

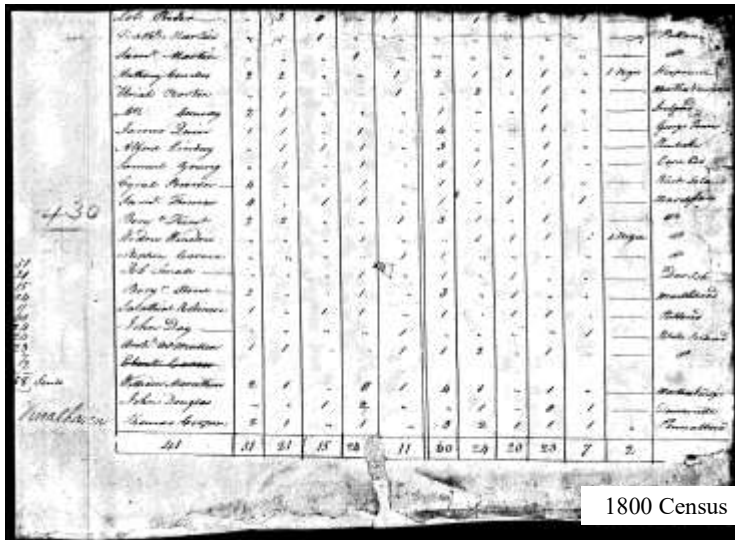
Vinalhaven Historical Society

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2020 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

This year the 22nd Census of the United States will be conducted. A lot has changed since that first attempt to record the population of a relatively new nation. When the first census was taken in 1790, there were just 13 States and George Washington had only been President for a year. Data collected over the years has helped track population growth, occupations, and migration of families within the U.S. and from other countries. Census results also help determine how many seats in Congress each state gets, as well as how federal funds are distributed. For anyone doing genealogical research, the census is a crucial document, and is often the first place we turn to when gathering family information.

The first census consisted of just six questions: The name of the head of the household; how many persons living in the home fit into three age categories (free white males under 16, free white males over 16, and free white females), how many other free persons were in the home, and how many slaves. U.S. Marshals and their assistants traveled throughout the 13 states, as well as the districts what would later become Maine, Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and collected information from 3.9 million people, a figure that both the President and Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, expected to be higher. There was no standard form for the first four censuses so each enumerator created their own system for collecting data. The census stayed much the same over those four decades, only increasing the number of age groups for males and females in the 1830 census, and adding six age groups for coloreds in 1840. The first printed forms were available for the 1830 census. The printed forms made it easier to tabulate data collected more efficiently than the previous hand drawn and bound volumes.



A more detailed census began to develop with the 1840 edition. This now two-page form included even more precise age brackets—in five year increments from 0 to 20, then ten year increments to 100, and “100 and upwards”—for both males and females, but still only naming the head of household. It also included questions on the level of education each person received, a column to tally the “deaf and dumb, blind, or insane,” and room to note those involved in certain occupational categories: Mining; Agriculture; Commerce; Manufacturers and Traders; Navigation of the ocean; Navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; or Learned professions and engineers. 1850’s census was the first to include the name of each free person in the household, and instead of being recorded as tally mark in a column, enumerators were asked to write in the age, sex, race, occupation/profession, value of real estate owned, and

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ANNEXURE I. — Free Inhabitants in the town of Vinalhaven, in the County of Waldo, State of Maine, enumerated by me, on the 1st day of July, 1850. Z. B. Smith, Ass't Marshal.

Name	Sex	Age	Color						Deaf and dumb	Blind	Insane	Occupation	Value of real estate
			White	Black	Other	Male	Female	Child					
123 140 Emily Barnes	f	42	1										
124 " " "	f	37	1										
125 " " "	f	16	1										
126 " " "	f	8	1										
127 " " "	f	42	1										
128 " " "	f	8	1										

Census Fast Facts

- *Maine's population in 1790 was 96,540. In 1820, it had grown to 298,335. The 1980 census was the first time Maine's population was over 1 million (1,124,660).*
- *Vinalhaven's peak population was 2855 in 1880 (3830 including North Haven and Hurricane.) The lowest population was 1072 in 1990.*
- *In 1790, the "Town of Vinalhaven" included North Haven, Matinicus, Hurricane, and all small islands within three miles.*
- *In the 1880 census there were 360 quarrymen and granite cutters, 40 blacksmiths, 27 teamsters, and 811 were recorded as attending school, but only 15 teachers were listed.*
- *In 1910, 56 people listed their birth place as Canada, 42 from Scotland, 29 from England, 20 from Finland, and from 10 Sweden.*

place of birth. The 1860 census only had one additional question from the previous census: value of personal property. 1870s census grew to twenty questions, elaborating on parentage (were they foreign born) and education (can you read and write). This was also the first census to include the name of every person in the household since the abolition of slavery.

