The Mystery of the Old Town Hall Chandelier

When Arrowsic Town Historian, Mildred Stafford, got Paul Schlein to scan an old newspaper clipping to be included in this issue of The Arrow (see next page), Paul probably had no notion that Milly was delving into one of the town’s unsolved mysteries. The clipping pictured two pipe-smoking men tinkering with an antique four-lantern chandelier. The men were George Stafford (Milly’s husband) and Frank Rittal, both of Arrowsic. The date of the article was December 21, 1949. The newspaper was The Portland Press Herald. But what had become of the chandelier?

Milly suggested it might still be stored in the eaves of the Town Hall; she offered to climb up there to see. She guessed no one else even remembered it. It had probably not been seen by anyone for 66 years. Milly remembered that someone had asked to have it. She also remembered they had been refused. The lamp was a treasure, though no longer of much use. The Town Hall even after the move had limited storage. Maybe the lamps and fuel could have been disassembled, but what about the central rod and base that spanned three and four feet? Al Heath had recently been to the attic to evaluate the insulation situation and had not reported seeing any sort of thing. Jim Stump, who climbed into the eaves at The Arrow’s request, found nothing above the Hall’s ceiling but cellulose and two old broken chairs.

George and Frank had “disassembled the old fixture for packing away,” so reported The Portland Press Herald. That would leave one to believe that the chandelier, though large, could be rendered into smaller parts. It was also said that the new location for the Arrowsic Town Hall brought the business of the town out to the main road “to protect the contents of the hall from marauders…” insinuating there were those at large quite capable of shenanigans and theft. Or could it be that the antique fixture had been tucked into some secure, forgotten corner or stashed in some resident’s big barn. Maybe the chandelier was hidden in the Hall cellar in a box marked “ceiling lamps,” “heating plant,” or “fuses.” More likely, thought Milly, the town finally accepted an offer too good to refuse. Maybe proof of that arrangement would one day emerge. Until then, we might consider the hobbos that took over the Hall one Hallow’s Eve. It was said they hung from the ceiling wrapped around a beautiful lit chandelier, all the while singing to the tune of an old hymn, “We shall come rejoicing, swinging in the eaves!”

Anyone with knowledge or speculation as to the whereabouts of the Antique Chandelier, please contact Mildred Stafford.

—submitted by Nancy Brown Stump
Dear Reader,

For years, Arrowsic has enjoyed a reputation for one of the highest voter turnouts in the state. Everyone knows how close the presidential election is going to be... So please tell your friends and neighbors to come out and vote [this year on November 8]. Your vote will make a difference.

“Every action in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those present. Let your discourse be short and comprehensive. Think before you speak; undertake not what you cannot perform; be careful to keep your promises... Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.”

—George Washington [from his Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company & Conversation: https://archive.org/details/georgewashington00unse]
From the Select Board

Seeking a New Town Clerk

Those of you who attended Town Meeting this year will know that Gretchen MacLeod, our Town Clerk, agreed to serve through November, but will then be resigning from her position. The Select Board is grateful to Gretchen for stepping forward to do this important job and carry us through this big election year.

So, we are looking for a new Town Clerk. This is a very important position in the Town. For most people, the Town Clerk and our Tax Collector, Liz Rollins, are the primary contact they have with the Town. The job’s key responsibilities are to supervise elections, maintain Town records, and issue licenses and permits. It is a social job, involving contact with Town residents during regular office hours, collaboration with the Town’s Tax Collector and other officials, and attending Select Board meetings. The job requires initiative, judgment, and an ability to work effectively and independently with the public and other officials. Training will be provided, but skills in organization, writing, and computers, and familiarity with town administration, are pluses.

Residence in Arrowsic is not required, though we would prefer to find someone who lives in Town.

In consultation with the Town, the Select Board will appoint someone to finish out Gretchen’s term. This person will be eligible to run next June at Town Meeting.

If you or someone you know might make a good Arrowsic Town Clerk, please check the job description at www.arrowsic.org/uploads/clerk_job.pdf on the Town website, or pick it up at the Town Hall during office hours. Or, if you prefer, call the Town Hall (443-4609) or any of the Select Board members to inquire (telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are at www.arrowsic.org/town.html).

New Fire Chief for Arrowsic’s Fire Department

Arrowsic’s Fire Chief, Chris Cummings, stepped down in June after leading our volunteer Fire Department for over 10 years. Chris led the AFD response to all kinds of emergencies—brush fires, house fires, accidents, flooding, emergency medical responses, and even a horse rescue. We are grateful for what Chris accomplished for Arrowsic in terms of his leadership, commitment, and friendship. Thanks to Chris and his work with Arrowsic volunteers, we have a fire department that is much better equipped and more effective than when he started.

