemical Company. A.J. Dodge then started the Dodge Chemical Company; the business was run out of his home in West Roxbury; the chemicals were compounded in the basement. In 1900 A.J. Dodge wrote a manual, The Practical Embalmer. 44 In 1906 A.J. Dodge penned The Essentials of Anatomy, Sanitary Science, and Embalming. In 1907 A.J. Dodge purchased the The Oriental School of Embalming. It was renamed the New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science and Embalming; the school was established to teach the science of embalming. [A Dodge Company shipping crate at the Smithsonian Museum]

Clara F. and Asa J. Dodge both died in 1926, and they are buried at the New Harbor Cemetery in Bristol, ME.

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Frank Rapelye bought the present day Leeman House in 1894. Frank Rapelye was born 1866 in Newtown (Elmhurst), Queens, New York. 4 On the 22nd of September, 1891, in Kings County (Brooklyn), New York, he married Caroline Kelsey {51} (b1871). Caroline was the daughter of Hiram Kelsey {4H} (b1837) who was a son of Thomas & Esther Kelsey (who are buried at the Wentworth Point Cemetery). The 1860 census finds Hiram living with his older brother John Wentworth Kelsey {4C} (b1828) at Greenpoint, Long Island; they are both Block & Pump Makers. 49 Hiram Kelsey married Hannah Wells, youngest daughter of Charles A. Doughty (of Greenpoint) on the 17th of May in 1865. 50 They were married by the Rev. F. Mansfield at Greenpoint, Long Island. The couple are said to have 2 children die in infancy. 13, 410 They also had Caroline (Carry) Kelsey, and Charles Kelsey (b1876). On the 1875 N.Y. state census Hiram is employed as a locksmith. 4

A year after they married in 1891, Frank and Caroline Rapalyea are living in Queens; Frank is a painter. 46 In 1900 Frank and Caroline Rapplea are living on Chicago Ave. in Queens with their 1 year old daughter Margarite {61}. Frank Rapelye is now a printer. Even though the Rapalyeas then owned the Leeman House, it was his in-laws Hiram and Hannah Kelsey who in 1900 were living at the Leeman House with their 24 year old son, day laborer Charles A. Kelsey. On 12 Sept 1900 Charles and 25 year old Bristol native Susie Redonnet declared their marriage intentions, and on Sept. 26 they were married in Bristol by clergyman Arthur J. Lockhart. 4
Hiram & Hannah are living at the Leeman House on the 1910 census. Hiram W. Kelsey \(^{47}\) died August 17, 1911. Hannah W. Doughty Kelsey died May 8, 1921. They are both buried at the West Bristol Cemetery just south of the Wawenock Golf Course.\(^{47}\)

1910 Frank and Caroline Rapelie are still living in Queens with their 11 year old daughter Margaret.\(^4\) Frank is still a printer. In 1916 the Rapalyes sell the Leeman House to George Woodman \(^{51}\). The 1920 census finds the Rapalyes living about 3 houses up from the Leeman House on the Clarks Cove Road with Caroline’s mother Hannah, and a 10 year old boarder named Newbert Spear.

On the 10\(^{th}\) of March, 1919, Mrs. Caroline D. Rapelye was appointed Postmaster for Walpole. The post office was operated out of the Rapelye farmhouse; it was kind of a little room. The post office was in that little room. Carrie Rapelye also sold candy bars and a few little things.

In 1922 Frank Rapelye’s father, 93-year-old Peter Rapelye Sr., and Frank’s 84 year old mother returned to Elmhurst after staying at the Rapelye’s Walpole farmhouse for 15 months.\(^{49}\) They had intended to retire there, but Peter Rapelye Sr. said he was so homesick he couldn’t eat. He said, “The Maine air is invigorating, but there is something in this Newtown atmosphere that makes me like the old home town better than any other place.”

Carrie Rapelye retired from the postal service on Halloween, 1940.\(^{48}\) Mrs. Beatrice V. Kelsey became the next postmaster. Frank and Caroline Rapelye are listed in the 1956 and 1961 Rockland Maine Directories.\(^4\) Living with them is Margaret R. Andrews. Caroline D. Rapelye \(^{51}\) died 10 December, 1960, at the age of 90, in Rockland, Maine.\(^4\) Frank W. Rapelye \(^{51}\) died 9 February, 1961 in Union, Maine, at the age of 94.\(^4\)

George Woodman bought the Leeman House in 1916.\(^{51}\) His wife Jennie Barrell Woodman \(^{51}\) developed an illness in the late 1910s, and she passed away in 1919. He remarried to Daisy Cutler Woodman \(^{51}\) in 1920, and the couple lived at the Hotel Touraine in Boston, travelling abroad, and visiting Walpole, ME. on occasion.

Harriet Belle Haley (1920-2016) recalled how her father Earl Haley ran a general store at Clarks Cove, and delivered groceries in the local area.\(^{51}\) Mr. Haley delivered groceries to the gatehouse [Leeman House] at the Woodman estate. Harriet remembers there were a couple of Irish maids that lived at the gatehouse, and the local folk would come to Earl Haley’s store and tease him about making frequent trips to the gatehouse.
In 1934 George Woodman deeded the Leeman House to his sister Hattie Belle Woodman; he died in 1935. In 1938 Harriet died; she left the Leeman House along with the rest of the Woodman estate to Kathryn Tucker, who sold it to Ira Darling in 1939.