In 1890 a tabulator was developed to help process all the data. Punch cards were created to run through the machine and tabulate the information. If you've ever done research using the census you may know that the 1890 census was lost in a fire in 1921. The National Archives Building wasn't built until 1935, so the census was kept on pine shelves in the basement of the Commerce Building. There are reports that not all of the 1890 census was lost in the fire, but was somehow included on a list of papers no longer necessary and was destroyed in 1935.

More detailed questions were added on the censuses every year, increasing to 34 questions on the 1930 census. Information collected included street, month and year of birth, length of marriage, number of children a mother had birthed and the number still living, highest level of education, and where one resided five years prior. The 1940 census added sixteen supplementary questions to be asked to those whose name fell on a certain line of the census form. This model was used up until the 2010 census, which was one of the shortest censuses, with just ten questions. Questions relating to education, housing, and jobs is now collected by the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Census data is released to the public 72 years after the census was taken, so the 1940 census, the newest form we have access to, was released in 2012. 1950s census will be available in 2022, and 2020s census will stay confidential until 2092!

For more information, or to participate in the 2020 census visit www.2020census.gov.

ANNUAL APPEAL

The Vinalhaven Historical Society is a non-profit organization. We do not receive annual operating funds from the Town of Vinalhaven. We exist solely because of your donations!

Seems like we take one thing off the "to-do" list and two more things get added! Our list this year includes shingling the vestibule and painting the Boy Scout Hall, where we have a humidity controlled vault for original documents and pictures, and coordinating with SeaCoast Security to install an upgraded fire alarm system.

Early this year, the Board okayed the purchase of three new desktop computers. All of our machines were close to, if not more than, 10 years old. This greatly increased storage for digital images.

The Museum building, built in 1838 in Rockland, was transported here in 1875. The Historical Society began use of the space over 50 years ago. Not only does the building itself have a fascinating history, but what is contained within its walls is more valuable still.

We appreciate any donation, and value your continued support and membership!

William Chilles,
President
Amy Lear,
Vice President
Lucy Bickford,
Treasurer
Lorraine Bunker,
Secretary
Elizabeth Bunker,
Director

Board of Directors

Dallas Anthony
Niall Conlan
Alan Lazaro
I. Torry Pratt
Susan Radley
Priscilla Rosen
Marion Tolman
Roger Young

MAINE TURNS 200

Vinalhaven was a thirty-one year old town when Maine became a state. Until that time, Maine, and Vinalhaven, had been part of Massachusetts. Though a young town, there was a lot going on. Farming and fishing were chief occupations - the granite industry hadn't ramped-up yet, and lobsters were not the profitable enterprise they would soon become.

The 1820 census lists 201 heads of families living in Vinalhaven (which also included North Haven), totaling 1308 people. This census has very little detail and only named the head of the household; everyone else was simply counted with a tally mark.

Town Meetings were held alternately each year on the north and south islands, and the majority of selectmen were chosen in the same way. A formal Town Report wasn't published until the 1860s, but notes from the 1820 Town Meeting show \$400 was to be raised for roads, and the same for school. George Dyer was appointed as Town Clerk; Samuel Thomas as Treasurer; and Ezekiel Philbrooks, Benjamin Crabtree, and Benjamin Beverage were elected as Selectmen.

Island Saltwater Farms by Jeannette Lasansky, gives us a picture of what farming on Vinalhaven was like in 1820. The primary crops would have been wheat, corn, potatoes, and peas, and prepping land for these crops was no easy task - a roughly three year process from clearing land to putting fields to pasture. According to the statewide agricultural assessment, only three horses (still a luxury at this point) were noted on Vinalhaven, but 201 oxen were inventoried.

Though not yet lobstering, Vinalhaven was still very connected to the sea, and many island men distinguished themselves as "Captain." Early statistics on fishing are almost non-existent. Many island men were fishing for cod or mackerel, but to what extent is uncertain.