We are also pleased to announce that Dale Carlton, our Deputy Chief, has agreed to serve as Fire Chief. Dale is a long-time resident of Arrowsic who has been on the Fire Department since 2001. Dale says he remembers from an early age that his grandfather was involved with the Arrowsic Fire Department. Dale said, “It seemed a lot easier back then. Not so much training required and not so many rules and regulations.” After he and his wife married and moved to Arrowsic in 1982, Dale recalls seeing Engine 2 (the “Mini Pumper”) being unloaded from a trailer at the Town Hall. Dale’s sons, Brian and Chris, are also members of the AFD.

The Fire Department continues to welcome volunteers to fill out its roster. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer, please call Town Hall (443-4609) or contact Dale Carlton at carlton1302@gmail.com.

—submitted by Bill Savedoff, on behalf of the Select Board
More on the Upcoming Real Estate Revaluation

From the Select Board’s report in the 2016 Annual Report: “Town revaluations are very sensitive projects because—in bringing all property values into the present based on market pricing—assessed values will change in ways that could increase some tax bills. The Selectmen will do our best to choose a very reputable assessor and will make the process of revaluation as transparent and fair as possible.”

As of this writing, the Select Board reports a Request for Proposals (RFP), through which an assessor will be hired in a competitive bidding process, will be released by the end of September. The RFP allows anyone interested to submit a bid to the town for the revaluation work. The Select Board will then review all submissions and make their choice. As our treasurer, Mary McDonald, pointed out at Town Meeting, there is no requirement to accept the lowest bid; this will allow the Board to choose who they believe will do the best work for the town, based on overall qualifications, not just the cost.

In the meantime, until more information is available, the Select Board has posted material from the Maine State Revenue Service on the town website that offers some explanation of the real estate revaluation process: “Understanding the Process and the Myths,” arrowsic.org/uploads/REVAL%20EXPLANATION.pdf.

In an attempt to supplement and assist the Select Board’s efforts, future issues of The Arrow will include additional informational articles on the revaluation process. —from The Arrow Committee

From the Education Committee

We hope that everyone is enjoying their summer and taking advantage of the many wonderful opportunities Maine has to offer. However, soon it will be time to turn our attention to the busy schedules of the upcoming 2016–17 school year. Please take note of the following dates and make plans accordingly:

- September 1: First day of school for all RSU1 students grades K–9
- September 2: First day of school for all other RSU1 students
- September 8: First day of school for all RSU1 Pre-K students

For those families wishing to homeschool, forms are due to the State of Maine by Thursday, September 1.

If you’re interested in being on a mailing list for the Committee’s related announcements or events, please e-mail the Education Committee at arrowsiceducation@gmail.com or call Camille Kauffunger at 844-4737.

On the Roads Again

As we now bask in summer, when you read this, school will have started at most schools. The Road Commission urges you to be aware of the school bus, recognizing that it may be driving a new, unfamiliar route. Pay attention to the school children who will certainly be excited to start a new grade. They may not be overly cautious in boarding or discharging.

We ask that you slow down, be exceptionally courteous, and know all rules regarding approaching, stopping for, and passing a school bus.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. —for the Road Commission, Jim Stump
From the Shellfish Conservation Committee

Clam Camp

This summer, the Arrowsic Education Committee and the Shellfish Conservation Committee collaborated on a “Clam Camp,” open to everyone. Happy Clam Campers report below on their first two adventures in July.

This summer, we went to the Arrowsic Clam Camp and had a great time. We went on two field trips and learned about green crabs, the insides of clams, and how to find them in the mud. The first place we visited was a clam farm in Georgetown. But, instead of growing vegetables they were growing clams! They are raising clams because the invasive green crabs are eating them in great numbers. First, the farmer finds the right spot and plants the baby clams just like sowing seeds. Next, they put netting down to protect them from their predators. Finally, they monitor the clam beds to check on their progress. All in all, clam gardens aren’t much different from vegetable gardens! We really enjoyed the camp and hope to do it again next summer.

—by Jane Ellen Hart

For our second trip, we visited the North Squirrel Point clam flat in Arrowsic for a clam survey. As we traveled by boat, we watched seals playing in the Kennebec River and an osprey on her nest. We arrived at low tide and the air smelled like ocean water and it was pleasantly warm. There was a professional clam digger present whose name was Wendell Crossey. He informed us on how to find and dig for clams with different kinds of rakes. Afterwards, we lifted the corners from some of the clam nets and counted the young clams found nesting there. For the annual clam survey at the flat, a total of 98 holes were dug, and the kids helped count and measure the clams. Fifteen clams were found and 12 of them were larger than 2 inches. We left when the high tide was coming in and the flats were underwater. It was a very beautiful and educational kind of day!

