Friends of Doubling Point Light Newsletter 2012



Photo Courtesy of Bonnie McGowan

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) Passing the Lighthouse

The latest of 62 Arleigh Burke destroyers, 34 of them built at the Bath Iron Works, departed Sept. 5th to be commissioned in New York City. Onlookers saluted its passage from their boats, from docks, and from all good vantage points along the Kennebec River between Bath and the ocean entry at Popham Beach. The walkway at Doubling Point was one such perfect spot. This impressive ship honors the late Navy Seal, Lt. Michael P. Murphy. Lt. Murphy heroically diverted the attention of the Taliban away from those under his command, while calling for reinforcements. This cost him his life. Michael Murphy became the first Medal of Honor recipient for action in Afghanistan and the first member of the U.S. Navy to be so honored since the Vietnam conflict.

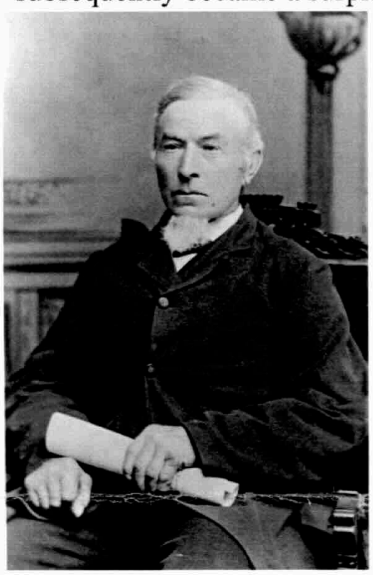
MAINE LIGHTHOUSE DAY:

Tourists from as far away as Canada and Florida, and "locals" from as near as Bath and Georgetown, visited Doubling Point on Saturday, Sept. 15, for the 4th annual statewide event. After early gray skies, the day turned bright and breezy and the numbers of visitors picked up, until the final count over the six hour event reached 110. Once again, Karen McLean, USCG ret., the last Keeper at the Range

Lights and in charge of operations at Doubling Point Light during that time, welcomed all who climbed the tower steps and answered the broad range of their questions. Bonnie McGowan and Joyce Spencer greeted visitors, while Jim Spencer, from the Lighthouse board, stood post on the walkway to relate bits of lighthouse and maritime history. From the mid to late 19th century, 3,000 vessels, large and small, plied the river highway of the Kennebec each year. This was a busy place!

PINKHAM PHOTOGRAPHS and FAMILY:

Late last year we received an email from Glenda Dunning Mitchell, introducing herself as a great-great granddaughter of Merritt Parker Pinkham. Merritt Pinkham was the first and longest serving Keeper at Doubling Point Light, from 1898-1931. We eventually arranged a meeting for March 19, 2012, at Doubling Point Light and Keeper's Cottage. Glenda brought other family members with her, including her sister, Brenda Dunning Deojay, and two great-granddaughters of Pinkham, sisters Madelyn Holbrook Freeman and Patricia (Pat) Holbrook Worden. This first line of descendants comes from the marriage of Merritt Pinkham to Mary Catherine Marr, who bore two children, Mabel and Earle, before her premature death at age 33. In the following months we had two more wonderful visits from Glenda and family, including one with her mother, Marilyn Holbrook Dunning. Meanwhile, Glenda and her aunt Pat combed through a treasure trove of old family photos which subsequently became a surprise gift to Doubling Point in the form of a computer generated book of family history. The delightful photos inside, identified by name and date, have now expanded our permanent lighthouse archive! We are so grateful to Glenda Mitchell for her enthusiasm, hours of research and computer skills! Her photographic story complements the very first Pinkham pictures brought to us by Barbara Hall, who arrived on Maine Open Lighthouse Day three years ago. Barbara Jean Wick Hall is the granddaughter of Merritt Pinkham through his second wife, Isa Carleton Stinson. Great gaps in the history of the Doubling Point Light have been filled. Remarkable!



Ephriam Pinkham, Merritt's father



Merritt Pinkham's watch keepers

OUR 501c3 NON-PROFIT STATUS:

The Friends of Doubling Point Light has had 501c3 charity status since its founding over a dozen years ago. We are all volunteers and appreciate the generosity of our membership contributors who help us maintain this small but historic lighthouse on the mighty Kennebec River. We thank GWI net for their support and invite you to visit us in person, year round, or at www.doublingpoint.org.