

# FORE AND AFT

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Volume 28, No. 1

Newsletter of the Surry Historical Society

June 2019

Wayne H. Smith, Editor

## \*\*\*SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2019\*\*\*

*Special "Pre-Meeting" regarding By-Law Changes June 17 at 6:30 p.m. (see below).*

**Tragedy at Sea 1877** - *June 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.* Three young men from Surry succumb to yellow fever while on a ship in the West Indies, including Gardiner Granville Gaspar and his brothers-in-law Wilford L. and Augustus T. Treworgy. There was a long legal battle waged by the Treworgy family for justice and to receive their loved ones' belongings.

**Alice Gaspar's Diaries** - *July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.* - The diaries tell of the life and times of Surry in the 1940s, including the Christmas club, the Towns End club, and many stories about Surry people. John Curtis will draw information from Alice's diaries and illustrate with photos from the time.

**Local Yokels** - *August 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.* - Our perennial Local Yokels program will spotlight several unforgettable town characters from yesteryear.

**Seaweed Chronicles** - *September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.* - Surry author Susan Hand Shetterly will discuss the issues raised in her recently published book *Seaweed Chronicles: A World at the Water's Edge*.

*Refreshments served after all meetings*

*Meeting are held at 7:00 p.m. on the  
third Monday of the month during the summer at the  
Old Town Hall, 1217 Surry Rd (Route 172), Surry, ME*

## From the President - John Curtis

The Surry Historical Society was founded in 1982 as a vehicle to collect and preserve documents, photographs, oral histories and physical relics that embody our town's rich history. We are headquartered in Surry's Old Town Hall (built in 1828), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over 100 farming and fishing artifacts, tools and other historic relics are on display at the hall, each one identified as to its use and origin.

A prime mission of the society is to popularize town history. We comb our archives for interesting and informative stories to present at our free public meetings, where everyone is welcome to attend and participate. We meet on the third Monday of the months of June, July, August and September at 7:00 pm at the Old Town Hall, 1217 Surry Road (Route 172).

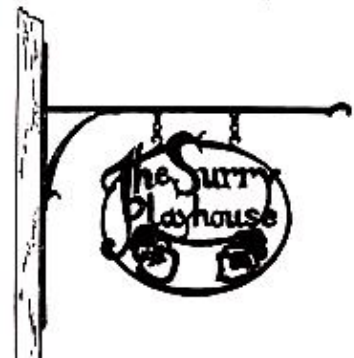
In 2019 our public programs, sure to be eye-openers, will include:

- the tragic story of three young men from Surry who died at sea and the ensuing legal fight waged by their families for justice;
- the life and times of Surry in the mid-1940s as seen through the eyes of diarist Alice Gaspar;
- our perennial "Local Yokels" program will spotlight several unforgettable town characters from yesteryear; and
- Surry author Susan Hand Shetterly who will discuss the issues raised in her latest book, *Seaweed Chronicles: A World at the Water's Edge*.

Each and every one of these talks are guaranteed to broaden your knowledge of town history, and, as so often happens, your comments and input will add to the Society's store of town history.

Much of our ability to preserve and present Surry history depends on people who come forward with stories, documents, photos, or anything else of historical interest. In 2018, the family of the late Peter Steele donated the metal sign from Willard Kane's legendary store, which operated in Surry from 1939 to 1982. It's now on display inside the Old Town Hall.

We believe the metal sign from the old Surry Playhouse (*see photo*) is still in Surry in private hands. We would be ever grateful to the owners if they wished to donate it to the Society for perpetual display at the Old Town Hall.



Please consider adding your family's slice of history to our collection. We treat all donated or loaned material with the greatest care. We will scan documents and pictures and promptly return the originals to the owner.

Our public meetings are videotaped. Edited versions are available (along with lots of other material) on our newly-redesigned website:

[www.surryhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.surryhistoricalsociety.com)

Our lively Facebook page (*Surry Historical Society*) is yet another way to access historic (and current) information about Surry.

We look forward to seeing you as we look back at Surry's colorful past. If you have questions, comments, or ideas, please email:

[president@surryhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:president@surryhistoricalsociety.com)

or phone me at 207-667-4877.

Your neighbor,

- John H. Curtis, Surry Historical Society

#### **NOTICE to MEMBERS of SURRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

##### **Re: By-Laws**

The Board of the Surry Historical Society has proposed several changes to our by-laws, which must be approved by the membership. Prior to our public meeting on Monday, June 17, which begins at 7:00 pm, the Board will hold a special pre-meeting for members beginning at 6:30 pm on the same date. All members in good standing who are interested in participating are urged to come to the Old Town Hall by 6:30 pm. You will be handed a copy of the proposed by-law changes at that time. (Only members are permitted to vote, but any interested party may sit in. Anyone who pays their annual dues prior to the pre-meeting will be permitted to vote.)

#### **Wish List -**

We're looking for a **lectern** that we can use during our summer presentations. Do you know of one that we could have, or at least borrow? Let us know, and thanks!

## In Memoriam

In the past year, we were bereaved by the loss of three long-time, valued members of the Surry Historical Society family. We dedicate this issue of *Fore and Aft* to all three, who will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

**Mary (Grindle) Astbury**, who brightened our lives and was a “go to” person for stories of old Newbury Neck;



**Kenneth Torrey**, a skilled photographer of Surry’s landscapes and people, who always seemed able to dig up historic clippings and photos every time we needed help; and



**Terry (Curtis) Higgins**, the long-time editor of our *Fore and Aft* newsletter and a persistent researcher into town history.



## SHS Membership Form for 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Amount Enclosed:

1. Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$10.00 per person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ couple(s) @ \$15.00 per couple \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ full-time student(s) @ \$5.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Voluntary donation (tax deductible and greatly appreciated): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Surry Historical Society" or simply "SHS" and mail to us at: **Surry Historical Society, PO Box 17, Surry, ME 04684-0017**

### Your Input:

1. Ideas for speakers/topics: \_\_\_\_\_

2. I'd like to help with:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> inventory              | <input type="checkbox"/> digitizing records     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> preparing refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> interviewing residents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building repair/upkeep | <input type="checkbox"/> collecting artifacts   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research and writing   | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____           |

3. Any other suggestions for the Society: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Surry Historical Society**

**PO Box 17**

**Surry, ME 04684-0017**



**SURRY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
PRESENTS**



**Surry  
Boys'  
Tragic  
Voyage**

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The tale of 5 young mariners who died at sea and  
how their families struggled for justice  
Presented by Dr. Wayne Smith

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**7:00 pm, Mon., June 17, 2019**  
**Old Town Hall**  
**1217 Route 172 in Surry**

**FREE ADMISSION and REFRESHMENTS**

MORE INFO @ 667-4877

2019