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## EX-OFFICIO

Erich Reed  
*Director*

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Ralph Stanley  
 Patricia Sweeney

## View from the Chair



Linda Hayward

I am honored to serve as Chair of the Southwest Harbor Public Library (SWHPL) Board of Trustees. Whenever I mention the Library in conversation, the response is invariably something along the lines of “I love the

Southwest Harbor Library! It’s such a warm, friendly place.” And so it is, thanks to the wonderful staff, volunteers, patrons, and donors: in other words, all of you.

SWHPL is lucky to have so much community involvement and we want to acknowledge the many ways in which the community supports our library. In 2019, we decided to start a program to recognize the businesses that support the Library. Our Business Partners provide funding or services to the Library. Many have for years supplied rewards for the children who participate in the Summer Reading Program. Others give the Library discounts on purchases or services. All deserve to have your support as they support the Library. Check out the list on page 5.

Along with the idea of recognizing our Business Partners in our Annual Report, the Library has decided to acknowledge the contributions of the many individuals who support the library by including their names in next year’s Annual Report. This is a change that we hope you will embrace. The Board and staff feel strongly that those who support the Library deserve recognition. Next year’s Annual Report will include a list of donors to the Endowment, the Annual Appeal, and memorial gifts; artists who donate part or all of the proceeds from the August Art Auction; and others who support the library in so many other ways. We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without all of you. Please check the donation envelope to make sure your name is listed as you

would like, or indicate that you prefer to remain anonymous.

Throughout 2020, we will be celebrating our Quasiquicentennial – that’s a wonderful word for a 125th anniversary. This year marks SWHPL’s 125th year in our own building on Main Street. Southwest Harbor’s first library actually started in 1884, when one enterprising woman of the town collected discarded books from summer hotels and put them in the drug store for the year-round residents to borrow over the winter. Soon there were too many books for the shelf in the drug store and the nascent library moved to a different building. Then a group of like-minded women started collecting money so Southwest Harbor could have a proper Library. Thanks to their efforts and their “dollar socials,” the building that now houses the Holmes Room was built at a cost of \$898.00 and opened in 1895. You can read more about the Library’s history on the Library website. Just click on About Us and Library History. Watch for special events – and repeated appearances of birthday cake – throughout the year. I hope to see you there.

Looking back on 2019, those of us who dedicate a significant part of our time to the Library can feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. As the statistics included elsewhere in this report indicate, we met and exceeded our fundraising goals. You, the Library patrons, participated in Library events in record numbers. Erich Reed completed his first full year as Director, continuing and expanding existing Library programs and putting his own touch on the running of the Library. Children’s programs flourished. The SWHPL Digital Archive is now part of a larger archive with many members, all built on the platform developed for SWHPL (see page 4).

Linda Hayward  
 Chair, Board of Trustees



One little pumpkin (Amelia) enjoying a big pumpkin at a fall story time.

## LIBRARY STAFF

- Erich Reed  
Director
- Mary Anne Mead  
Assistant Director of  
Public Services
- Kate Pickup McMullin  
Assistant Director of  
Operations
- Susan Plimpton  
Children's Librarian
- Janet Clifford  
Library Assistant
- Amanda Crafts  
Library Assistant
- Brenda Fletcher  
Library Assistant
- Melissa Haas  
Library Assistant
- Elliot Santavicca  
Library Assistant
- Allen Stephenson  
Library Assistant
- Sara White  
Library Assistant
- Cathy Willey  
Substitute Library  
Assistant

## OUR MISSION

Southwest Harbor Public Library inspires and supports the enjoyment of life-long learning, the love of literacy, and the exploration of new ideas, welcoming everyone through its doors.

# Director's Report

This is a big year for the Library—we have been at our Main Street location for 125 years! We are grateful to have had so much community support over these years, and we are immensely grateful for your continued support this past year. To give thanks to the community, we had been planning an ambitious slate of programs, some of which will



Teacups at the ready while Ruth Grierson and Ralph Stanley warm up a fall Library Tea.



