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# Surry, Maine

## An informal History

Written by Osmond C. Bonsey





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Bonsey, Osmond C.

Surry, Maine.

Dedicated to the memory and lives of all Surry residents, past and present.





## Acknowledgements

No one can write the history of a municipality without giving credit to others. That certainly is necessary with the history of Surry. The research has evolved over a period of several years and with input from dozens of individuals and documents.

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Osmond C. Bonsey



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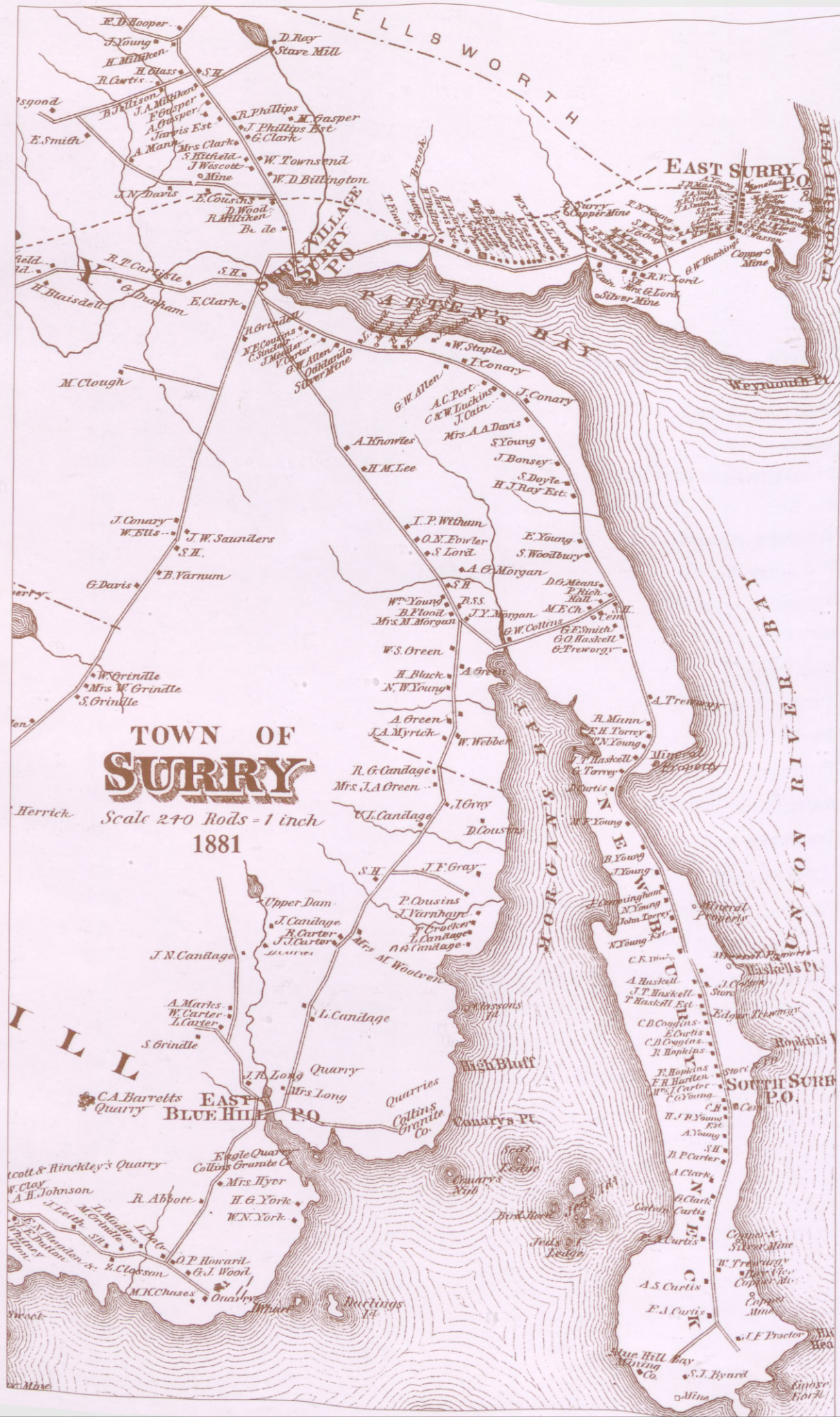
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## Early History

It is generally agreed that Surry's first settler in 1767 was Matthew Patten. The stone showing the location of his burial in 1790 is to the rear of the land where he first settled. Today this is the home of Arlene Black. Patten's Bay, Patten's Pond and Patten's Pond Stream were named after Matthew Patten.

Although sections of Western Maine had long been settled (Falmouth, from which Portland later split away, was settled in 1632), the area between Penobscot and St. Croix Rivers had not been available for settlement until the mid 18th century. Acadia, as it was called, was claimed for over 150 years by both the French and the English. There was constant fighting in the area between the English, the French and the Indians. Especially during the French and Indian wars, roving bands of hostile Indians invaded the area and made an inhospitable place for an English settlement. There were only a few French settlers: Castine, Naskeag Point, Oak Point and Butler's Point in Franklin among them. From 1613 to 1759, a period of 146 years, Acadia changed owners eleven times, five times in possession of the French and six times in the hands of the English.

With the defeat of Montcalm de Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec, all French claims to the area were ended and at long last it became available for settlement by the English. They were not long in taking advantage. For the next few years

there was a veritable flood of people. The new owners came chiefly from the older towns of Maine and Massachusetts.

Prior to these settlements, savage and wild beasts were the natural occupants. The Indian dwellers were the Penobscots or Taratines (a tribe of Etchechomie), one of the five Indian nations in Maine. These tribes lived around ponds and rivers and subsisted on fish and sea game.

At Lord's shore in East Surry, there is very marked evidence of an Indian camping ground. It was a well chosen spot with acres of clam flats in front. Great deposits of clam shells remain there.

The young settlers were sons who could find no land near their parents; others were people always restless, who never stayed long in any one place or who preferred solitary existence. An important factor, however, was that the years 1760 and 1761 were periods of excessive drought and devastating forest fires which destroyed much of the pasture land.

These settlers were familiar with the area as they had often been to the east on fishing or trading expeditions. Since all transportation was by boat, islands were even more desirable than the mainland as they afforded greater protection. In this region islands like Bartletts and Long had many settlers. Penobscot, Bucksport and Orland had been settled by 1760. The date attributed to Surry is 1767.

In Samuel Wasson's Journal of East Surry, he



attributes Jonathan Flye, an Englishman, as the first settler in the Mouth of the River. He settled on Lot 23 of the John Patten Shore in 1784. He died at Flyes' Point in Brooklin in 1803.

In 1765 Donnivan Flood, then three years of age, came with his father (Andrew) from Chesire, N.H. to Pattten's Bay. Subsequently, Andrew moved his family to the town of Otis. In about eight years the family returned to Patten's Bay where Donnivan settled on Lot # 26. In March 1791, Andrew was chosen first juror from Surry to serve at court in Castine.

Moses Hammond, Surry's first Trial Justice, who received his appointment from Governor King, settled near the Floods in 1784 at "No Man's Cape" as Newbury Neck was called. There were a number of settlers from "Old" Newbury, Massachusetts. The Clarks, Treworgys and Youngs are descendants who settled on Newbury Neck.

While all this was going on, other things had been happening. The Massachusetts General Court, anxious to see the "eastern lands" settled, readily made grants of land to individuals or larger groups. Such was the case hereabouts. In January 1762, one David Marsh and 359 associates petitioned to be allowed to settle between the Penobscot and Union Rivers. The petition was favorably received and met the King's approval, so on March 2, 1762 the petitioners were granted six townships, each to be six miles square between the Penobscot and Mt. Desert rivers. At the same time, six other townships were granted east of the river. The future Surry was number 6. There were many strings to the grant, which even with a few years of grace, could not be met and the grants lapsed in 1768. From then on the settlers had no legal rights except that of possession. The six townships were surveyed and laid out and apportioned among the petitioners, many of whom were land speculators and never saw their holdings. Agents were appointed to lay out lots and establish settlers on them. These agents found many sturdy individuals who had no intention of being dispossessed. Many bad feelings resulted. The settlers became increasingly nervous when the General Court began giving land to Revolutionary War veterans and

selling other land to help pay the costs of war. Soon many petitions were being sent in complaining of conditions along the Union River.

The outcome of all this discontent was the passing in 1785 of the so called "Quieting Act," which re-granted the townships, requiring the proprietors to allot 100 acres to every person who was living on his land in 1784. The proprietors of number 6 promptly engaged John Peters to make a survey and lay out lots which could then be allotted to all eligi-



*Vanity Fair Tea room and Gift Shop*

ble settlers. Lots 1 - 72 were on the shore and the others inland. They were usually at right angles to the shore and where possible extended inland about a mile. Lot #1 was on the south side of the outlet of Branch Pond; #1 - #20 were in that part of the township later set off to Ellsworth; #21 - #38 were in East Surry and the village; #39 - #51 were in what is now Rich's Corner; #52 - #55 were on the Carrying Place; #56 - #69 were in the Neck proper; and #70 - #72 were in Morgan's Bay.

In 1789, Leonard Jarvis was commissioned to mete out land settled after 1784 and sell the rest, which was purchased by himself and other members of the Jarvis family. Jarvis did not come to Surry until 1803. He was very prominent in Massachusetts having served as Treasurer of the Commonwealth at one time. His original house was on land where the Grange Hall is located today.

Leonard Jarvis and his brother, Phillip, became the largest landholders in Maine except for the Bingham estate. Leonard Jarvis represented the



eastern division in Congress from 1831 to 1837.

Life in Surry in these early years, specifically Newbury Neck, was very primitive with few comforts. The people were coarsely fed and poorly clad as they made most of their own clothes. Their houses were rough hewn from pine with no adequate provision for proper sanitation or ventilation. They grew crops of potatoes, rye, beans and pumpkins on burned over land. Bears and raccoons ate their corn so that was not a successful crop. Meat victuals were woodchuck, bear, deer and raccoons. Clams, flounders, salmon, shad, cod and haddock were plentiful at Weymouth's Point. Succotash and pemmican (no hide) were popular Indian dishes.

Most of the year men, women and children went barefoot. Leather was hard to come by though there was a shoemaker in West Surry in 1790. Isaac Green, a Revolutionary War Veteran buried at Newbury Neck, thought nothing of walking through the woods to Castine, then the County Seat, to get his pension papers signed.

After construction of crude log shacks, the people soon built good frame houses. Plenty of trees and finished lumber were available. The first sawmill was built on Union River in 1768 and soon thereafter there were sawmills on Patten Stream.

Nearly every early settler was a farmer and farming increased more and more as time passed. Open pasture land and cultivated fields dominated the countryside.

Many were engaged in seafaring enterprises. The older boys in almost every family went to sea as ordinary seamen. Many of them died at sea. Col. William Coggins had a shipyard and a store at the end of Newbury Neck and built many schooners and brigs.

Surry's population was not prominently involved in the Revolutionary War. There were only two families between Rich's Corner and the Carrying Place. Four or five others were on Newbury Neck. The Morgans were at Morgan's Bay. Castine was a center of activity and was occupied by the British in June 1779. They promised to give the settlers land and to allow them to fish, plus good wages to those who worked on the fortification.