—by Ruth Hart

Every year the Shellfish Conservation Committee surveys one of our three clam flats to estimate clam populations. These estimates are then used to determine how many professional clamming licenses the town will issue. For the past two summers the North Squirrel Point flat has been closed to clamming because it has low numbers of clams, and we are experimenting with nets (and some seeding) to boost clam populations there. This year’s survey confirmed that clams are very sparse at North Squirrel Point. At the same time, the netting project is showing some success and young clams (both seeded and those occurring naturally) are growing quickly and in significant numbers underneath the nets.

Many thanks to Ruth Indrick of KELT and Dr. Jay Holt for showing us the Clam Farm; thanks to clammer Wendell Crossey for helping with the survey and demonstrations, Doug Ware for transporting many people in his boat, and Ralph and Jean Pope for the use of their dock. To join future Clam Camp events, please contact Camille Kauffunger at 844-4737.

Dylan Root finds a clam
The Crew helps Bill Blaiklock measure clams
KELT’s Ruth Indrick gives tips on identifying green crabs.
From the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

Recycling Problems

RC Rogers, our recycling/trash hauler, has alerted us to some problems they have been having with recent pickups that are making their job more difficult and causing our recycling to be rejected as trash. When recycling ends up in the trash, it costs the Town (i.e., you) more money for disposal, and all your well-intentioned efforts to recycle will have gone to waste as well.

Please keep in mind the following, when preparing and putting out your recycling and trash for pickup:

- Recycling is picked up every other week year-round. Please be sure to double-check the pickup schedule (see below) before putting recycling out. If it’s not a recycling week, your recycling will not be picked up.
- Please be sure your recycling containers are clearly labeled and separated from trash containers when putting them out in your driveway. Yellow recycling stickers are available in the Recycling Shed and Town Hall. Unlabeled containers cause confusion and may cause your recycling to be taken away as trash.
- Used paper products such as facial tissues, paper towels, and napkins are not recyclable. If you put these in with your recyclables, your entire collection will be rejected and thrown away as trash. These materials are, however, compostable—please add them to your compost pile.
- Complete recycling and composting guidelines can be found at: arrowsic.org/recycle/recycling-brochure1-15.pdf and arrowsic.org/recycle/aswrc-composting-brochure_5-16-rev2.pdf.

Thank you for your strong and continued support for our town’s recycling and solid waste program. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209.

Clean and Healthy Housekeeping

What better time than this fall to try a new, safer housecleaning tip brought to you by the ASWRC and the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM)? NRCM reminds us that many everyday house and garden products can expose our families to harmful, toxic chemicals, and should not enter our rivers, streams, groundwater, and landfills.

The following are five inexpensive, safer housecleaning ingredients: baking soda, washing soda, borax, lemon juice, and white vinegar. NRCM offers many recipes using these ingredients for both house and garden; check out their brochure: http://www.nrcm.org/documents/nrcm_housekeeping_brochure_web.pdf.

The ASWRC’s Fall Safer Housecleaning Tip

Two Basic Kitchen Cleansers:

- Mix equal parts vinegar and water in a pump-spray bottle. Clean surface and rinse with water. Happy cleaning!
- Wash surfaces with a paste of baking soda and water. Rinse with water.

| Important: Trash Returns to Biweekly Pick up on September 2! |
| Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee |
| 2016 Trash/Recycling Pickup Schedule |
| January–May; September–December |
| Biweekly schedule for everything; Friday pickup |
| June–August |
| Weekly trash pickup; biweekly recycling; Friday pickup |
| **SEPTEMBER** | 2R | 16R | 30R |
| **OCTOBER** | 14R | 28R |
| **NOVEMBER** | 11R | 25R |
| **DECEMBER** | 9R | 23R |

R = Recycling, as well as Trash pickup

Questions? Contact: Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209
Browntail Moth Update

The browntail moth was rampant this year along the Midcoast area, hitting hardest in Bowdoinham and Topsham, but was also abundant all along the coast, as far as Woolwich. The hard-hit trees have mostly regrown their leaves and will likely survive this round, although their canopies are not as luxuriant as those of their uninfested neighbors.

Browntail adults are finishing flying, and the tiny browntail moth caterpillars have begun constructing their winter homes. Colonies of 25–400 larvae build a winter web constructed from one to many leaves wrapped tightly with large amounts of white silk. The webs are 2–4 inches long and are situated far out on branch tips. They are most often found on red oak or apple trees.