Erich with Vaness Buys, a tea regular and dedicated tea goodies donor.

have to be modified to make sure we obey the governor's and Maine CDC guidelines to keep us all safe and to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

We hope that you are all safe and well and that you are weathering these difficult times with a good book and frequent calls and emails to loved ones. Our doors have been closed to the public since March 16th. That was a difficult decision, albeit though the prudent one, to safeguard the health of our patrons and employees. We look forward to the day when we can safely open our doors and greet you in person. In the meantime, we are focused on continuing and broadening our services and maintaining our connections with you.

I'd like to provide you with an update on some of the highlights of the past year. Our Library has been very busy with record numbers of programs (666) and attendees (11,763). Our winter afternoon teas and accompanying musical performances were, as always, well attended and much appreciated. Our circulation numbers rival our historic highs, an unusual feat in a world where print circulation has been declining over the past ten years. Our children's librarian, Susan Plimpton, is imbued with a fierce determination to ward off the summer learning loss that many children experience. Her innovative summer programs are always free to participants and fully subscribed. Indeed, our children's room collection is one of the busiest sections in all of Maine

libraries in July.

We have greatly expanded our digital content in the form of ebooks and audiobooks that you can readily access via the cloudLibrary. Titles that you might have waited a year for previously may be available in a few weeks, or even available today! Please check out the selection on our website. If you haven't done so recently, do visit our Digital Archive. (swhplibrary.net) It is a good way to learn about the history of our communities and our people, especially during this historic Maine Bicentennial. You may discover some new treasures! Just this week, Morgan, the granddaughter of a woman who lived on the island, shared with us the unexpected gift she found through the Digital Archive—a photo of her grandmother. "This is the most meaningful picture to me in the world. It once graced my Gram's dresser at her nursing home . . . When she passed, I requested that I have the framed picture, but I was heartbroken when I learned that it was lost in the shuffle of her items. I thought I would never see it again, until today."

Stay safe and well. We hope to see you soon. In the meantime, we are strengthening our library services and focusing on new ways to serve the community. We are here at the other end of the phone or email if we can help. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

With best wishes,  
Erich Reed, Director

# Children's Service



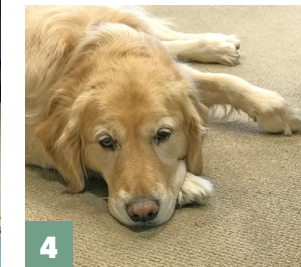
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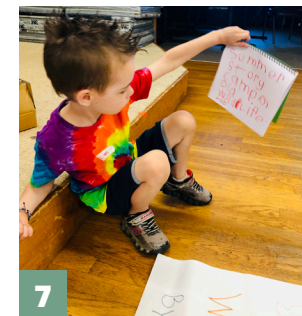
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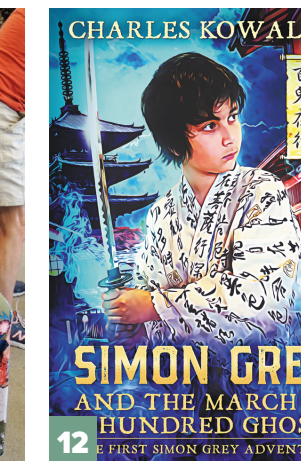
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1 Amanda Crafts during Baby Storytime with Seth Kane and his nephew Hugo. Seth's spouse Kelly and her daughter Cora come to storytime where "... we've made a lot of friends. It's an outlet and a place for me to connect with people." 2 1/2 year old Sadie Monahan enjoyed the chance to use a real china teacup at our annual Valentine's Tea in the children's room. 3 Avid readers and snackers enjoy Wednesday afternoons at the library's Café Book. 4 Reader Dog Nora waits for the kids to arrive from school on a Thursday afternoon. She and her owner John Williams have recently joined our Reader Dog team. 5 Author Kathleen Benner Duble meets with young readers as part of our Summer Reading Program. 6 Story camper Finn Monahan works one on one with teacher Natalia Pajor during World Exploration Week. 7 Donovan with the beginning of his Summer Story Camp book for Week 1. 8 Two lucky winners at our annual pumpkin festival raffle. This prize was carved by Bob Sattler, the art teacher at Pemetic School. 9 A Victorian feast and reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, led by Andrew Simon and the library's new play makers group. 10 Library staff Janet Clifford and Children's Librarian Susan Plimpton set the children's room alight with Swedish Christmas decorations for a visit from the Tomten and the Pemetic Kindergarten class. 11 Two young readers have fun making animal masks with volunteer Danielle Simpson. 12 In August author Charles Kowalski launched his new book for young adults, *Simon Grey and the March of a Hundred Ghosts*. 13 Naturalist Tom Adams is surrounded by Pemetic's kindergarten class as he reads about camouflage in nature.