650 signed showing their allegiance to the British. Much fighting between the British and the Tories followed that summer. On July 24, the American fleet bombarded the town. People in East Surry could hear the cannonading.

The British finally left Castine in 1783 and Loyalists were ordered out of the area in 1784. Benjamin Milliken was the only Loyalist on record from Surry. Moses Hammond, Andrew Flood and Sterling Hopkins fought against the British.

## Incorporation

Anxious to have a more stable organization, Massachusetts urged the inhabitants to be incorporated. At a plantation meeting held on January 10, 1803 at the house of Isaac Lord in East Surry, Nathaniel Coffin was chosen agent "to petition that Township #6 be incorporated as a town by the name of Peru." This vote was certified by M. Hammond, Plantation Clerk and forwarded to Massachusetts.

John Ross, an agent to General David Cobb, at that time President of the Massachusetts State Senate wrote a letter to General Cobb dated "January 25, 1803 Union River." After speaking of the weather and a few news items, he continued: "Our plantation has sent a petition to be incorporated; the name I can not like very well, nor am I alone in my opinion. Could you get it called Kent or Surry or indeed a short name of your choice, would be more acceptable." Evidently this desire was carried out for the town became Surry after the English town he suggested. The name was shortened, since the spelling of the English town is Surrey.

The final enactment by Massachusetts was as defined in the following legislation:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in general court assembled, and by authority of the same, that the township called No.6, on the eastern side of Penobscot river, the county of Hancock, bounded as follows, viz.: On the west by Blue Hill and Blue Hill Bay; on the north by the towns of Penobscot and Ellsworth, and on the east and south by Union River and



Union River Bay; with the inhabitants there on, be, and they hereby are incorporated into a town by the name of Surry; and the said town is hereby vested with all power, privileges and immunities which other towns in this commonwealth do or may by law enjoy.

Section 11. And be it further enacted, that Meltiah Jordan, Esq., be and hereby is empowered to issue his warrant to call the first meeting. Approved June 21, 1803.

Later that summer the first town meeting was held with Moses Adams, Porter Sawyer and Moses Hammond being elected Selectmen.

## Surry-Ellsworth Boundary Dispute

Surry's 1803 corporation included a portion of Ellsworth known as Ward Five. In 1807 a large petition of inhabitants of Ellsworth and Surry was sent to the General Court asking for annexation to Ellsworth of a part of Surry and Trenton. The town of Ellsworth through its selectmen, strongly opposed their petition. In 1809 the petition succeeded. The line established by the legislature was the line between the lots of John Jordan and Benjamin Lord, the course from the shore to the head line



*Dan McKay's store-1919*

being 72 W. thence N.50 W 7 miles and 80 rods to a stake in 30 rods from the middle of the Patten's Pond. George Brimmer and John Chamberlain for Ellsworth and Moses Hammond and Isaac Lord for Surry reviewed the line on January 16, 1810 and again on March 23.

In 1821 all parts of the original township of Surry lying west of the Union River in Ellsworth were set back to Surry through the influence of Leonard Jarvis. This was against the wishes of every inhabitant residing in the territory, with most of them continuing to date their letters in Ellsworth as before. The Ellsworth post office was in Surry and the Surry post office was six miles away.

Finally in 1829, through the influence of John Black, who had been the leader in the 1809 changes, the Surry territory was re-annexed where it remains to this date.

## The Great Fire

This so-called Nat Treworgy fire occurred in 1822. It broke out at Dollard Town on a lot owned by Nathaniel Treworgy. The oldest inhabitants never totally agreed by what random line it reached East Surry. Some remembered that it made a beeline from Patten's Lower Pond via the Great Heath to the mouth of the river. The memory of others is that it came down the east side of Toddy Pond, crossing the road into the Green District at Conaryville, where, meeting a fresh southwester, it made a sharp detour reaching tidal water, where it flew across the Head of the Bay and caught near Long Wharf, and from thence onward to the Mouth of the River.

Two other so-called witnesses say the fire started in a cut-down on the head of Nathaniel Treworgy's home on the Contention Cove lot.

It was the middle of August, a severe drought was prevailing, most of the brooks, springs and wells were dry, while hill and valley and outstretched plain were one vast tinderbox.

Soon after the fire got underway, a stiff breeze sprang up which started the fire to run, in spite of all the opposition, spreading out like a fan, until hundreds of forest growth acres were wrapped in flames. The terrifying roar of the fire was heard for miles around. Not until a fierce southwest wind had driven the fire nearly over the Bucksport Road was it seen that the flames might sweep over the entire territory of East Surry.

A fire brigade was organized. Teams were dis-



patched to Ellsworth for hogsheads, casks, barrels, anything which would hold water, which were filled at Murch's spring. Ditches were made; trees, brush and everything which could invite and feed the fire were removed. The battle cry was "Stop the fire at the road" and for many a wearisome day and more wearisome night, in spite of the intense heat and suffocating smoke, they held the fire at bay for some three weeks or until it burned itself out. At one time the fire, aided by a furious wind, massed its force against the house of Isaac Lord, Jr., and Samuel Joy and but for the timely coming of a band of ship carpenters from Shephard's Wharf, the beleaguered settlement would have been laid in ashes. When the fire was quenched and the last night of terror had passed, one thousand acres, more or less, were in ashes.

During the fire several farm animals and a number of out buildings were destroyed. For many days the smoke was so dense that it was difficult to find the way from house to house,

Since then Surry has experienced several bad fires, the most dramatic being in 1939 when the old Grange Hall burned at the site of the present Grange Hall and then, of course, the Bar Harbor fires in 1947 resulted in deep concern on the part of the Surry citizens whose community was as tinder dry as Mount Desert Island. Fortunately Surry had no major problems, but the citizens had been so worried that the creation of the Surry Fire Department, which had been controversial at earlier town meetings, was solidly supported with the department being formally created March 12, 1947.

## The Old Town Hall

The following account of the Town Hall was taken from East Surry, 27 Decades of History, 1613-1883, written by Samuel Wasson in 1883.

When the Town Hall was built in 1828, the Surry-Ellsworth town line was the Union River and it extended to Ellsworth Falls, close to where the bridge on the Bangor Road crosses the river.

On December 22, 1827, a special town meeting was called at the Red Schoolhouse (located in East

Surry) to see "if the town will vote to build a town house." Voted "Not to build." At the annual town meeting March 5, 1828, it was voted to build a town house 52 X 45 feet and 12 feet post. The vote stood "Yes" 75, "No" 34.

The "No's" were from the North District. The building of the House was set up at auction and was bid off by Stephen G. Woodard of Surry for \$711.00. It was voted that Edward L. Jarvis, Calvin Peck and Donald Lord be a committee to furnish a plan, direct and superintend the building of the House and that the same committee "locate the town house in the most suitable central spot in the town." Pending the motion to appoint Messrs. Jarvis, Peck and Lord, a locating committee, a sharp and acrid debate sprang up in which sundry skits were aimed at Jarvis — the last man in the crowd to muzzle his lips or be chloroformed into silence. It was understood that the proposed committee favored the Contention Cove location, as it was termed; to which the "Otter's Tail" voters (as the Newbury Neck voters were derisively called) bitterly opposed. Jarvis, in closing the debate in his peculiar peppery style, said, "What care I? Not a straw for the froth and foam of the 'Otter's Tail squatters."

Neither passionate appeal nor frenzied accusation could swerve the committee from their purpose. The House was located near Contention Cove. The chosen spot was north of the road, a little to the westward of the Jordan Treworgy house. At the house raising, loyal to the old custom of naming a building when the ridge pole was put up, Parker Wood brought forth this poetical effusion.

The Otter's Tail he'll swing around  
And make the Ellsworth jockeys frown;  
One more thing more we mean to share,  
That one thing will make you stare;  
And that one thing to you I tell  
Dollars 400, for this house and bell.

The Town House, a thing of beauty at first, became an encumbrance after the "set off" in 1829 by which Surry was shorn of one half of its estates and more than three-tenths of its polls. Bitter were the



complaints that the "Town House was just nowhere," that "it was too big," that "it was too expensive," that "East Surry had everything," and for 15 years how to rid themselves of the burden, "worked like madness on the brain" until someone conceived the idea of converting it into a "Union Meeting House."

On the 18th of April, 1844, the Town House was sold to the Surry Union Meeting Society for \$300.00. The deed was made to the Board of Trustees of the Ministerial and School Fund, and was reconveyed by said Board to the Building Committee consisting of Edward L. Jarvis, Marick Ray, William Coggins, Samuel Merrill and Donald Lord. The town reserved the right to hold the town meeting in said house and for such right agreed to pay an annual rental of \$3.00.

Robert Johnson of Blue Hill bargained to move the House to its present site for \$100.00. When it was in readiness to be moved, insurmountable obstacles appeared in the road, particularly from Benjamin Redman's to G. J. Swett's and at the Patten's Gully.

At a council of those "eminent in the wise deport" it was decided to bush a way through the forest growth north of the highland from Solomon Treworgy's to Timothy Finn's. To haul the House required the locomotive power of 26 yoke of oxen and 10 gallons of "jug juice." The starting words were "Every man to his team, every ox to his bow." Not until the going down of the sun on the third day did the House reach its destination, where it stood for 20 years until a conveyance of the lot could be secured which was obtained and put on record.

The Surry Union Meeting House, as it was renamed, when finished for public worship, contained 50 pews. Each pew represented a fiftieth part of the House, so that at the sale of a pew, one fiftieth of the building was thrown in. Under this Prize Gift Plan the 50 parts and 50 pews were sold January 1, 1847, from which day the several deeds take date. The habendum of each deed is of the usual form, in which each grantee and his heirs is to have and hold, etc.

Until the latter years of the 20th century, this building was the center of all municipal activity in Surry. All town meetings were held here generally during the day on the first Monday of March. Local organizations such as a church or the grange would serve dinner at noon. In April, the assessors would convene here for several weeks to establish the tax value on each property for the ensuing year. All elections were held in this building.

Finally in 1980 with the complexities of local government expanding rapidly, it was voted to locate the municipal offices in a contractor/engineer type trailer adjacent to the Bonsey School. Without running water and badly lacking of space, it was voted to build the present Municipal Building and Fire Station in 1986.

In the meantime the Town voted in 1983 to enter into a long term lease with the Surry Historical Society to provide maintenance and upkeep of the property. Regular programs related to the history of Surry are conducted here during the summer months.

## East Surry Tragedy

This article was written by Gerald Lord from the writings of Samuel Wasson and Lord family remembrances.

In the cool of a Tuesday morning, July 11, 1878, six little girls from the East Surry neighborhood went to the head of Lord's Cove to play in the water and swim. Lord's Creek, which flows into the Cove, has high banks and here at high tide many an East Surry youngster had learned to swim by jumping in and paddling to the opposite bank.

The six youngsters ranged in age from 6 to 11 years old. Surely their parents had no knowledge that these little girls were planning to go swimming without supervision.