Isolated populations can be controlled by clipping the overwintering webs and destroying them by either soaking them in soapy water or burning them. This control should be undertaken in the winter and very early spring—September to mid-April. Always use caution—caterpillar, cocoon, and moth hairs can cause a rash, and can persist in the environment for over a year. If you want to remove browntail moth cocoons, wear protective clothing and wet them down before removal. You can then pressure wash or scrape cocoons off structures or clip out of favorite plants. Put a drop cloth under the area to collect the cocoons, and let them soak overnight in soapy water. They can then be composted. (For more information on identifying Browntail Moth Winter Nests, see http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/insects/browntail_moth_id_winter_nests.htm).

Fall webworm webs are also noticeable now and might be confused with the browntail moth winter webs. Fall webworms are loose, larger, and more often found in ash trees. Sometimes they will envelope entire trees and frequently they cover whole branches. It should also be noted that coming this late in the season, fall webworms present no threat to their hosts. Eastern tent caterpillar tents are also found in crotches and forks of apple and cherry tree branches during the spring.

This past June, a spell of cool, damp weather allowed the fungus, Entomophaga miamaga, to take hold in the caterpillar community, killing thousands of browntail moth caterpillars (as well as some other species, including tent caterpillars). Dead larvae were literally falling out of the trees and people in those areas are reporting fewer moths. The Maine Forest Service and Dr. Ellie Groden of the University of Maine collected hundreds of browntail cadavers and cocoons and the University is holding the fungus-infused cadavers for possible control work in the future. They are also looking at possible transfer of the fungus to the adult moths.

(Compiled by Karen Robbins and Phine Ewing from information provided by Charlene Donahue and Allison Kanoti, Maine Forest Service Entomology Lab, and excerpted from the Maine Forest Service Insect & Disease Conditions Update, July 25, 2016. This and more information can be found at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/condition_reports.html. Unless noted, all photos courtesy of the Maine Forest Service.)
Folk Remedy for Poison Ivy also Works for Browntail Moth Rash!

Sweet fern is a knee-high plant with a woody stem and fern-like, aromatic leaves. The leaves have astringent properties. Native Americans used these leaves to make a tea, which they ingested for medicinal purposes. The tea solution was also used topically to relieve the itch of poison ivy.

This summer, desperate for relief from browntail moth rash (self-diagnosed, of course), and reluctant to see the doctor, I decided to try this traditional remedy, topically. The sweet fern tea solution with its lovely fragrance, cooled the raging fire on my arms and it seemed to help the rash heal.

Here is the “recipe” for the sweet fern solution that I submit with only anecdotal evidence of efficacy, in a brief, home-based clinical trial, that included only one adult subject (Ken was reluctant to be included, although he also had the rash).

**Sweet Fern Solution**

Locate a patch of sweet fern. It grows along the edge of fields and alongside woodland paths and roadsides. Cut a small bunch (about the size of a nosegay) and either air-dry it until crumbly or place it on a cookie sheet in your oven at 200 degrees (with door open) for 45 minutes, or until it crumbles. Bring one quart of water to a boil, add dried fern, and simmer for 20 minutes. After it cools, strain the solution and place it in a jar or freeze it in ice cube trays for later use. Store the solution in the refrigerator.

To use the solution, soak a gauze pad (or paper towel) with the cold solution. Wipe the soaked pad over the rash several times per day. The approach I used was to make a cold compress, using a paper towel or face cloth. I held the compress over the affected area for 30 minutes, twice per day.

—submitted by Suzanne Gunston

Squirrel Point Light Gets New Roof

The first stage of work on Squirrel Point Light’s restoration was carried out by Ed Blaiklock and crew in late May through early July. Numerous volunteers turned up to assist in preparations, including the ferrying of five tons of building materials and tools from Phippsburg across the Kennebec.

Heartfelt thanks to Davies Allan of Chesterfield Associates for again donating the use of his specialized vessel on two separate days. Thanks also to Hammond Lumber and Higmo’s of Brunswick and all of the individual donors and volunteers who have contributed to this effort. The frame-barn’s rotten sill has been replaced, the roofs of the barn and keeper's house have been reshingled, and the chimney has been regrooted. Weather and water damage should now be preempted. Much remains to be done—and funded—but the first lap has been run.

continued on next page
Mark your calendars for Maine Lighthouse Day, Saturday, September 10, and our annual membership meeting Wednesday, October 5. For details, and to get involved in protecting Squirrel Point Light, check out our new website at squirrelpoint.org or e-mail Roman at info@squirrelpoint.org. Become a member, make a donation, or volunteer for special work days. Thank you, Arrowsic, for your support!