An article published January 3, 1889 in the *Vinalhaven Echo*, detailed some early Town elections and votes. It was printed that "When the question of making the District of Maine a State of the Union was being agitated Vinal Haven voted against a division from first to last."

The image shows a handwritten document with a list of names on the left and vertical columns of tally marks on the right. The names are written in cursive and include: "Ambury Kim", "Amos Simon", "Allen Charles", "Amos Eben", "Amos William", "Amos James", "Amos Joseph", "Amos Thomas", "Amos John", "Amos George", "Amos Ebenezer", "Amos Henry", "Amos George", "Amos William", "Amos James", "Amos John", "Amos George", "Amos Ebenezer", "Amos Henry", "Amos George", "Amos William", "Amos James", "Amos John", "Amos George", "Amos Ebenezer", "Amos Henry". The tally marks consist of vertical lines, some with horizontal strokes across them, representing counts for each name.

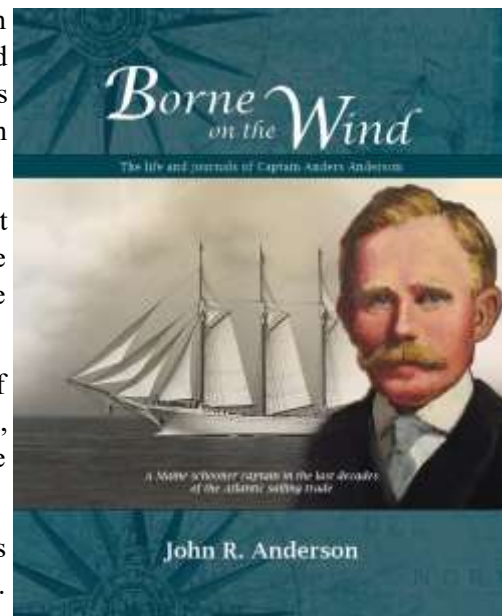
BORNE ON THE WIND

Anders Anderson, born in Sweden, stood to inherit his family's farm in southern Sweden, but the call of ocean adventure was too strong and Anders left home at sixteen to join the worldwide sailing trade. His voyages took him across the Atlantic at least eleven times, and he even found himself shipwrecked on a few occasions.

Eventually becoming Captain Anderson, he found his way to the coast of Maine, and commanded two- and three- masted schooners for more than forty years. From 1906-1940 he kept a journal documenting the coastal sailing trade and life in the small towns of mid-coast Maine.

Capt. Anderson's son John Anders Anderson joined him on some of these voyages and took many pictures, mostly between 1924 and 1927, while aboard the schooner *William Booth*, moving materials for the Booth Brothers Granite Company.

John R. Anderson has taken his father's images and his grandfather's journals and written a book narrating his family's fascinating history. He will be on Vinalhaven at the Public Library, August 4th, to share this story with all of us!



YEAR IN REVIEW

The guest book filled quickly this summer with signatures from 1050 visitors. 37 states (plus DC and the Virgin Islands) were represented, as was Sweden, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, France, Budapest, Austria, Ireland, Japan, Canada, and Scotland. We had a few groups come to the Museum, too: The Vinalhaven Land Trust Island Explorers summer camp came to the Museum with a group of K-2 age explorers, and also students from Bowdoin and Unity Colleges.



Gifts to the museum this year included an 8' showcase from The Island Closet. Jeannie and Alan Barker had been using the large case in their store, and it appears to have been used in many stores before that judging by the wear and attached yard stick for measuring fabric or notions. We replaced two smaller cases we were using with this fantastic piece. Becky Brown Boivin shared some amazing family photos including the Winslow, Coombs, Lawry, Norton, Ingerson, and Murch families. They were all great additions to our family charts. Margaret Olson gave three Margaret Wise Brown books that we did not have in our collection, *The Whispering Rabbit*, *Seven Little Postmen*, and *The Friendly Book*; Paul LaFavore sent in a large framed picture with portraits of Civil War veterans and other documents; Del and Sue Webster brought in a “hat” bath tub that was found at the Lewis home on Hopkins Point; Lori Bradley-Lewis gave a note written to her by Walter Cronkite; Tony Jones gave two cans of old coins he found with his metal detector; Kate O'Donnell brought in a metal frame doll bed with hand stitched bedding and pillow she found at the Transfer Station Swap Shop; Priscilla Rosen gave an “oven” that would sit on top of a woodstove, and Paul Philbrook sent in his collection of old wooden buoys he found or had given to him. These were a great addition to our buoy exhibit this summer! Sheila MacDonald of North Haven, sent down her fathers Vinalhaven High School diploma along with two portraits of her father, Lewis Burgess, and his brother, Hollis Burgess. We also added three wonderful works of art to our collection this year; two by Brud Clayter and one by Lucille Burgess.