Three of the children were Minnie Bellatty, age 11, Jessie Sinclair, age 8, and May Belle Sinclair, age 10. All were drowned. The shouts and cries of the children were heard by men haying in a nearby field. For a while they ignored the calls, believing them to be only the shrieks of excited and happy



young girls. By the time the men realized the plight of the youngsters and reached the scene of the tragedy, there was little they could do but retrieve their little bodies from the water.

It was thought that one of the girls, who could not swim, got over her head and that the other two were trying to help her. The children who survived were Ella and Emily Morgan and Lizzie Bellatty, whose ages were 10, 6 and 9.

It is said that the father of one of the young victims was at sea on the fateful day and returned home on the day of the funeral. Walking from Ellsworth, he arrived at the mournful occasion with no prior knowledge.

The great sadness caused by the loss of these young lives hung over the small community for many years.

## Schools

When Surry was organized in 1803 there were four school districts. No. 1 was on Newbury Neck. No. 2 was at Rich's Corner at the intersection of the Newbury Neck and the Cross Road. No. 3 was in Surry Village and No. 4 was in East Surry. When the road through Toddy Pond was constructed in the late 1820's two school districts were organized between 1830 and 1835.



South Surry School House-1900

No. 5 was the Cunningham District, where Cunningham Ridge is today and No. 6 was the Saunders District further west on the Toddy Pond road. In 1836 No. 7 at North Bend was organized, then No. 8 at Morgan Bay. For a few years a No. 9 was organized at Conaryville, located near the



North Bend School House-1911



Reproduction of Surry Village School by Sherburne Prescott Whitney in 1993.





*East Surry School—Photo taken around 1914*

*Back row: (From left) Mabel Morgan, Teacher Marion Lord, Edith Moon, Madalene Kavanaugh.*

*Middle row: Iris Fletcher, Blanche Moon, Juliet Candage, Carolyn Haynes, Gladys Lord, Donald Lord, Julia Treworgy, Charles Murch, Elmer Closson, Alston Wheelden.*

*Sitting: Irving Stevens, Violet Brownstein, Tom Treworgy, Maurice Stevens, Wendell Stanley, Russell Stevens, Richard Lord, Barbara Stanley.*

entrance to the roadway to Atlantic Builders.

The first attempt to maintain a "schoole" in East Surry was in 1795. The schoolmaster went from log house to log house teaching the pupils on a one on one basis to "know the letters" and to say the catechism. The catechism contained 100 questions and answers on the principles then inculcated in the rising generation.

In 1808 on petition of Philip Jarvis, John Farnsworth and Elisha Austin, the selectmen, Leonard Jarvis, Jessie Dunton and Moses Hammond called a meeting of the Middle District in East Surry at which time it was voted "to have a three month man school, to begin the fourth of June." John Farnsworth, who married a daughter of Andrew Flood, served as teacher for \$16.00 per month.

Certainly the most significant school event of the 18th Century was the dedication of the Surry Village School on December 19, 1872. It had been built by Jesse M. Ray for \$2000.00. Herbert Tilden of Lewiston was the first teacher. The school was considered modern for its day sporting a three hole "air conditioned" toilet attached to the building. With no running water,

a big water bucket soothed the throats of pupils by drinking from a tin cup. By the 1920's a water cooler with a spigot assured the school remained modern. Water cups were made, as needed, by folding half sheets of arithmetic paper.

In 1931, the school got electricity and in 1940, chemical toilets were installed. Each spring schools were closed for up to six weeks because the roads were so muddy no motor vehicles could travel on them.

During the early part of the 20th century until 1926 this building was used as a high school. After its closure Surry students chose to go to Ellsworth High School, where they established an invincible record. This was especially true in the early 1940's as evidenced by the following records of Surry students: 1940 Sylvia Whitney, Valedictorian; 1942, George Staten, Valedictorian; 1943, Helen Carter, Salutatorian. Then in 1944 Surry took it all with Charlotte Ingalls, Valedictorian and Lorado Carter as Salutatorian. Later, Wilbur A. Saunders was Salutatorian in 1951.

In the 1930's and until the school closed in 1952 the first four grades were located on the first floor; the second floor contained grades five through





*Surry School, Grades 5 through 8 -1948*

*Back row: (From left) Donald Carter, Walter Kane, Jackie Smith, Jimmy Wood, Polly Anderson, Beverly Kane, Teacher Myra Billington, Dot Douse, Jean Douse, Priscilla Torrey, Earl Stover, Paul Carter.*

*Front row: Roland McAlpine, Charles Crockett, Kenneth Torrey, Clifford Torrey, David Stevens, Stanley Richmond, Jane McGraw, Elaine Stover, Vincent Williams, Virginia Polley, Mildred Young, Eva Awalt, Esther Polley, Julie Stover, Marion Awalt.*

eight. (For a time there was a 9th grade.)

The only reference book in the school was a Lincoln Library book, which was shared by the students. Then in 1939 a wonderful event occurred.

A regional track meet was held in Ellsworth. Surry's top female athletes were Loretta Lessard and Grace McCabe. Kenneth Moon and Mark Young were the top male athletes. Surry won that event and with it



*East Surry School-about 1920*

*Included here are: Linwood Guptill, Maurice Stevens, Bessie Fletcher, Blanche Moon, Gladys Lord, Russell Stevens, Carolyn Haynes, Ray Lord, Donald Lord, Norman Swett, Mrs Hooper, Harold Stevens, Dick Lord, Wendell Sinclair, Irving Stevens, Tom Treworgy, Eugene Moon, Willis Moon.*





*Surry Village School-1916*

*Back row: (From left) Lena Sperry-teacher, Bernice Curtis, Harry Curtis, Susie McGraw, Edmund Wood, Nina Carter, Carlton Carlisle.*

*Middle row: Edith Conary, Lottie Dunton, Richard McGraw, Grace Carter, Arthur Fullerton, Virginia Collins, Marion Gaspar, Charlie Williams, Ruby Anderson.*

*Sitting: Donald Conary, Claude Carter, Willie Williams, Hollis Anderson.*

a full set of encyclopedias. The education of Surry's children after that date was much improved!

A school nurse, Miss Dunphy, came around periodically during the 1930's and 1940's, checking the general health and welfare of Surry's children. A filing in the 1932 Town Report by the nurse listed 64 of the 65 students "defective," a description that could signify anything from dirty fingernails

to lice. No record remains listing the name of that one perfect child.

Hopscotch and London Bridges, marbles and ball games filled the play area adjacent to the school at



*Flood at Surry School-1948*



*Morgan Bay School-about 1912*

*Back row: Abbie Candage, Linwood Candage, Herman Carter, Ada Emerton, Velma Emerton, Florence Morgan, Ethel Morgan, Marion Carter, Harland Carter, Grace Carter, Merrill Carter.*





*Claude L. Bonsey School—1952*

recess time. One memorable event occurred when Phillip Soderquist, a teacher, applied a good right hook to a young tough from picking on smaller kids on the playground. He knocked the boy out. Both parents and other students responded positively to this action.

Finally, after the chemical toilets froze up and other maintenance problems occurred, the school was closed in the spring of 1952.

The new Surry Elementary School was dedicated on August 10, 1952 with Senator Owen Brewster as the principal speaker. Officers of the school district were Claude L. Bonsey, President; Robert T. Carlisle, Treasurer; and Frank G. Whitney, Clerk. Also trustees were Floyd Black and Raymond Jacobs. In 1965, upon the death of Claude L. Bonsey, the school where his wife Rena taught many years, was named after him. Then in the 1980's as the school was expanded and the gymnasium was constructed, it was renamed simply the Surry Elementary School.

The school population increased significantly in the last years of the 20th century. Enrollment was 100 in 1980 to 170 in 1990 and to 218 in 2000. In that latter year the secondary enrollment was 72 with the following split: George Stevens Academy, 37; Ellsworth High School, 27; Liberty School, 4 and John Bapst, 3.

## Civil War

With an 1860 population of 1319, Surry sent 122 men into the Civil War. It is easy to understand what a significant impact this number of men leaving the town had on the economy and lives of those

wives, elderly and children left behind. But the greatest impact had to be on learning of those who had been killed, wounded or died of disease. For instance, 18 Surry men served in the First Maine Heavy Artillery. Of these, six were wounded, three were killed in action and one died of disease. It was a terrible toll, one that had to have caused great sadness and grief among those remaining in Surry.

The 1903 Centennial Book lists the following from Surry who lost their lives in this war: Simpson Carter, James Gaspar, Thomas Conary, Leroy Varnum, Algernon Morgan, William Green, Henry Young, Levi C. Treworgy, Robert S. Grindle and Levi Oliver. Further research shows William S. Carter and George A. Bonsey also died in the war. Further, Thomas Cain, Luther Mann, Alvah Tapley and Leonard Young all died from disease while serving their country. All should be included in the list of those who gave the ultimate.

Mark E. Honey has compiled a detailed list of Surry Civil War soldiers showing the dates and length of their service, the company in which they served, their age, rank and other data. Their names are as follows:

James M. Barber, Gordon E. Blake, Charles E. Bonsey, Joseph S. Bonsey, Samuel A. Bragdon, Alfred J. Bridges, John A. Borgy, Peter Brooks, George L. Butler, William H. Button, Thomas Cain, Robert Carlisle, William S. Carter, George P. Clark, George R. Clark, Thomas Conary, David Corvan, Herman Cousins, Daniel Cronie, William M. Cunningham, Edward Curtis, Erzra N. Curtis, Charles F. Davis, Charles Dorsey, Mark F. Dudley, C. H. Ellis, Thomas Emery, Lyman W. Flood, Simeon Flood, Eli D. Foster, James M. Gaspar, Isaac K. Grant, Richard E. Gray, Mark H. Green, William C. Green, Robert S. Grindle, Robert Grindle, Robert Grinnell, George C. Hagerty, Emelous L. Haines, Ephraim A. Haines, Alvah Haynes, Charles W. Jackson, Charles Johnston, Luther E. Kimball, Samuel E. Kimball, Jon Leach, William H. Lewis, Willard Luckings, Alden H. Mann, Charles E. Mann, Luther Mann, Samuel McDonald, Cain McHany, Samuel J. Merrill, Robert Manward, Algernan Morgan, Franklin W. Morgan, Jack Y. Morgan,





*Head of Surry Bay—about 1913*

John H. Morrill, Micheal Mulligan, David Nichols, Levi C. Oliver, Asa D. Orcutt, Ambrose E. Patten, Benjamin Perow, James Ryan, John W. Saunders, James Shearin, Joel E. Smiley, Nelson Smith, Zebman Smith, William H. Stanley, William H. V. Stratton, Douglas Stewart, Rueben Sweezy, Alvah P. Tapley, Francis W. Townsend, Henry C. Treworgy, Levi C. Treworgy, Willard Treworgy, David Trundy, Russell Treworgy, Samuel Trundy, William Trundy, James Van-Strant, Benjamin Varnum, Leroy H. Varnum, Charles Widger, William J. Willens, George A. Wilson, Thomas Williams, Charles H. Witham, F. W. Witham, Henry R. Young, Jessie L. Young and Leonard Young.