Conservation Brain Trust

Following the publication of the new Stewardship Guides, the four conservation commissions involved in the project—Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, and Westport Island—decided to form a consortium that would regularly meet to brainstorm new ideas on how they could continue to collaborate on issues of common concern. Their first meeting was held on Westport Island at the beginning of August to tour conservation properties on the island and discuss ideas for new projects. More to come....

Drought, what drought?

Drought information taken from Maine Emergency Management Agency updates:

- Droughts occur about every 20 years with severe 3–5 year droughts occurring about every 40 years. A serious drought affected Maine in 2001 through 2003. Check this out for more information (see also the link on this page to tips on sensible water use): www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/prep_display.shtml?147337.
- The US Drought Portal has a lot of great information on current drought conditions in the U.S. You can even put your own zip code in to see conditions in your neighborhood! Check it out here: www.drought.gov/drought/
- The US Geological Survey has some great information at their Water Watch webpage. You can see stream flow by the day and drought conditions by the week. Check it out here: waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=ww.
- The US Geological Survey has a distributed water database that is locally managed. For information on groundwater in Maine just click on the maps! groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/.
- The NWS Climate Prediction Center monitors for drought using indices of the relative dryness or wetness affecting water sensitive economies. For more info: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/rpd07drs.gif.

Notes and Notices

Online Vehicle Registration Reminder—Best news ever!

How many times have you forgotten to renew your vehicles on time? And how many times have you been “reminded” by the police? Over the years, The Arrow has provided registration listings that took a lot of time to compile and a lot of space on paper as well. Now, the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles has set up an automatic renewal reminder. To sign up, go to https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/rr-remindme?submit=Sign+Up+%C2%BB.
**Annual Scholarship Yard Sale**

The annual Arrowsic Scholarship Fund Yard Sale will take place on Sept 17 at 9 AM in the Town Hall. Come find some great treasures to support a great cause! For more information, contact Jeremy Blaiklock at 232-0055.

**Town Meeting**

About 65 residents attended this year’s Town Meeting, held on June 16, at the Fire Station. For details of the meeting, the official minutes are posted on the town website at: http://arrowsic.org/selectmen_minutes/2016%20Town%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf.

**Ships and Kings**

Arrowsic resident Fred Hill has published two new books in July. The first is *Ships, Swindlers and Scalded Hogs; The Rise and Fall of the Crooker Shipyard in Bath, Maine*, published by Down East Books. It is a thoroughly researched account of his family’s mid-19th-century shipyard, a book Dugan Shipway, former president of BIW, calls “a compelling saga of the heritage of shipbuilding in Maine.”

The second is an edited collection of essays on the *Baltimore Sun*, for which Fred was a foreign correspondent and editorial writer for 20 years: *The Life of Kings; The Baltimore Sun in the Golden Age of the American Newspaper*. Judy Woodruff, co-anchor of the PBS News Hour, said of the book: “If you have any doubt about the necessity of the American newspaper, you must sit down with The Life of Kings” and NPR’s David Greene called it “rich, entertaining reading for anyone with a stake in the American newspaper—which is all of us.” Fred was co-editor along with Stephens Broeining, a colleague at the paper.

Both books are available at local bookstores, including The Mustard Seed Bookstore on Front Street in Bath.

**Fresh Pork**

Woodcock Farm is still accepting reservations for naturally raised, local pork. Sides of this tasty meat will be delivered in October, but reserve now to ensure availability. Just $4.00 per pound. Call Bill Blaiklock, 443-3725, for more information.

‘House on Middle Street’

Arrowsic author Bob Kalish has written “The House on Middle Street,” a story set in Bath during World War II. It was just published in *The Coastal Journal* as a serial that ran from July 14 to September 1. Back issues can be found by clicking the back issues icon in the top left-hand corner of the page at http://digital.olivesoftware.com/olive/ODN/CoastalJournal/default.aspx, or by picking up printed copies at the CJ’s office at 97 Commercial Street in Bath.

**The Arrowsic Arrow** is Arrowsic’s independent newsletter, produced entirely through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published quarterly, currently in March, June, September, and December. The Arrow is distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic list or on paper to those who have asked to receive it in this way. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. To avoid cost to the Town, please consider receiving The Arrow through e-mail or printing your own copy. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words.

**Arrow Committee:** Suzanne Gunston, Bob Kalish, Paul Schlein, Tom Spear, and Nancy Brown Stump. **Production:** Tom Spear. **Contact:** Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209.