Welcome  
and  
Farewell



Cathy Willey,  
Retiring Staff Member



Allen Stephenson,  
Tech Staff Member - now  
Community Technology Assistant



Elliot Santavicca,  
New Staff Member



Sara White,  
Returning Staff  
Member / Intern

# Building Digital Bridges

The Library is excited to announce that 14 of the museums, libraries, and historical societies on Mount Desert Island have begun a collaborative project to share and provide online access to their vast and varying collections of images, maps, and documents which preserve our island's rich history. The project involves building "digital bridges" that will connect the collections and allow anyone having internet access the ability to search all of them from a single website. The "brick and mortar" of these bridges is none other than the Digital Archive software which originated at the Southwest Harbor Public Library.

The work will be funded by The History Trust, a consortium of 11 MDI cultural heritage organizations, which recently hired Library trustee George Soules of AvantLogic Corporation to make this sharing vision a reality. AvantLogic developed the software for the Library in 2016 and then made it freely available as open source. Currently, six MDI organizations use the Digital Archive to share more than 22,000 items. At the completion of the year-long "bridge" project, eight more organizations will be sharing their collections bringing the total to 14. Other organizations will be welcome to join in the future.

The photos on this page are of actual bridges from the Library's Digital Archive. Southwest Harbor photographer Henry Rand photographed construction of the Causeway Dam bridge in 1901 when the Library was just six years old (that's the Causeway Club barn and Beech Mountain in the background). Howie Motenko of Seal Harbor photographed the Duck Brook Carriage Road bridge at night in 2012. An unknown photographer shot the then recently-completed Duck Brook Motor Road bridge in 1953. To see these and 9,600 other images in the Library's Digital Archive, visit [swhplibrary.net](http://swhplibrary.net).



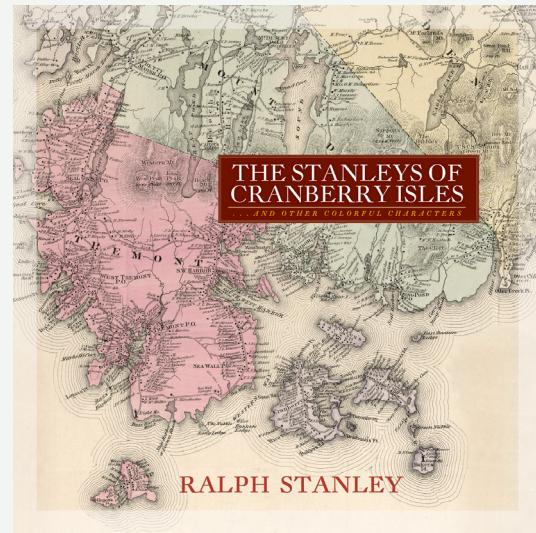
Southwest Harbor Causeway Dam bridge, 1901  
Photographer — Henry Lanthrop Rand



Duck Brook Carriage Road bridge, 2012  
Photographer — Howie Motenko



Duck Brook Motor Road bridge, 1953  
Courtesy of Therese Klotz Marshall



With immense gratitude to Phoebe Milliken's generous support toward the publication of this vital history, the Library presents *The Stanleys of Cranberry Isles . . . and Other Colorful Characters*.

"Historian, Genealogist, Musician, Boat Builder, Author, Raconteur — there is only one Ralph Stanley. Ralph bears many titles and awards, but for the Southwest Harbor Library he is, most of all, a friend . . . This book [*The Stanleys of Cranberry Isles . . . and Other Colorful Characters*] is Ralph's own story, based on his own research and in his own words."

— From A Note from the Editor, Charlotte R. Morrill

You can preorder this book by contacting us at [circulation@swhplibrary.org](mailto:circulation@swhplibrary.org). Cost of book is \$35, plus \$5 for shipping.