## Ship Building

Seafaring enterprises were a major part of Surry's economy in the 1800's. There were sea captains (Master Mariners) in the Coggins (four generations), Treworgy, Clark, Haskell and Torrey families. The older boys in almost every family went to sea as ordinary seamen. Many of them died at sea.

Shipyards were a significant employer of Surry workmen in Surry village, East Surry and Newbury Neck.

Just to the right of the present boat launching area at the town landing, there is a cove. Started in 1839, the village shipyard was located there. Frank Jellison, who served many years as a Surry selectman, was ten years old in 1873 when he observed the last ship built there. The "Joshua Grindle" was launched there on July 4 with a large community



*Town wharf—1907*



wide celebration which was recalled by his now-deceased son, Howard Jellison.

Nothing is left to show that a once busy shipyard operated at the end of Newbury Neck. This property owned today by Hans A. Huber was owned in the 1930's by Phillips H. Lord, who first gained fame as "Seth Parker" of radio and later as a writer and producer of "Gang Busters."

William Coggins, the Newbury Neck boatyard owner, was an astute businessman as well as an outstanding ship builder. The yard goods sold at the store he operated at Newbury Neck came from Boston, New York and other ports in ships which Coggins owned.

Fred and Clifford Coggins, ancestors of William, and residents of Newbury Neck until the 1950's, saved William's records. They showed for instance that George W. Coggins, son of William, received \$100.00 on his 21st birthday because he did not use tobacco.

Louise, the young wife of George, was stricken with consumption and died at the age of 18.

William paid the bills but charged them to his son. Six bottles of medicine costing \$2.38 were charged against George. After Louise's death the unused medicine was returned by George for which he received credit on his father's books.

The men who built the ships were paid only for the days that they worked. If one of the men needed a rowboat to go to his home at Morgan's Bay or East Blue Hill over a weekend, he was charged fifty cents for the same. Regardless of how proficient a young father was with an axe, adze or saw, he did not receive 75 cents a day (apprentices received fifty cents) per day until he was 21 years old. Each workman furnished his own tools all of which were sold at the store of William Coggins.

## Surry's Two Murders

*This story was taken from a presentation by Mark Honey to the Surry Historical Society.*

Robert Young's murder took place on Grindle



*Death Elms over Patten Stream where Captain Harry Young's murder occurred.*



Hill, later called the Pinnacle, which is the long hill heading to Blue Hill out of Surry Village. It occurred in October 1884.

Robert Grindle was a caretaker for the town poor. Robert Young had been living with him for years. Young, whose wife had predeceased him, had a disease of the hip and was thus a cripple. He was generally described as of a weak and unsound mind at the age of 67, although a gentle man of little danger.

Grindle had been acting strange for sometime. As the tension in the home became unbearable, he ordered his wife, Mercy Grindle, out of the home in September. Mercy was well thought of but neither the family or the community wanted to intrude. Despite his war injuries, Grindle at the age of 69 had a powerful frame and great muscular strength.

When William Conary, a neighbor, entered the home on Monday morning to check on his friend, he found the body of Robert Young lying in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor. He had been dead for more than a day.

The coroner and a medical doctor were summoned. Robert Young had received numerous wounds about the head and body. Simply put, Young had been savagely beaten to death with a sharp pointed instrument. A jury was impaneled. Conary testified that when he entered the house, Robert Grindle, who was standing a few feet from the body, forbade him to proceed further. When the coroner arrived he was found seated in the living room giving the appearance of being insane.

The Grand Jury indicted him for murder and he was committed to the insane asylum in Augusta for observation. The case never went to trial. He resided at the state institution for fifteen years, dying on January 14, 1899 at the age of 84. Robert Grindle and Mercy are buried together at the Village Cemetery.

*From a 1912 edition of The Ellsworth American.*

The second murder was of Captain Harry C. Young. Retired from the sea for five years, he was a prominent helper in the Baptist Church, an Odd Fellow, a Mason and Chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

Captain Young was sixty-eight years of age and

in poor health from cancer of the stomach which created severe cramps. He operated a small general store just off Main Street on the North Bend Road. His habit was to leave the store between 8:00 and 8:30 in the evening for his home a short distance along the Main Street across the bridge. He always carried money from the store with him and he sometimes placed perfume on the bills.

When he did not return home at his accustomed hour, Mrs. Young became alarmed but did not initiate a search for him until near midnight. Going herself to the store, she discovered some grapes scattered on the bridge. Knowing that Captain Young was to bring home some grapes she immediately became suspicious and notified Constable Henry Shapleigh of her find.

The bridge was about fifteen feet above the surface of the stream. Captain Young's body lay just beneath the upper edge of the bridge, the sidewalk side, along which there was a wooden railing about 2 1/2 feet high. The body was found on a log and rocks and was only partially in the water. There was a small cut over his forehead. His watch was in his pocket and running. A small purse containing change was found on the body. The wallet containing the bills was missing. His hat, a bag of beans and a grape basket were found some distance down stream.

There were drops of blood on the bridge and sidewalk indicating that Captain Young must have received a cut on his head before falling from the bridge.

Before the following day was over, a young Surry man, Edwin Goodwin, was intercepted at the Ellsworth train station, as he was about to leave the area. He had several perfumed bills in his possession.

In April 1913, Goodwin was indicted for murder and committed to the insane asylum in Augusta. Finally in October 1913, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Harry Young.

The retelling of this murder has long been a major part of Surry folklore. Until the early 1950's four large elms were located at each corner of the bridge where Goodwin committed the murder. As people walked across the bridge, especially during the Halloween season, there was always a reference to those four "death" elms.





*Smelt fishing on Surry Bay-1912*

## Smelts

When the bay froze over in the winter, a whole new enterprise alive with competition and comradery developed in Surry. Everyone had a smelt tent which was pulled onto the ice by sled. At times it seemed like an entire village of tiny white houses had sprouted over night. Each day saw more added by transients, who came from surrounding communities by the dozens if a whisper of a good catch leaked out.

These smelt tents were made of canvas stretched over a light framework of strapping, having a board floor with a long narrow slit about two or three feet long and ten inches wide across one side. A hole was cut in the ice the same size and through that opening the fisherman dropped six to eight worm baited lines. When the fish started biting, the fisherman,

with the dexterity of a puppeteer, started yanking and pulling the lines, flipping them over his/her shoulder in such a way as to snap the hook free, then re-baited it and threw it back in the hole.

Smelt fishing was at its highest level from the mid-1800's to the mid-1900's. A 1903 Ellsworth American article reports that smelt catchers were having a great success, getting from 25 to 175 pounds each day per man. About seventy-five fishermen were on the ice daily. It was estimated they caught in total a ton each day!

Smelting came to an end in Surry in the 1960's. Some blame the then new Ellsworth Sewer Treatment plant for this problem. Others, and this is even true today, believe that excess fertilizers from adjoining properties has been the culprit. No one knows for



*The Surry fishermen-1903*



sure, but those bountiful supplies of smelts are now gone permanently from Surry's waterfront.

Prominent smelt fishermen during the early and mid-20th century included Dolph, Elmer and Willard Kane, Don and Eugene Conary, Edgar and Alvin Ingalls, Richard and Daniel McGraw, Harold Anderson, Carleton and Vaughn Carlisle, Russell and Harold Stevens, Lloyd Torrey, Merle Bunker, Frank Gibbons, Beatrice Guyer, Doris Carlisle, Jay and Rodney Saunders, Colby, Marty and James Wood, Darbie and Ray Wood, Orville Sanborn, Ira Crissky, Henry Kane, Robert Clough, Danny McKeown and Robert Carlisle.

Perhaps one of Surry's first attempts at establishing governmental rules and regulations was when the 1901 town meeting voted for "No Sunday Fishing." Apparently that was to protect the smelt supply. The vote stated that "cutting holes or moving tents above the Timothy Finn's point on the north and S. S. Woods point on the side of the bay shall only be allowed the last three hours of ebb tide. Further there shall be no sleds hauled or creepers worn past anyone's tent while they are fishing and no other unnecessary noise that will injure fishing."

That same year, and for several years thereafter, the town voted that no clams should be dug. Apparently this was related to maintenance of a proper environment for smelt fishing.

In 1903, the town voted to construct a fish-way for alewives at the stone dam at the foot of Patten Bay. It was always an exciting time each spring as thousands and thousands of alewives made their way up Patten Stream. A smoke house was built adjacent to the stream and each spring the "taking" of alewives was awarded and/or bid out by the Selectmen.

## Centennial

The following was reported in The Ellsworth American on August 12, 1903.

The centennial celebration of the town of Surry occurred on a Thursday in August with 1500 in attendance. The weather was all that could be desired and the town looked its prettiest, decked in bunting

and flags. It was a gala day for Surry and probably the largest crowd was there ever gathered in the good old town.

There was a general reunion of old friends, neighbors and acquaintances, many of whom, far and near, had been looking forward to the day, and who changed the date of their "old home week" to celebrate it as Surry's centennial.

Besides many eloquent speakers, the Lotus male quartet, of Lewiston, took part in the afternoon programme and furnished a concert of high order at the Methodist church in the evening. Lynch's brass band, of Ellsworth Falls, was also in attendance and dispensed sweet music from morn till night.

The celebration was begun by the younger generation about 4 a.m. with the ringing of bells and salutes of cannon crackers and shotguns. At 8 o'clock Lynch's band arrived and gave a concert in front of M. E. Linneken's store.

During the forenoon Surry and Blue Hill baseball teams played a rattling game on the ground near Henry Phillips' residence.

At noon Surry had hard work to feed the multitudes assembled, but feed them they did, and royally, too.

In the afternoon Lynch's band furnished a concert on Capt. W. S. Treworgy's lawn, and following this all were invited to the grove near the Methodist church where a platform had been raised, and here the centennial exercises were held. They began with a prayer by Rev. F. L. Hayward, of Bucksport followed by the response "One Sweetly Solemn Thought" by the Lotus quartet.

Rev. J. D. McGraw made the address of welcome. He spoke briefly of the past, present and future of the town and its people. He spoke of Surry as a model town, in which there was not a rum saloon, nor a drunkard, and where, during his three years residence he had never seen a drunken man, but rather a good and praying people.

Dr. R. L. Grindle, of Mt. Desert, spoke at length on "The Past of Surry." Dr. Grindle was a native of Surry, and lived there from a boy, and knew all about the town. He spoke of the early industries of Surry, of its lumbering, farming and ship building and characterized it as a very busy place as he first



remembered it. In fact, to him it had seemed larger than any city he had since visited, when he first came into the town from the Toddy Pond district where he was born.

Rev. Adelbert L. Hudson, of Newton, Mass., a resident of Surry, as he said, for two months in summer at least, made the eloquent address. He complimented Surry on this appropriate observance of its centennial; he thought that this reunion, the good fellowship and recollections of by gone days, should be an impulse to the town to start out on the next century with new life.

He spoke of the many New England men who had made their mark, particularly in the West. He thought that Maine and Surry had cause to be proud of sons sent away to other states, but he appealed to Surry's sons to remain at home, to preserve the reputation of the town, and look well to its future.