Over the winter we were gifted all of Bernadine “Bernie” Hopkins genealogy work. Bernie helped many to trace their roots back to long before any English settler had spied the shores of Vinalhaven. We appreciate all the genealogical work she did for the Museum and for island families.

In 2016, Swedish documentarian Kjell Andersson came to Vinalhaven to research and get video for a film he was making on Swedes who emigrated to New England to find work. Kjell came to Vinalhaven with Jan-Ake Karlsson, who was researching his relative Einar Carlson. Kjell has since finished his film, *The Stone Gives and Takes Away*, and has added English subtitles. Kjell will be sending a copy to the Museum and we hope to have a showing this summer. The Museum would like to thank those who contributed to this special project!

On July 6, 2019, after 9 months in the shop, the restored Coke Bottle statue was unveiled, sitting on her new base with a shiny coat of epoxy! Sculpted in 1986 by Bill Epton, Lady Liberty should now be able to stand another thirty years sentry at the intersection of Round the Island Road and Pooles Hill Road.

As part of our Special Collections exhibit this summer, Sue Radley showed her collection of sands from around the world. Sue has been able to gather 250 samples from 7 continents (mud from Antarctica), 53 countries, and 25 states. We put out cards with Sue's address so visitors to the Museum could help add to her collection. As of this writing, she received several back including a couple from the Lake Michigan area and one Yosemite.



In May, the Boston Post Cane was passed to Florice Young as the oldest resident of Vinalhaven. Florice was born on Vinalhaven in 1923 and still lives in her own home. We congratulate her on reaching such a milestone and wish her many more years of health and happiness!

MILESTONES



1860—160 years ago the first Union Church was built. A large percentage of the community attended services here, but contrary to the article (right), it was not the only house of worship on the island at the time. A building committee that included well-known island names such as Reuben Carver, Timothy Lane, and Moses Webster was formed and it was under their guidance that the church was constructed for \$2850—which would roughly equal \$82,000 today.

The building and its contents were totally destroyed by fire March 23, 1899, but it wasn't long before a new committee, with some more well-known names, including Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Libby, Mrs. George Wharff, Mrs. Calvin Vinal, and Winfield Carver, was elected to look over plans for new construction. In the meantime, services were held in the Memorial Hall.

By the end of August John Calvin Stevens was selected as architect and Otto Nelson, of Bangor, was hired to build the church. A letter to the committee reads: "You can remind your people that they are to build not merely for the present and the town that now is, but for the future, the first-half of the 20th century, for the town that is to be." A meeting was held in the vestry of the new building February 28, 1900, and the church was dedicated June 27, 1900.



Pictured right: Inside view of the original Union Church.

Union Church Burned Vinalhaven Has a Disastrous Fire During Thursday Night's Big Storm

It was a fearful night for a fire as everybody is well aware who had occasion to face the blinding snow storm which came on between 9 and 10 o'clock. It seemed as though the snow never fell faster and the island people who awoke a few minutes after midnight to hear the cry of fire could hardly see ten rods ahead.

Those who lived in the vicinity of Union Church were not left long in doubt as to the location of the fire, however, for the alarm had hardly echoed away in the distance before the flames were bursting out on all sides of Vinalhaven's only House of God and the townspeople were hurrying in that direction to witness the work of the destroying element.

The fire department, an organization of which Vinalhaven again has great cause to feel proud, was early on the scene and while it was utterly impossible to save the building from destruction there was neighboring property which was in imminent danger of following the example of the church. The houses of W. B. Kittredge and Gilman Webster were particularly exposed and it was only through prompt and efficient work on the part of the Vinalhaven fire fighters that the occupants of these houses were not rendered homeless in that fierce winter storm.

The conflagration was a fierce one in the short time that it lasted and through the storm its red glare could be seen for a long distance. It was with feelings of deep sorrow that the people stood helpless while their only place of worship was being levelled to the ground.

