

Bangor Daily News
History Hunters
The third of four parts
Presque Isle
Lubec
Islesboro
Thomaston



Special Thanks to Our Series Sponsors



Save all four parts and build a poster!

The Maine Community Heritage Project is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society and Maine State Library that mobilized Maine communities around the exploration, gathering and sharing of their local history. Teams from Presque Isle, Lubec, Islesboro, Hampden, Thomaston, New Portland, Farmington and Bath are participating in a yearlong research process that will lead to the creation of Web sites about the histories of their communities on the Maine Memory Network at www.mainememory.net, the Maine Historical Society's statewide digital museum. Their Web sites will be launched in June. This project is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Exploring Historic Islesboro

The students' research: Using technology to collect and document history

BY HOLDEN ROGERS
ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2010

My name is Holden Rogers and I am a junior at Islesboro Central School. Last summer, ICS received a grant from the Maine Community Heritage Project, which allows students and teachers to expand their knowledge of the history and culture of our state. Not only are we expanding our knowledge, but we also are spreading the knowledge we learn

to others across the world.

Over the course of the year, my U.S. history class traveled by bus to the Islesboro Historical Society, where we collected data, scanned objects, created databases, and much more. We took what we learned at school and applied it to the project, using technology to catalog some of our island's most historical items. From the photos



Rogers

and life jackets to the horse-drawn buggy, there were vast numbers of historical items to study.

We saved the information we had gathered to a portable hard-drive and took what we learned back to the school. Once at school, the CREST — Community for Rural Education, Stewardship and Technology — Team took the information and has begun downloading it to the Maine Community Heritage Project Web site, so we can share what we have learned.

Making our information freely accessible online allows anyone in the

world to access our information and learn about Islesboro and its history. We have not finished downloading our information, but it should all be accessible soon at www.mainememory.net, under the Islesboro section.

I have enjoyed working on the Maine Community Heritage Project and have learned and seen a lot of important information and historical items from Islesboro's history. We hope that by digitally transferring our information and data, we are spreading and saving this important information across the world.



The 1928-1929 girls basketball team of Islesboro High School. Front row, from left: Lydia Trim Pendleton, Mary Fitzgerald, Carmen Grover MacLeod, Frances Pendleton Ortendahl, Louette MacLeod. Back row: Katherine McLaughlin, Hilda Fairfield Addenbrook, Dorothy Randlett Pendleton, Mary Samways (teacher) Effie Fairfield Leach, Evelyn Gray.

Presenting history carefully through online exhibits

BY EMILY THOMAS
ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2009

In the fall of 2008, my U.S. history class was invited to participate in the Maine Community Heritage Project by the Islesboro Historical Society. We were divided into five groups, one for each exhibit we would create.

My group chose to focus on the Islesboro summer resorts. During a tour of the exhibits and the collections storage area, we learned the proper techniques necessary to handle artifacts. Our task was to select primary resources of high quality and that best represented the summer resorts. We looked through many postcards, pictures and artifacts until we had decided on the top 20 (each group needed to select 20 items).

The next step was to digitize our selected artifacts. We scanned the flat items, such as pictures

and postcards, and photographed all other items. This step involved a variety of technologies, and I learned how to use a scanner properly and how best to use lighting during photography.

Once our images were uploaded onto the computer, the group work was complete. A few of my classmates and I volunteered to continue with the process, and began cataloging the items. To describe the selected items we used the information each group had gathered during research.

I was in charge of creating the online exhibits; all our hard work was finally coming together. I combined the exhibit text written by community members with the images selected by my classmates and me to create the online exhibits.

Overall, I really enjoyed having the opportunity to be behind the scenes at the Islesboro Historical Society. Seeing and handling the artifacts was interesting to me because not many people have the chance to participate in anything like this project. I also enjoyed reading about the history of the island, and connecting the generations I know to those who founded Islesboro.



Thomas



This postcard shows the buildings of Ryder's Cove circa 1911. At left is the Seaside House, originally called the Islesborough, which was the island's first summer resort hotel. Ryder's Cove was Islesboro's first summer resort and also a year-round community. Various communities on Islesboro such as Ryder's Cove were self-contained. These settlements had their own stores, schools, churches, wharves and post offices.



This panoramic postcard shows the Islesboro Inn after the completion of its 1913 addition. The addition, which included the two gables on the left of the image, enlarged an existing function room and added 30 guest rooms, 13 of which contained bathrooms. The Islesboro Inn was located in Dark Harbor, Islesboro's third summer resort.



This doily is made of off-white cotton thread, starting in the middle, with concentric circles or bands of netting worked out. It is an offshoot of the netting industry on Islesboro. The thread is much finer than what was used to make lobster nets, and the shuttle, or needle, was much finer as well. Decorative items were made mostly to sell to Islesboro's summer community, usually on order. This piece was made by Clara J. Colcord, who was born May 17, 1877, on Islesboro.

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SOURCES: Photos courtesy of the Islesboro Historical Society.

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For more information on the Maine Community Heritage Project, visit <http://www.mainememory.net/mchp/>