Rev. F. L. Hayward, of Bucksport, in speaking on the "The Future of Surry" touched on the past record of the world and the country, and later on the past of the town. He thought that Surry had more to look forward to; that the town was waking up rather than going to sleep, and that the future looked better than the past.

He referred to the summer visitors, who were beginning to appreciate the beauties and the attractiveness of the town and prophesied that there would be many more in the future. He spoke of the many natural advantages of the town and of the good people who make it what it is. "Look at the past," said he, "and the present and we know that the future is assured."

In the afternoon preceding the formal exercises there was another ball game, this time between teams representing Lakewood and Blue Hill Academy.

In the evening the Methodist church was filled to the doors to listen to the concert by the Lotus male quartet of Lewiston and no one went away disappointed. The quartet is well and favorably known throughout the State, and the Surry management made no mistake in securing its services.

The celebration of Surry's centennial was a great success due to the good work of the committees who arranged the affair, and who are deserving of mention. The list follows: General Committee: President, First Selectman F. T. Jellison; secretary and treasurer, M. E. Linnekan. Other members: E. C. Lord, Mrs. Ellen Hopkins, E. M. Cunningham, Mrs. William E. Emery, W. G. Rich, I. E. Lufkin, Mrs. Sarah Treworgy, Mrs. Nellie Hagerthy, J. F. Staples, Miss Mabel E. Morgan, Mrs. F. T. Jellison, Mrs. Ella Davis, Mrs. Henry Blaisdell, Mrs. R. Sinclair, Mrs. M. E. Linneken, Mrs. J. F. Staples, A. C. Jordan, Mrs. Otis Conary, John W. Staples, F. I. Gasper, Byron Chatto, Mrs. H. H. Harden, Mrs. Harry Young and Miss Tibbetts, of Bangor.

It was too bad those who remained in Surry during the evening could not have been at Seawillows, the picturesque summer home of William P. Stewart at South Surry. Here through the generosity of Mr. Stewart, there was a brilliant display of fireworks, lasting to more than two hours. Mr. Stewart was assisted by Tucker and Templeton Briggs. Mr. Stewart read from his new poem, "The American Women," and Miss Virginia Stewart sang.



*Sea Willows, the summer house of William T. Stuart-1903*





*Surry village in 1910 with wooden sidewalks looking towards Ellsworth.*



*The same location in 2002*



*Surry village in 1903 looking towards Blue Hill.*



*The same location in 2003.*





*The Flood homestead—Built about 1790  
as shown in the 1903 Surry Centennial book.*



*The same house, owned by Jane McGraw  
Smith in 2002*



*Veteran's Memorial Park in 2003*



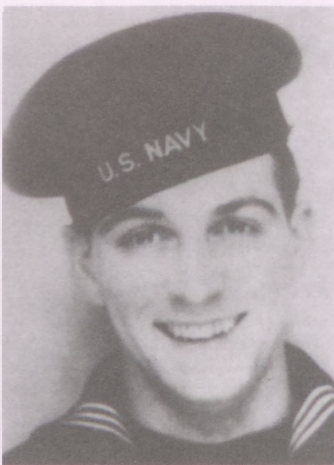
*The same location in about 1925*



## World War II

That fateful day, December 7, 1941, was a day, as President Franklin Roosevelt said, that "will live in infamy." That certainly was true of the feelings of the Surry citizens. Most had no idea where Pearl Harbor was located, but as with thousands of others across the country, they all joined in the war effort. Many enlisted; others were drafted. Still others went to work in shipyards in Bath and South Portland and to other states. It was perhaps the one time in their nation's history, when the entire country pulled together for one single purpose.

With a population of approximately 500, Surry contributed forty people (38 males, 2 females) to the World War II cause. One man, Wilbur McKeown, a 2nd Class Petty Officer, was killed by Japanese bombers at the battle of Savo Island, August 28, 1942, while serving on the USS Quincy, a Navy cruiser.



*Wilbur McKeown*

Surry had been preparing for war as early as 1940, as local citizens raised money with dinners at the Grange Hall to assist Finland in their fight against Russia's invasion. Local rescue teams were trained to handle injuries that might occur from an

invasion or bombing. A look out station was erected at Morgan's Bay, with citizens maintaining all night watches in search of German boats and submarines.

As with all wars, there were some profitable areas. Young boys searched the woods and fields for all metal and rubber tires. In those days, there was no municipal landfill. Instead homeowners dumped rubbish in back of their houses. Searching those individual dumps would frequently result in a gold mine find of old metal, bottles, cans and rubber tires. These items were taken to Willard Kane's store

where he weighed and stored them after paying the "going price" for the same. By the end of World War II, the woods and fields of Surry were free of these polluting items.

Gabriel Heater, a respected reporter, gave the best account of the war's progress and by 1944 was starting his program by saying, "There is good news tonight." And of course such songs as "When the Lights Go On Again All Over The World," "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," "White Cliffs of Dover," "I'll Never Smile Again," and "I'll Be Seeing You" were the most heard on the radio.

When the war ended in August 1945, there was little celebration in Surry because there were so few people around. Besides those in the military service, many were working in the shipyards in South Portland, Bath and Connecticut. One or two cars drove around the village tooting their horns. That was about it.

World War II veterans from Surry, who served during the federally recognized period, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 were as follows:

### WORLD WAR II

Kendall E. Allen  
Osmond C. Bonsey  
Merle F. Bunker  
Jarvis Carter  
Lorado Carter  
Freeman Carter  
Ward Carter  
Vaughn Carlisle  
Paul R. Clough  
Robert H. Clough  
Vernon Crockett  
Galen N. Cunningham  
Philip Cunningham  
Ralph H. Curtis  
Henry Davis  
Albert Gaspar  
Ronald Gaspar  
Lawrence Hamm  
Alvin Ingalls  
John M. Jellison  
Roger E. Kane  
Loretta J. Lessard  
John A. Mann

James H. McAlpine, Jr.  
Willbur H. McKeown\*  
Rodney E. Saunders, Sr.  
Daniel J. Sexton  
Alton F. Smith  
Hiram Smith  
Harold H. Stevens  
Irving Stevens  
Roland D. Taylor  
George Torrey  
Marshall Torrey  
Richard Trundy  
Lawrence A. Webber  
Frank L. Whitney, Jr.  
Sherburne P. Whitney  
Sylvia M. Whitney  
Charles W. Williams  
Harvey A. Young  
Linwood H. Young  
Mark S. Young

\*killed in action



Veterans serving in other wars were:

#### WORLD WAR I

Victor Anderson	Willard Kane
Linwood Candage	Alvah Leach
Paul Clark	Leon Lord
Pearl Carter	Marshall Olds
Clifford Coggins	Ellis Saunders
Almerin Cook	Ralph Torrey
Sherman Cunningham	Charles Treworgy
Hutchie Gaspar	Frank Treworgy
Ray Gray	Andrew Turner

#### KOREAN WAR

Harold Anderson, Jr.	Bert Hill
Richard Black	Robert Jordan
Ronald Candage	Clifton Saunders
Reginald P. Carter	Wilbur A. Saunder
Richard E. Carter	David Stevens
Donald Clark	Earle W. Stover
Carl Conners	Kenneth Torrey
Richard Douse	Gerald Wotten

#### VIETNAM WAR

Charles Bonsey	Lyman Mann
Delmar Buzzell	Reginald Nevells
Bruce Candage	Girard Owen
Stephen Condon	Rodney Saunders, Jr.
Roland Curtis	Thomas Stevens
Cecil Finch	Walter Stevens
Stanley Fowler	Wesley Stevens
David Gray	Douglas Stover
Edward Hanscom	Roger Torrey
Charles Leaf	Emery Walcott
June Lomas (Grindle)	James West, Jr.
James McDonald	Arthur Williams
Clyde Mann	

The above lists have been difficult to verify with 100% accuracy. We apologize for any errors or omissions. On September 15, 2001, a Veterans Memorial Park located at the corner of the North Bend Road and Route 172 was dedicated in memory of the veterans of all wars.



*Surry Town Hall-2002*

## Town Meeting

Town meeting day, always the first Monday of March until the last decade or so, was as significant in the life of Surry citizens as Christmas. Although no public hearings were held prior to townmeeting, the issues were well known and well debated before the gavel came down to start the meeting. Much of the discussion occurred in the





*Election Officials:-1948*

*front row: Sadie Mann, Carrie Floyd, Janet Carlisle, Grace Radloff. Back: Earl Bonsey, Alton Carter, Harry Torrey, Maynard Carter.*

three stores in the village and at Grange meetings. Then, even in the early years of the 20th century, when Surry's population was at a low ebb, the Old Town Hall would be filled when the meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

The first order of business was to elect a moderator. When local issues split the community, there was frequently a contest for that position. The second article was "to hear and act on the report of the Town officers for the past year." This article was among the most hotly debated, especially when the selectmen had made unpopular decisions the previous year.

In 1933, the town meeting lasted three days, with the first two days devoted to the issue of whether or not to accept the report of the town officers for 1932. The citizens finally voted to accept the report after corrections (apparently there were several errors) were made in the annual report. This vote was not rendered by voice or show of hands, but rather by a secret written ballot using the voting list to assure that only legally qualified citizens cast a ballot.

The real winner of this lengthy town meeting was the Grange, which served several meals each of those days instead of its usual one.

The critics, who were usually a handful of the

same people each year, always stood up back. They rarely made long statements, but rather shouted loud "No's" when the vote was taken. One of those was a local storeowner who, in an argument relating to the creation of a fire department to which he was opposed, said, "You don't have a stand to leg on." That statement has remained in the annals of Surry humor for sixty years.

Other than the debates on the town budget, the major issue was the election of selectmen, who also served as overseers of the poor and assessors for the ensuing year. The people were elected as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd selectmen with the 1st selectman serving as the town's municipal leader.