## SOUTHWEST HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY *Donors & Grants*

The Southwest Harbor Public Library thanks all the local businesses who provide support with donations of money, goods, and services. We ask our patrons to support these businesses in thanks for their support of the Library.

- Abbe Museum • Allen Insurance & Financial • American Legion Post 69  
AvantLogic Corporation • Ayleson & Son Jewelers • Bass Harbor Camp Ground  
Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary • Brrrr! Harbor • Camden National Bank • Carroll Drug Store  
Coda • Common Good Good Soup Kitchen • Downeast Pilates • First National Bank  
Gott's Store • K M Harper & Son Tree Service • L.S. Robinson Insurance • Little Notch Café  
MDI Property Maintenance & Management • MDI Tutors • Milagro Café  
Norumbega Moving and Storage • Old Dog Baking • Pirates' Cove Adventure Golf  
Quietside Café • Saint Dreux's Coffee Shop • Salt Meadow Farm • Sawyer's Market  
Sawyer's Specialties • Snow<sup>2</sup> CPAs • Southwest Cycle • Southwest Food Mart  
Tidal Graphics • Under the Dogwood Tree**

### Grants

- Betsy Holtzmann  
Charles Butt  
First National Bank  
Hattie A. & Fred Lynam Trust  
Phoebe Milliken  
Rose and Samuel Rudman Library Fund  
Rodney L. White Foundation  
Shirley Fuerst  
Southwest Harbor Medical Center Committee  
The Thompson/Morgan/Anderson Family**

- Summer Story Camp  
Digital Archive  
Summer Reading Showtime  
Summer Story Camp  
Ralph Stanley Book  
Graphic Novels  
Summer Story Camp  
Track Lighting  
Summer Story Camp  
Endowment**



A snowy March afternoon in preparation for a Medicare workshop with Jo-Ann Neal of Allen Insurance & Financial.



Thanks to a grant from the Rudman Trust we added many new graphic novels to our collection. Rick and Laura from Casablanca Comics in Portland shared their expertise during a community workshop.

## IN MEMORIAM — CHARLES MORRILL

On January 16th of this year the Library lost a beloved and dedicated Library friend, Charles Morrill. As a trustee, Charles helped launch the library's major renovation and addition in 2000, seen here cutting the ribbon at the 2000 dedication. He served on various committees for many years in his wise and gentle way, his presence often a balm - helping smooth out rough spots of all sorts. More recently, his visits to the library were accompanied by a joke or comic cut-out to share, always with a bright sparkle of mischief in his eye.

A note of interest to genealogists and library friends. When Charles Barrett Morrill cut the ribbon at the dedication of the new addition in 2000, he was opening a new door to the library that had been designed, in 1896, by his ninth cousin once removed, Eleazer Bartlett Homer!



# Development Report

The Southwest Harbor Public Library serves as the center of our community. We are open 302 days (2,444 hours) each year. We welcome everyone through our doors and to our many community programs. Our Library inspires and supports lifelong learning. We are a quiet haven which supports love of reading and the exploration of new ideas for people of all ages.

Our Library simply could not exist without the generous support and donations of community residents and businesses. Our operation depends on receiving 40 percent of our budget from donations. Fortunately, individuals, businesses, and the Town of Southwest Harbor have all been generous in their support. Over our 125 year history we have grown from modest beginnings to the full-service community resource enjoyed by all who live here, work here, and visit here.

Through the generosity of more than 780 donors, annual giving exceeded the goal for 2019 and was significantly above 2018.

The annual giving program recorded an increase in the number of gifts, number of new donors, and the total amount of contributions. We are very appreciative of this growing support.

The Library needs your support in order to continue our mission of service. If you are a past donor, we thank you for your generosity. We welcome and need new donors, both individuals, and businesses. There are many giving opportunities available to you, so please consider donating to the Southwest Harbor Public Library in 2020 and beyond. A donation invitation is attached to this Annual Report.

The Library Board of Trustees is profoundly grateful to all donors and volunteers who make our continued service to the community possible, now and into the future. With your generous support, we will continue to be a cherished resource for our community.