Randall Rice was the caretaker for the Darling estate in the 1940s, and the beginning of the 1950s. He and his wife Eunice lived in the present day Leeman House. In 1955 Keith Leeman became caretaker of the Darling estate two weeks after marrying his wife Irene. They resided at the Leeman House; it was named after them. In 1965 when the Darling Estate was donated to the University of Maine, Keith Leeman became the campus caretaker and maintenance supervisor.

A 1979 architectural survey states the Leeman House is two houses placed together.*

Notes

This is a first and final edition of a Wentworth Point history chapter. Material in this chapter is derived from extracted material from previous history bulletins and history newsletters. It has been compiled with the addition of newly acquired historical material and issued in 2017.

Special thanks to Nat Hammond for scanning in Pemaquid Messenger articles, and special thanks to the South Bristol Historical Society.

* The author believes this to be a mistake. It should read McGuire. There are no McGregers in the Bristol Vital Records. Next to the McClure Company lot is a 92 acre lot for Henry McGregor. The author believes this to be a mistake too, and it should read Henry McGuire.

*1 It is here noted that McGuire Point had long been occupied by this time. There are no sources cited for this house being built then, so its veracity is questionable. There is no William C. Thompson on the Clarks Cove Rd on the 1840 census. Benjamin Bennett is living in a house neighboring Sylvanus Lowe on McGuire Point. Where is the Bennett’s house? Benjamin Bennett is on the 1840 Bristol census, but William C. Thompson isn’t. William C. Thompson is on the 1850 Bristol census, but Benjamin Bennett isn’t.

*2 There is a record for a William C. Thompson being born in Charlestown, Mass., July 14, 1800; he is born to Timothy and Sarah Thompson. He died two days later. There is a record for a William C. Thompson being born in Charlestown, Mass., August 4, 1803; he is born to Timothy and Sarah Thompson. On the 14th of August, 1803, William Calder Thompson was christened in Charlestown. On 21 April 1828, 25 year old William C. Thompson of Charlestown applied for a seaman’s citizenship affidavit in Philadelphia. He is 5’4”, he has a fresh complexion, light brown hair, and light grey eyes. He has 2 scars on his stomach from stabs, and a scar on his left thigh from a spear. On 14 April, 1846, William C. Thompson of Haverhill, Mass. married Hannah K. Newell of Haverhill. They were married by the Rev. E. H. Chapin, pastor of the Universalist Church of Charlestown. In the Thompson genealogy it says Willaim married Hannah Nowell, and that he was a resident of East Boston, and a member of the U.S. Navy. The date of this marriage is the same date the Wentworth genealogy says Hannah Kelsey married William C. Thompson.

*3 Denotes position in Wentworth Point Family Tree.
*4 This is the only time Albert shows up in any Bristol Vital Record. He is the same age as Edward J Kelsey who is living with his parents.

*5 Hannah Kelsey was born on the 24th of May, 1800. She married first William Elliot [probably of Bristol], 10 November 1820. William Elliot died in Virginia, 3 September 1831. Hannah is not believed to have had any children.

*6 Pure speculation on my part.

*7 Perhaps he rented it out [speculation]. Perhaps he used it to store goods [speculation].

*8 Courtesy of Nat Hammond. South Bristol Historical Society.

*9 A pump and blockmaker was a precision woodcarver, making two machines that ships needed to sail: the block-and-tackles that could lift heavy cargo or raise sails, and the pumps that kept water from building up below decks.

*10 On the 1870 federal census there is a 2 year old Herbert Kelsey who is not living with Hiram and Hannah on the 1880 federal census. On the 1875 N.Y. State census there is a 2 year daughter Josephine Kelsey that is not listed as living with Hiram or Hannah on the 1880 census in New York. However on the 1900 U.S. census, it is recorded that Hannah Doughty Kelsey had 6 children, and 3 of them were still living.

*11 The Warner book says Thomas Hutchings was Alfred’s father, but this is contradicted by the Hutchins genealogy which says Jonathan Hutchings Jr. of Boothbay was his father. The author was unable to find another history source stating Alfred Hutchings Sr. built the Leeman House.

*12 From the book Down on the Island, up on the Main.

*13 Chester may be referring to a Pearl Lane who was a lobsterman, but also took folks out mackerel fishing.

*14 See Source # 59. For further info about house structure see Source # 60.

Source

Information not cited comes from the DMC Archives, Louise Dean Library, Darling Marine Center, Walpole, ME.


4. Ancestry.com


34. NOTICE. Pemaquid Messenger. October 13, 1892 Volume. 7. Issue #11. **


43. Personal E-mail. Debbie Dodge, Asa J Dodge’s Great Granddaughter, Dodge Chemical Co. 2/9/2016.

44. Dodge, A. Johnson. *The practical embalmer; a common-sense treatise on the art and science of embalming, with an appendix of four hundred questions and answers on anatomy, embalming and sanitary science*. Boston. 1900. HATHI TRUST Digital Library.


54. Dan Furman phone interview between Dan Furman and author. 30 January 2014. DMC Archives.


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Man’s_Family


58. Phone Interview with Wayne Wallace Chadwick. 5 September 2017.

59. DMC Archives_Lands/Buildings/People_Local History, Book 1.

60. DMC Archives_Multimedia_Audio_Interview w/ Elsie Morse & Joe Thompson & family_Joe Thompson Interview_27 August, 2015.