*Surry Village School-1872-1952  
Reunion-1993*



## A list of those serving as selectmen since 1803.

1803:	Moses Adams	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1803-1808	Moses Adams	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1809-1814	Leonard Jarvis	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1815-1819	Philip Jarvis	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1820-1821	Leonard Jarvis	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1822-1824	Calvin Peck	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1825-1828	Donald Lord	Porter Sawyer	Moses Hammond
1829	Donald Lord	Jacob Lord	
1830	Donald Lord	Thomas Haskell	F. A. Jarvis
1831	Jacob Lord	William Morgan	F. A. Jarvis
1832	Jacob Lord	John Clark	William Morgan
1833	Jacob Lord	William Morgan	A. Clark
1834	Donald Lord	Abijah Clark	N. Treworgy
1835-1836	John Clark	Abijah Clark	G. W. Barrett
1837	John Clark	Abijah Clark	N. Treworgy
1838-1840	John Clark	A. Clark	J. F. Wormwood
1841	Robert Hopkins	William Morgan	Sam'l Curtis
1842-1843	Robert Hopkins	Luther Lord	E. Coggins
1844	John Clark	Luther Lord	Sam'l Curtis
1845	John Clark	S. Curtis	M. Ray
1846	Robert Hopkins	S. Curtis	M. Ray
1847	Donald Lord	K. G. Eldridge	A. Treworgy
1848	S. Lord	K. G. Eldridge	A. Treworgy
1849	K. G. Eldridge	Geo. Treworgy	S. G. Green
1850	John Clark	Edwin Wood	Levi Coggins
1851-1853	John Clark	Edwin Wood	F. A. Curtis
1854	E. Wood	Hezekiah Means	L. Grindle
1855	Lowell Grindle	Wm. Coggins	M. Greeley
1856	E. Wood	F. A. Curtis	J. W. Davis
1857	R. Hopkins	K. G. Eldridge	J. T. Morse
1858-1859	I. Lord	Benj. Smith	L. Grindle
1860	Ambrose Patten	John Clark	A. Lord
1861	Ambrose Patten	A. Lord	H. J. Milliken
1862	R. Hopkins	Benj. Smith	John Barrett
1863	John Clark	Sam'l Wasson	E. Cousins
1864	S. Wasson	E. Cousins	Benj. Smith
1865	S. Wasson	A. Lord	F. A. Curtis
1866	S. Wasson	A. Lord	F. A. Curtis
1867	S. Wasson	F. A. Curtis	R. L. Grindle
1868	S. Wasson	N. Hinckley	W. S. Green
1869	S. Wasson	N. Hinckley	R. Hopkins
1870	S. Wasson	N. Hinckley	Geo. Treworgy
1871	S. Wasson	Geo. Treworgy	F. H. Clark
1872	S. Wasson	S. P. Flood	O. P. Carter
1873-1874	S. Wasson	Geo. Treworgy	J. M. Merrill
1875-1876	S. Wasson	Geo. Treworgy	F. W. Witham
1877	N. Hinckley	F. W. Witham	H. H. Eldridge
1878-1879	N. Hinckley	H. H. Eldridge	C. B. Coggins
1881-1882	H. H. Eldridge	C. B. Coggins	Rob't T. Carlisle
1883	H. H. Eldridge	R. T. Carlisle	E. S. Macomber
1884-1885	H. H. Eldridge	R. T. Carlisle	J. A. Milliken



1886-1887	H. H. Eldridge	F. W. Witham	J. C. Young
1888	S. Wasson	W. S. Treworgy	Geo. Grant
1889	E. H. Torrey	J. C. Young	W. R. Milliken
1890	H. H. Eldridge	J. C. Young	W. R. Milliken
1891-1893	E. H. Torrey	J. M. McKenney	W. R. Milliken
1894-1895	E. H. Torrey	W. R. Milliken	H. J. Milliken
1896	E. H. Torrey	W. R. Milliken	F. T. Jellison
1897	E. H. Torrey	F. T. Jellison	D. J. Curtis
1898	E. H. Torrey	D. J. Curtis	E. N. Osgood
1899-1900	F. T. Jellison	D. J. Curtis	E. M. Curtis
1901	F. T. Jellison	E. M. Curtis	S. J. Treworgy
1902	F. T. Jellison	E. M. Curtis	W. C. Rich
1903	F. T. Jellison	E. M. Curtis	W. C. Rich
1904	F. T. Jellison	E. D. Smith	W. C. Rich
1905	F. T. Jellison	E. D. Smith	G. E. Cousins
1906	E. D. Smith	G. E. Cousins	L. F. Treworgy
1907	E. D. Smith	G. E. Cousins	A. H. Mann
1908	E. D. Smith	G. E. Cousins	L. F. Treworgy
1909-1911	E. D. Smith	G. E. Cousins	L. F. Treworgy
1912-1913	G. E. Cousins	J. M. McKenney	M. A. Gaspar
1914-1916	G. E. Cousins	M. A. Gaspar	L. F. Treworgy
1917	G. E. Cousins	L. F. Treworgy	H. H. Clark
1918-1920	F. T. Jellison	L. F. Treworgy	H. H. Clark
1921	H. H. Clark	F. H. Treworgy	A. A. Carter
1922	F. T. Jellison	F. H. Treworgy	A. A. Carter
1923	F. T. Jellison	F. H. Treworgy	A. A. Carter
1924	F. T. Jellison	C. M. Coulter	D. L. Kane
1925	F. T. Jellison	C. M. Coulter	D. L. Kane
1926	F. T. Jellison	W. W. Williams	R. C. Witham
1927	F. T. Jellison	G. E. Kane	C. S. Freethy
1928	F. T. Jellison	W. W. Williams	R. L. Witham
1929-1930	F. T. Jellison	W. W. Williams	R. L. Witham
1931	F. T. Jellison	W. W. Williams	C. L. Bonsey
1932	F. T. Jellison	R. L. Witham	C. L. Bonsey
1933	J. F. Rowan	D. L. Kane	C. L. Bonsey
1934	F. T. Jellison	D. L. Kane	C. L. Bonsey
1935	F. T. Jellison	H. C. Saunders	C. L. Bonsey
1936	Claude L. Bonsey	Harvey C. Saunders	Alton A. Carter
1937-1939	Alton A. Carter	H. C. Saunders	M. S. Carter
1940	J. F. Rowan	A. L. Shorey	M. S. Carter
1941	A. A. Carter	A. L. Shorey	M. S. Carter
1942	A. A. Carter	M. S. Carter	R. T. Carlisle
1943	A. A. Carter	M. S. Carter	Harry C. Torrey
1944-1950	Alton A. Carter	Maynard S. Carter	Harry C. Torrey
1951	Alton A. Carter	Harry C. Torrey	Robert T. Carlisle, Jr.
1952	Alton A. Carter	Harry C. Torrey	Raymond L. Jacobs
1953	Alton A. Carter	Harry C. Torrey	Joseph F. Telford
1954	Alton A. Carter	Joseph F. Telford	Harry C. Torrey
1955	Alton A. Carter	Joseph F. Telford	Claude L. Bonsey
1956-1957	Alton A. Carter	Joseph F. Telford	Claude L. Bonsey
1958	Alton A. Carter	Joseph F. Telford	George E. Kane
1959-1960	Alton A. Carter	Joseph F. Telford	George E. Kane
1961	Alton A. Carter	Vaughn Carlisle	George E. Kane



1962	Alton A. Carter	Vaughn Carlisle	George E. Kane
1963	Alton A. Carter	Vaughn Carlisle	Luther Carter
1964	Alton A. Carter	Arthur B. Baribault	Carl G. Engstrom
1965	Alton A. Carter	Carl G. Engstrom	Arthur B. Baribault
1966-1969	Alton A. Carter	Carl G. Engstrom	Arthur B. Baribault
1970	Alton A. Carter	Carl G. Engstrom	John C. House
1971	Alton A. Carter	Carl G. Engstrom	W. Brooks Candage
1972-1973	Carl G. Engstrom	W. Brooks Candage	Willard Leatherbee
1974	Carl G. Engstrom	Robert Rosie	Arthur B. Baribault
1975	Carl G. Engstrom	Wayne McGraw	Arthur A. Baribault
1976	Wayne McGraw	William C. Caddoo	Alfreda Daigle
1977	William C. Caddoo	Alfreda Daigle	Charles Leaf
1978	William C. Caddoo	David Danielson	Joy Small
1979	Robert Carlisle, Jr.	David Danielson	Joy Small
1980	Wilbur A. Saunders	Phyllis P. Bemiss	Roger B. McFarland
1981-1982	Wilbur A. Saunders	Roger B. McFarland	Bernard F. Fitzpatrick
1983-1984	Wilbur A. Saunders	Phyllis P. Bemiss	Bernard F. Fitzpatrick
1985-1991	Wilbur A. Saunders	Thomas H. Stevens	Jane M. Lord
1992	Wilbur A. Saunders	Thomas H. Stevens	Stephen D. Bemiss
1993	Wilbur A. Saunders	Stephen D. Bemiss	Jane M. Lord
1994-1999	Wilbur A. Saunders	Stephen D. Bemiss	Jane M. Lord
2000	Wilbur A. Saunders	Stephen D. Bemiss	Patricia H. Jencks
2001	Wilbur A. Saunders	Patricia H. Jencks	Diane McNeal
2002	Wilbur A. Saunders	Patricia H. Jencks	Diane McNeal

## Arbutus Grange No. 450

Arbutus Grange was officially organized on April 4, 1905 at a meeting held in the United Workman's Hall later to become the grocery store of Willard E. Kane. The lodge hall was upstairs and the dining room was downstairs. Twenty-seven people were present as charter members.

The first officers were Master, Frank Jellison; Overseer, Josie Kane; Lecturer, Addie Linnekin; Chaplin, Rose Curtis; Stewart, Albert Treworgy; Assistant Steward, Otis Carter; Gate Keeper, Edgar Withee; Secretary, Ella Jarvis; Treasurer, Henry Milliken; Ceres, Isabelle Smith; Pomona, Rose Carter; Flora, Mattie Dow; Lady Assistant Stewart, Laura Treworgy.

In 1910 the Methodist Society decided to sell its church building and construct another. The Grange bought the land and buildings, remodeling it into a hall. In 1925 a dining room and kitchen were added. In 1932 the horse stables at the rear were



*Arbutus Grange float at Surry Day-1966  
Driven by Otto Trundy.*

built into a large wood shed.

On April 19, 1939 the entire hall was consumed by a fire attributed to defective wiring. Although having only \$2000.00 for insurance, before the ashes were cold it was decided to build a new hall on



the same site. Fortunately nearly all of the regular records and furniture were saved. Grange meetings were held in the adjacent town hall and plans for a new building rapidly took place. On November 3, 1939 the new hall was dedicated. At about this period the Grange voted to sponsor a Juvenile Grange. Sadie Mann volunteered to be the Worthy Matron. Bessie Bourne and Aurelia Hooper followed her in that position.

Several of the first officers of the Juvenile Grange were Master, Charles Williams; Overseer, Roger Kane; Lecturer, Altina Frost; Steward, Osmond Bonsey; Assistant Stewart, Prescott Whitney; Lady Assistant Stewart, Lorraine Frost. Other early members were Marie Williams, Marjorie Carlisle, Joan Williams, Natalie Bonsey, Charlotte Ingalls, Helen Carter, Paul Clough, Donald Connors, Howard Young, Mabel Leach, Everett Young, Richard Carter, Juanita Smith,

Gladys Lynch, Pauline and Betty Anderson, Barbara Carter, Loretta Lessard and Kendall Allen.

In terms of the total community perhaps the Saturday night dances held here during the 1940's and 1950's are the most memorable events related to the Grange Hall. With a three piece band, young and old gathered for a full evening of dancing always concluding with the song "Good Night Ladies."

## The Surry Playhouse

On July 5, 1929 the first play was presented by the Surry Theatre Company at the Surry Play House. That summer several actors and producers from New York opened the theatre. Through the 1930's several famous actors and actresses appeared here including Anne Revere, Sheppard Strudwick, Henry Fonda, Joseph Cotton and Dorothy



*The Surry Playhouse-1946*



Matthews, James Cagney's leading lady.

After being closed for seven years because of World War II, it reopened in 1946 under the auspices of a new Broadway group. The producer was Charles O. Carey. Among the plays presented during this final seven years of its existence were "Kiss and Tell," "Blithe Spirit," "Claudia," "Little Women," "Wuthering Heights," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" and "A Date with Judy."