Dennis Wint



## MEET A TRUSTEE

Dennis started his career as a teacher/naturalist and taught outdoor education to students in grades 1-12 and professional development for teachers. He later served as the chief executive of the Natural History Museum of The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Cranbrook Institute in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, St. Louis Science Center, and for nearly 20 years The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. After leaving The Franklin Institute, he taught Museum Leadership at Drexel University. Dennis holds a B.S. from University of Michigan and a PhD from Case Western Reserve University.

Dennis Wint has had a love affair with Maine for more than 50 years. For several summers, he was the director of a program for high school students to learn about Maine island ecology.

Dennis has three children and three grandchildren. He and his partner Debra Bjornard live in Southwest Harbor. They are dedicated volunteers at the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Dennis also volunteers with SCORE as a non-profit business mentor.

# Volunteers Report

We estimate that in 2019 there were approximately 150 wonderful individuals who contributed 3,435 hours to the Library. These volunteers shelved over 40,000 books; processed almost 7,000 items from other libraries through the interlibrary loan program, and prepared 2,800 new items to add to the collection. They maintained the building and gardens; supported children's programs such as Story Time, Reader Dog, and Cafe Book; and managed our website. Many of our fundraising events would not be possible without their help. They served tea and passed homemade cookies and provided music at our winter teas; and they served on our Board of Trustees helping to keep the Library a vital part of the community all year long. Our volunteers are our most precious resource, and we can't thank them enough.

**1** Deborah Bjornard and Diane Phipps prepare colorful delights for a Harbor House Children's Center Valentines Tea.



**2** Amidst treasures, Nancy Buckwalter cleans, sorts, and prices donated items in preparation for the Mother's Day Sale, a Children's fundraiser offering priced-to-sell items for children to gift their mothers and loved ones.



**3** Kathy Saunders, an energetic Library Tea Volunteer, arrives at the Library's Thank You Volunteer Breakfast hosted at the Common Good Soup Kitchen.



**4** Monty Evans and Holly Jenkins-Evans take a break from their year-round work in the Library's basement sorting donated books for upcoming sales.



**5** Our gardener of delight, Betsy Holtzmann, works her magic with the ivy and fairy fan flowers (Scaevola aemula) in the Library's stone wall.



Guest speaker Jackson Laboratory CEO and President, Dr. Edison Liu (center left) with his wife Margaret (far left), and Chair of the Trustees Linda Hayward and Library Director Erich Reed. Dr. Liu holds his gift from the Library, a Digital Archive Photograph of New Buildings at the Jackson Laboratory, 1949 photographer Willis Humphreys Ballard.



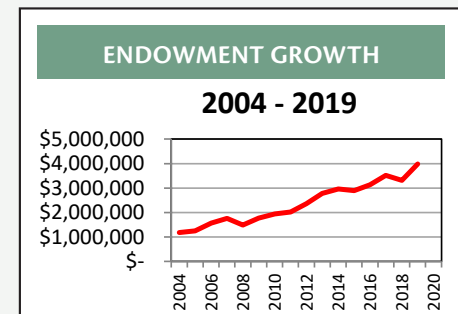
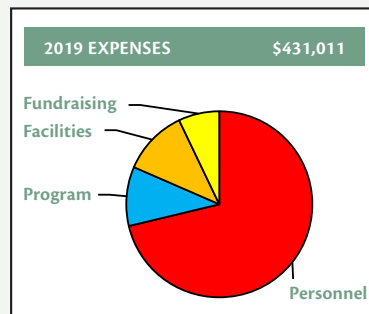
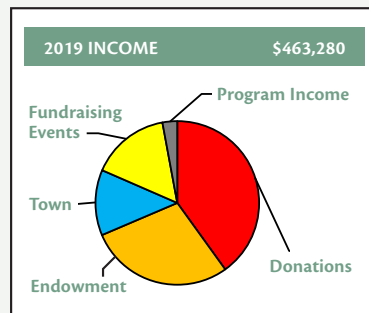
Painting the evening red, former Trustee Chair Patsy Fogarty and staff Mary Anne Mead welcome Top Shelf guests to the Causeway Club Red Barn.

# Treasurer's Report

**OPERATING BUDGET** — A combination of generous donations, increased endowment value, the continuing Town contribution, successful fund-raisers, and operational changes made by the Director brought us back into the black in 2019.