The most popular actress during this period, one fondly remembered by all who saw her, was Mary Grace Canfield, who starred in numerous plays, and for a time, was married to Charles O. Carey. Other actors and actresses included Edward Everett Horton, Barney Hughes, Mary Maley and Dennis Harrison.

The Surry Play House was the place to be on a warm summer evening. The lobby with its huge fireplace, leather seats and chauffeurs driving up the circular driveway, was the talk of the evening for the three hundred who regularly attended the plays.

## Surry Opera Company

From a worldwide perspective, the Surry Opera Company has truly put the Town of Surry on the map. And that Opera Company is all the work of one man, Walter Nowick.

Walter Nowick grew up on Long Island, New York. He spent several summers in his early youth taking piano lessons from Henreitta Michelson, who brought him to Surry, while teaching at Julliard, where Nowick studied. Later he spent 16 years in a Zen Monastery in Japan before coming to Maine to found a Zendo here. He then founded the Surry Opera Company as an instrument of international cooperation between Americans and Russians during the Cold War.

The grass roots troupe included clam diggers, saw mill workers, architects, and librarians, most of them musically illiterate. They sang side by side with their Russian counterparts in performances of



Surry Opera Company



"Aida," "The Magic Flute," "Boris Godunov," and other operas, both in Maine and the former Soviet Union, Japan and France.

## Rural Hall

On the ninth of March 1870, a group of East Surry citizens met at the East Surry School House and formed the Rural Hall Association. They elected Samuel Wasson, president; Luther Lord, secretary and Charles Treworgy, treasurer.

It was decided to sell shares in the association for the price of \$10.00 per share. Each share entitled the holder one vote. A board of managers was also elected. Their duties were to supervise the purchase of materials to erect the hall and maintain it after its completion. The Board of Managers also were to establish a rent to be charged to those using the hall.

The rent collected was to be semi-annually divided among the stockholders unless needed for repairs. The stockholders intended to profit from their investment.

On the 23rd of March, the association met at the home of Samuel Wasson. They voted to borrow a sum of money to start construction and to sell a total of 250 shares.

The hall was raised, boarded and shingled in 1871. It was finished outside and windows built in 1872. The chimney was built in 1873. Morse Brothers finished the inside in 1875. It was plastered in 1876. The chandelier was furnished in 1877 and the settees were purchased in 1878.

The Excelsior Sewing Circle of East Surry raised over \$1200.00 towards the construction of the building by selling items of clothing that they made.

Some of the organizations and groups that have



Rural Hall



used the hall over the years are The Excelsior Sewing Circle, Farmer's Club, East Surry Sunday School, East Surry Extension and the Surry Garden Club.

The Rural Hall Association is still an active group made up of East Surry citizens who continue to look after the hall.

Centennial Souvenir Book of Surry telling of its citizens strong sentiment in favor of religion, temperance and civic righteousness. In an Ellsworth American article he later stated that every man, woman and child was a Baptist, Methodist, Universalist or an Adventist in the 19th century.



*Surry Methodist Church*

## Churches

The history of the Surry churches is somewhat difficult to decipher. Much is written about Benjamin Lord, the pastor of the Surry Baptist church in the early 1800's. This church, however, was located on the west side of the Union River in Ellsworth. For a time it was called the Surry-Ellsworth Baptist church with much of its "so-called" Surry congregation being those residents in the area later transferred to Ellsworth.

Dr. Robert Grindle wrote an article in the 1903

The Adventists held their meeting in the North Bend school house. They set the day for the coming of the Lord in 1854. As the appointed day neared, the Adventists talked of nothing but spiritual things. Their favorite hymn was "We are going home to die no more. We are going to die in fifty-four." Parker Wood, who took little stock in Adventism, said they should now sing, "We are going home in fifty-five, dead or alive."

The Union Church at Newbury Neck was built in 1854 across from the Bayview Cemetery. Like the other churches, it was used also as a meetinghouse for the neighborhood. By the early 1900's it became





*South Surry Union Church-1890*

inactive as a church, although it did house for many years the books of Corrine Stewart, which were given to the community when the Stewart summer home was deteriorating.

The Methodist Church at Morgan's Bay, built in 1844, was active at the time of the Centennial but soon ceased to be used and by the 1950's was torn down.

West Surry had two churches in the late 19th century with the Mormon Church being the basic religion.

Where or when the first religious services were held in Surry is not known. At a reorganization of the Baptist Society, in 1850, mention was made that there had been a Baptist organization for forty- four

years. That would make 1806 as the year of its organization. It is very probable that the Methodist Society was organized at an equally early date.

There were no church buildings for the first few years. Meetings were held in the various school houses. Then when the Union Meeting House was built in East Surry, both denominations held services in that building.

In 1884, the Methodist Society decided to build its own church building on the lot where the Arbutus Grange now stands. Between 1855 and 1860 the Methodist Society bought the lot and house where Betty Stevens lives today on Route 172 as a parsonage. Sometime after that a small chapel was built on the lot. In 1911 the Methodist Society





*Morgan Bay Union Church—1911*

sold their original church building to Arbutus Grange and enlarged the chapel on the parsonage lot into a church building. In 1947 the Methodist Society bought the present church building from the Baptists and the church building by the parsonage was torn down. Later the parsonage was sold as a private residence.

Until 1862 the Baptists continued to meet in today's "Old Town Hall." That year they purchased the present church lot and erected a large church..

During the evening of October 25, 1895, disaster struck. A fire started in the store on the site where the Memorial Park now stands. It not only consumed the store, but also a house, as well as the church building.

Parishioners immediately voted to rebuild and on April 25, 1896, exactly six months to the day, the first service was held in the present building. Such services have continued to the present time.



## A Potpourri of Interesting Facts

In preparing this history there were certain significant matters that justified separate chapters. Those have been previously shown, but many items were more in the category of odds and ends. Some are brief; others are more extensive. All are important in showing the true history of Surry. They are as follows in no special order.

- Frank Treworgy was the only Surry resident to serve in the legislature in the 20th century. He served in 1905 and 1906. Among those who served in the 19th century were Frank T. Jellison, Rufus Grindle, Jesse Ray, Edwin Torrey, Samuel Wasson, John Merrill, Henry Milliken, Donald Lord, Charles Jarvis and John Richards.

- Edward Martin and Porter Sawyer were Surry's two licensed rum runners in 1806.

- For several years during the late 1940's and early 1950's, Pearl Carter ran a small store in Conaryville (Blue Hill road). His pinball machine was a special attraction to the youth of that era. Pearl always gave away many free games.

- The Fourth of July was the most celebrated holiday in the early part of the 20th century. The teenage boys stayed up late. One year Annie Warren's back house was tipped over. Another year a smelt tent was placed on top of Forest Carter's store. Always the church bell was rung at midnight.

- Sterling Anderson, a hard working farmer, who lived in the village, attempted to cross the frozen Surry Bay with his horse the winter of 1943. The horse fell through the ice creating major excitement for the residents in the village area. After considerable help from neighbors, Sterling was successful in getting the horse to the other side.

- Surry was well known for its sports teams in the 1930's and 1940's. At that time they were

known as the Pirates. Carleton Carlisle was the center on the basketball team that played all of its homes games in the Old Town Hall which always had a full house of spectators on the stage.

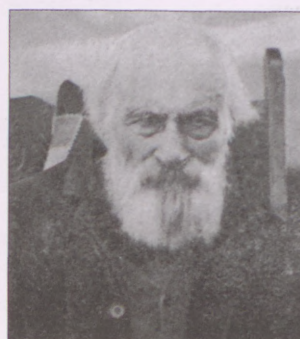
- The Surry Pirates baseball team in 1949 consisted of Alvin Ingalls, Ron Briggs, Osmond Bonsey, Richard Douse, Paul Clough, Bill Gradie, Donnie Hooper, Philip Atherton, Danny McKeown, Al Black, Harvard Bellatty, Charles Williams, Alan Stratton, Donald Connors and Bobby Anderson.

- Perhaps Surry's best baseball player ever was Dan Kane who was the right fielder for the University of Maine in the 1986 College World Series.

- Ray Gray trapped twelve skunks at Newbury Neck in a two week period in 1910.

- In the 1930's, the town became sharply divided on several municipal issues. Names were created for both sides, one being Tamaney Hall, the other being Ring Tails.

- Samuel Young, born in 1780, had 24 grandsons so it is easy to understand why he was the ancestor of so many Newbury Neck families.



Left: Darious Saunders, pictured in 1903 centennial souvenir book. Great, great grandfather of Wilbur Saunders.

Right: Wilbur Saunders, Chairman, board of selectmen.

- Darrius Saunders was 89 years old at the time of Surry's Centennial in 1903. He was then Surry's oldest male citizen. His great grandson, Wilbur A. Saunders, is currently the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.



- A few friends were invited to the home of Willis Wilkins and wife at Toddy Pond on March 5, 1910 for their 25th wedding anniversary. There was a phonograph entertainment in the evening.

- 1939 grocery prices (when Willard Kane's store opened): butter, 31 cents per pound; oranges, 35 cents for two dozen; pork chops, 25 cents per pound; cigarettes, 2 packages for 25 cents; toilet paper, 2 rolls for 19 cents; and 4 cans of beans 25 cents.

- Phillips H. Lord was Surry's Howard Hughes. A graduate of Bowdoin College, he was appointed principal of Plainville High School in Connecticut at the age of 22. Two years later he wrote a script for a radio program titled "Seth Parker" with the setting in Jonesport, Maine. Its focus was on religion in both serious and humorous veins. Later he created other radio programs including the popular "Gang Busters." In the mid 1930's Mr. Lord purchased properties at the end of Newbury Neck (presently owned by Hans Huber). Later he purchased land in East Surry and created The Gatherings, a popular summer spot for campers.



*Contention Cove Express—1890*

- The first mail through Surry was in 1795.
- The goods and estate of Thomas Coggins to the value of \$20.00 was attached by Moses Hammond, a Justice of Peace, on November 12, 1822 for his failure to attend exercises of the militia at the usual place of a parade in Surry.



*East Surry post office—Early 1900's*

- Lena A. Sperry, teacher, gave Ada Emerton, the following ranks on May 12, 1911: reading 98; grammar 98; written spelling 100; history 85; geography 100; arithmetic 94 and physiology 100. Her overall standing in the class was 99 3/8.

- Octogerarian, Lyman L. Lord, 86, took as his bride, Mabelle C. Treworgy age 60, both of Surry in April, 1947. She was the daughter of Francis H. and Agnes Haskell Clark, while her husband was the son of the late Capt. Samuel and Mary P. Lord, all of Surry.

- By the autumn of 1784, the shore line from Turner's Hill to Patten Bay was well settled and, at "No Man's Cape's" as Newbury Neck was called, there were a number of settlers from "Old" Newbury, Massachusetts. The Clarks, Treworgys and Youngs are descendants of men who settled in Old Newbury.

- The most famous elected official from Surry was Leonard F. Jarvis, who served as a member of Congress for three terms in 1831, 1833 and 1835.

- Andrew Flood, Sr., one of the earliest settlers, came with his wife and two children from Cheshire, N.H. and erected a log cabin on the shore in East Surry.

- Officers of the Arbutus Grange in 1939 were Master, Justin Frost; Overseer, Edwin Mack; Lecturer, Claude L. Bonsey; Steward, Luther Carter; Asst. Steward, George Torrey; Chaplin, Rena





*The mill at North Bend*

Bonsey; Treasurer, Stella Conary; Secretary, Amy Jordan; Gatekeeper, Wesley Mack; Ceres, Inez Frost; Pomona, Venetia Gaspar; Flora, Myra Boyd; Lady Asst. Stewart, Virginia Harvey.

- Manufacturers in 1903 were Gaspar Bros., lumber; C. P. Jarvis, carriages; Edward Cousins, John A. Bonsey, smiths; Vanden Lord, Alston Milliken, painters; A. L. Treworgy, carder; Jesse M. Ray, H. C. Wood, Willis Rich, John Young, E.E. Swett, Manuel Gaspar, E. C. Withee, carpenters; Henry C. Wood, grist mill and Saunders Co., shingles.

- Prominent summer people at Newbury Neck in the late 1800's and early 1900's were William P. Stewart, Salmon W. Wilder, Robert H. Delafield and Edward Briggs.

- The mill at North Bend was built in the 1840's. They made long lumber, cut shingles and staves. It lasted until 1945.

- Susie McGraw was principal of Surry High School in 1925.

- The vessel which brought the first party of settlers into this area came to anchor at Oak Point. With the incoming afternoon tide, the boat's crew started for Weymouth's Point but got lost in the fog and ended up at high head bluff, where the steamboat wharf was located in the late 19th century. The next morning a fierce dispute developed as to where they would settle. The squad finally divided and thus the name of Contention Cove was created.



- The original Newbury Neck Road went down to Morgan's Bay, then along the Cross Road to the Neck and down from there. There was much debate prior to locating it in the early 1800's by the Conary place and around the sharp corner.

- Merchants in 1896 were H. R. Treworgy, Levar Carter, J. T. Carter, N. Osgood, F. H. Harden and Eben Chatto, all general stores.

- The original Manoel Gaspar was a full blooded Portuguese born on the Azore Islands in 1790. All other Gaspars followed from him.

- On Flood Stream there was a grist mill just below the bridge on land where Marshall Torrey's house is located.

- The cove to the right of the current boat launching area is where the major shipyard was located. It was started in 1839 with the last ship, The Joshua Grindle, launched in 1873.

- The residents of the Toddy Pond Road first had electricity in 1947.

- Frank T. Jellison lived on Bartlett's Island in the 1870's. When a boy, his family used to come across to Newbury Neck and trade at Holly Harden's store.



*Surry Municipal building-2003*

- Toddy Pond was originally a part of the Eastern River Plantation, an area including parts of Blue Hill, Penobscot, Orland and Surry. The name was phased out of legal deeds in the mid 1800's.

- The fire department was created on March 12, 1947 with Luther Carter as the first chief.

- The Surry Community Improvement Association was founded in 1971 with Danny McGraw as its first President.

- In 1903 the town meeting voted to allow Charles H. Emery to change the road at the Carrying Place to the west of his building and avoid the muck hole bridge at his expense.



*View of Toddy pond.*





*Geo E. Kane & Son Store-1948*

- The three grocery stores in Surry in the mid 1940's were Geo.E. Kane (and Roger), Willard Kane and Forest Carter. Fred and Clifford Coggins had a small store at Newbury Neck.

- In a West Surry news item in the December 1936 Ellsworth American, it was reported the men cleaned out ice houses, ready to harvest ice with there being about a foot of ice already in the pond. In the same edition it was stated that Harvey Saunders has a new radio.

- In 1905 East Surry students Earl Mann, Clarence Smith and Harvey Treworgy attended high school at the village. The Ellsworth American reported there were others who might have gone but were afraid of the examinations.

- During the storm of February 20, 1934, the school bus left the village at noon arriving at South Surry at 3:00 o'clock. The children walked the last half mile. James Moody brought the youngest boy, Linwood Young, on his back. Justin Frost drove the bus.

- Allan and Patty Fitch opened the Bay Market in 1993.

- Alton A. Carter served 35 years as a Surry Selectman.

- Moses Hammond, Andrew Flood and Sterling Hopkins served in the Revolutionary War from Surry. Benjamin Milliken was the only Loyalist on record.





*Hackmatack Tea Room—near house of Gerald & Jane Lord—1930*

- The Surry High Class of 1918 consisted of Amy Jordan, Howard Jellison and Mira Lord.

- When Surry was part of School Administrative District 66, high school students were transported for the first time at the expense of the town. After the District was dissolved, the town transported students to both Ellsworth High School and George Stevens Academy.

- William P. Stewart was born on Valentine's Day and used the name Valentine Stewart in all of his writings. He became an executive of the New York Mutual Insurance Company. He purchased a lot at Newbury Neck originally owned by John Young. By 1890 it was a beautiful mansion with gables and gingerbread trimming of that period. It was named "Seawillows." His wife Corrine was an author who had a wonderful library ultimately given to the residents of Newbury Neck. She died of a bullet wound while cleaning a revolver.



*The Carrying Place*





*Contention Cove*

- The steamboat wharf was built in 1891. In 1910, the buildings on it burned and the wharf was allowed to go into disrepair.

- The Surry Garden Club was organized in 1937 with Harvey Saunders as President.

- The Claude L. Bonsey school was renamed The Surry Elementary School in 1980.

- Charles Orcutt and Fred Coggins walked across the bay and back from Newbury Neck to the Mount Desert bridge on March 20, 1918. Ice boats were still in the bay and no sign of ice break up was seen.



*Surry Elementary School-2003*





*East Surry Sewing Circle—around 1900*

*Front row: Sophia Treworgy, Catherine Moon, Susan Lord, Nancy Bellatty, Gertrude Hammond  
Back row: Fannie Sinclair, Angelita Clark, Nancy Dodge, Unknown, Unknown, Del Chatto*

- Tradition has it that when the British occupied Castine, they built a crude bridge across a narrow stretch of Toddy Pond. From that bridge a careless soldier dropped a bottle of Toddy, thus giving the pond its name.

- Surry census population figures are as follows: 1790, 239; 1800, 412; 1810, 360; 1820, 428; 1830, 975; 1840, 857; 1850, 1189; 1860, 1319; 1870, 1242; 1880, 1184; 1890, 986; 1900, 900; 1910, 734; 1920, 658; 1930, 488; 1940, 497; 1950, 448; 1960, 547; 1970, 600; 1980, 894; 1990, 1004; 2000, 1361.

- Eastern River Inn was located at Toddy Pond on the Trundy property at Trundy's Hollow. This building was later a store and also had a small post office in it.

- The Surry Tigers 1998-99 boy's basketball team included A. J. Cunningham, Ross Theriault, Jared Benner, Chris Sargent, Robert Gray, Tim Smith, Tony and Alan Morse, Vince, Rick and Ryan Ramos, Ryan Campbell, Brad Dunham, Bryan Gashlin, Nick Newenham, Tim Lee, Josh Tuttle, Bo Jordan, Patrick Raspante, Sam Guilford, Justin Smith and Daniel Paige. Coach: Dick Bishop.

- The Surry Tigers 1999 -2000 girl's basketball team included Lindsay Smith, Rachelle Parker, Krystal Roberts, Anna Garvey, Bethany Roberts, Bobbi Hodgkins, Natasha Robbins, Ashley Danico, Laura Driscoll, Sara Griffith, Janeka Haass. Coach: Darlene Kaspala.

- Roy Moon, also a student at the Surry Elementary School, designed the Town of Surry's Logo and letterhead.





*Celebration and Fundraising Committee:*

*Back row: Midge Smith, Patricia Fitch, Virginia Hawrylycz, Jane McGraw, Majorie Saunders.*

*Front row: Jonathan Thomas, Kim Fitch, Earle Farley, Becky Farley.*

- **Administrative Assistants:** Surry changed its form of local government in 1981 by creating the position of Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen, thus giving the town a professional administrator. Serving in that capacity has been John F. White from 1981 to 1983; S. Lee Buchanan for six months in 1983 and Jonathan L. Thomas from September 1983 to the present.



*The Bicentennial Committee:*

*Wilbur Saunders—chairman, Osmond Bonsey, Joy Ingalls Small, Jane Lord, Karen Chandler*

- Corey Long, a student at the Surry Elementary School designed the Loon license plate, which is a conservation plate.

- The present holder of the Boston Post Gold Headed Cane is Stanley Lane. This is passed on to the oldest living resident of Surry, who is residing in the town. Other past recipients include Ethel Torrey, Winnifred Lord, Ethel Carey, Eva Treworgy, Winfield Treworgy, Green Sinclair, and Madelina Young.

- Paige Saunders and Travis Higgins have been crowned queen and king of the Surry Bicentennial. Elizabeth Salois and Tyler Beardsley are princess and prince. Lisa Pinkham, Chloe Gaffney-Kessel, Christopher Salois and Jaime Hunt are members of the royal court.

- Margaret Callahan, a well known movie actress in the 1930's and 1940's lived where Surry Inn is located today.

- Jay Gallison owned the first car in Surry in 1909.

- Capt. Newell J. Kane and his crew of three men were lost at sea on the two masted schooner, Nellie Grant, on October 10, 1925.



*Bicentennial King & Queen—2003,  
Page Saunders and Travis Higgins*



## The Author

Osmond C. Bonsey comes from a long lineage of Surry people. His great great grandparents, Robert Bonsey and Susan Young and Benjamin Young Jr. and Ann Booker Wheeler were residents of Surry in the early 1800s. His great grandfather, John A. Bonsey, married Mary Olive Tinker Young and resided at Newbury Neck. His grandfather, Hollis A. Bonsey, and grandmother, Jennie M. Brown, lived in a house at Newbury Neck originally built in 1833 by Benjamin Young Jr.

Osmond Bonsey's father, Claude L. Bonsey, was a Surry selectman for several years, while his mother, Rena M. Bonsey, was a school teacher in Surry both at Rich's Corner and the Surry Village School. Following Claude's death, the Surry Elementary School was named the Claude L. Bonsey School.

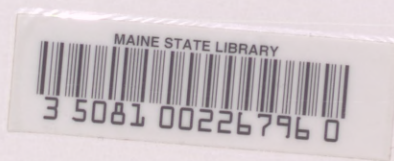
In 1952 Osmond married Ann M. McGraw who is a descendant of the Millikens and McGraws, long time residents of Surry. Their daughter, Lynn, has been a teacher at the Surry school for almost a decade. Other children of Ann and Osmond are Lorna and Cameron.

Osmond is a graduate of Ellsworth High School and the University of Maine where he received a degree in Public Administration. For forty years he served as a professional municipal administrator in Corinth, Mars Hill, Freeport, Falmouth, and Yarmouth, and as Executive Director of the Greater Portland Council of Governments. During this same period he served terms as President of the Maine Municipal Association and The International City Management Association, and as Chairman of the State Board of Environmental Protection.









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Bonsey, Osmond C.

Surry, Maine.

GAYLORD F