**ENDOWMENT** — A major rise in stock market values increased the value of our Endowment by \$661,363, even after making a 4% withdrawal of \$132,173 for operations. Despite the recent drop in stock values due to the pandemic, returns from the endowment will continue to be a very important part of our income. We are thankful for all who have donated to this fund. We would not be able to support the current level of operations without your help.

Jim Vekasi, Treasurer



## BY THE NUMBERS:

### LIBRARY OPEN HOURS:

2,444 hours/year;  
47 hours a week

### PEOPLE AT THE LIBRARY:

3,842 adult patrons  
231 child patrons  
69,115 people visited the Library  
10,660 sessions used the Library's public computers  
9,994 used the Library's free WiFi on their own devices

### IN THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS:

27,171 adult books  
6,715 children's picture books, CDs, kits, puzzles  
1,811 children's/young adult nonfiction books  
3,751 young adult/juvenile fiction books  
905 audiobooks  
1,827 DVDs  
74 print magazines

### THE LIBRARY PROVIDED FREE ACCESS TO:

12,524 electronic books and 6,774 audiobooks via OverDrive  
86 online databases through Maine Digital Library  
3,659 Downloads of audio or electronic books from cloudLibrary

### THE LIBRARY CIRCULATED:

8,679 books borrowed through ILL  
7,299 books loaned through ILL  
17,265 children's titles  
4,207 young adult titles  
34,791 adult titles

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

404 children's and young adult programs, with attendees  
6,010 attendees  
262 adult programs, with attendees  
5,685 attendees

### TECHNOLOGY AT THE LIBRARY:

898 Tech Help sessions (appointments, walk-ins, patron services)  
A variety of tech items that can be used in the Library or borrowed

# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

that benefit the Southwest Harbor Public Library

Stay tuned and look for updates on our event schedule on our webpage/social media channels.

**MOTHER'S DAY SALE.** Hope to have later in the year.  
Annual Mother's Day Sale to benefit children's programs.

**Thursday, June 25,**  
**A Taste of Spring, Dinner and Silent Auction at the Red Barn, Causeway Club.** Watch for updates.

**Saturday & Sunday, July 11 & 12, all day**  
**PAPERBACK BOOK SALE.**  
Thousands of used paperbacks on the Library Front Lawn for your vacationing pleasure.

**Saturday & Sunday, August 1 & 2,**  
**GIANT USED BOOK SALE.**  
Thousands of books including fiction, nonfiction, puzzles, children's books, paperbacks and MORE at great prices for your reading pleasure.

**August 2-28,**  
**A CELEBRATION OF ART,**  
Exhibit and Silent Auction. Enjoy the creative works of our talented community artists and plan to bid often or better yet, BUY IT NOW!

**Sunday, August 2,**  
**A CELEBRATION OF ART, Reception**  
Meet the artists!

**For More Information,**  
**Contact the Southwest Harbor**  
**Public Library**  
**207-244-7065**  
**www.swhplibrary.org**



**1** Charles Stanhope, current Development chair and retired Library of Congress Assistant Chief Operating Officer, shares a menu at Taste of Spring with Margo Martin, retired nurse and devoted book processor and desk volunteer. **2** Silent Art Auction artists gather for recognition at the Celebration of Art Opening Reception, an annual August community-favorite exhibition. **3** King Electric staff take on the chandeliers in the Holmes Reading Room during the March Efficiency Maine LED Retrofit. **4** At the Spring Clean-up in May, Jake Jacobson, Ruth and Duane Braun (Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair), strategize as they reassemble the Book Kiosk for another season. **5** Author Sharon Joyce took attendees back in time in her October talk about her book *Culinary History of Downeast Maine*, a historic look at Downeast cooking from before Champlain arrived in 1605, when the Wabanakis were preparing and preserving food in ways that are still in use today, to the "rusticators" and other wealthy families created fashionable food trends as well as simple foods like fish chowder.



Post Office Box 157, 338 Main Street  
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679  
PHONE : 207-244-7065 FAX: 207-244-7065  
EMAIL: circulation@swhplibrary.org

LIBRARY HOURS:  
MON, TUES, THURS & FRI: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
WED: 9:00am - 8:00pm  
SAT: 9:00am - 1:00pm

*Open Doors . . . Open Minds*