During the afternoon there had been a wood fire built in the church for rehearsal, to take away the damp and chill. It is supposed that a spark from one of the smoldering logs must have communicated to the woodwork during the night, and the remainder of the story is told in the heap of ruins upon which the disconsolate church people of the island are today looking.

The church was insured with Cochran, Baker & Cross of this city for \$3000, and the organ for \$780.

In the early part of 1860 a number of prominent citizens formed a society, the object of which was to build a meeting house. A code of by-laws was adopted and a building committee consisting of Reuben Carver, Timothy Lane and Moses Webster was chosen and authorized to go ahead with the work. It was also decided that the new building when finished should be a union meeting house. The building was completed the same year at a cost of \$2850 and the pews were appraised at a sum sufficient to cover the cost of the house.

The Union Society was organized Feb. 12, 1863, and its first officers were James Roberts, Chairman; David Vinal, Secretary; S. G. Webster, David Vinal and Benjamin Lane, Executive Committee.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. Herman J. Wells. Rockland Courier-Gazette, 25 March 1899

Temperance Movement

Prohibition went into effect 100 years ago this year, but long before that, there were Temperance groups here on Vinalhaven fighting against the evils of alcohol (Maine was the first State to become “dry” in 1851.) While we were going over old issues of the *Wind* (1884) and the *Neighbor* (1885) we started to notice several articles about Temperance and the efforts of citizens and the Town to control the sale and consumption of alcohol.

The Good Templar Dramatic Company performed here on Vinalhaven and on North Haven, with plays titled “Thirty Minutes for Refreshments,” “Bomboozling,” “A Little More Cider,” and “A Regular Fix.” Lectures were given in the Union Church, there was the Island Gem Juvenile Lodge, and the Town hired a Liquor Agent to control the sale of liquor under the control of the Selectmen. Here we share some tidbits we found amusing:

A few nights ago, some liquor loving tramp entered a back window adjoin-ing our city fathers’ office, and lifted about four gallons of whiskey, (which had been stored there for safety,) and escaped with it. It was liquor that had been seized from parties some time ago.

WIND, 5 Jan 1884

A Vinalhaven man drank a mixture of kerosene and muriatic acid the other day, by mistake. What he mis-took it for is not stated, but most likely he thought from the taste and smell that it was Vinalhaven whiskey.

WIND, 22 Mar 1884

At the meeting of the Juvenile Temple Saturday last, there were about one hundred and fifty present, and forty new signatures placed upon the pledge.

WIND, 29 Mar 1884

It is reported that six small boys were drunk on the street Memorial Day.

WIND, 7 June 1884

International Order of Good Templars: The Granite Lodge is in a most flourishing condition. It was organized 2d of Feb, 1866, and has at present 164 members.

Messenger, 13 Feb 1885

The badge of blue ribbon on some of our good templars looks as much out of place as it would on a brewer.

Messenger, 27 Feb 1885

The liquor has come, and the liquor agent has been appointed. The institution of this strange device in this temperance town is something new. The liquor will be under the control of the selectmen, and will be the very best. It will be sold as the law prescribes for mechanical and medicinal purposes. It is easy to pre-tend sickness, therefore, it will be easy to get liquor. We may be sure that its sale will be conducted with discretion by the agent and not abused. Its success will depend greatly on this.

Messenger, 22 May 1885

About one hundred and twenty-five persons were taken sick two days after the Liquor Agency opened.

Messenger, 5 June 1885

Constable Julian could not have been very smart last Tuesday noon when the box of liquor was taken from the boat right before his eyes.

Messenger, 19 June 1885

On the night of the trial, when a large crowd was collected near the post office, a team came along with some goods on it, among which was a barrel. Constable Julian, from the court room window, saw the article, and rushing through the crowd, down stairs, seized it for beer. It was duly conducted to the lockup for inspection. When it was opened it was found to contain hams consigned from John Bird & Co., to the Bodwell Granite Co. The company refuse to take them, and at present writing they are still in the hands of the constable.

Messenger, 17 July 1885

And here we also share the story of Rosanna Arey and the “Hatchet Brigade” as told by Marion Chandler:

I don’t know who first reported this incident in the life of Rosanna Arey or even who told it to me, but for as long as I can remember it has been part of the folklore of the family.

She lived on that part of Vinalhaven Island known as Arey’s Neck. This was about three miles from the center of town, but the news soon reached her ears that one of the merchants had decided to begin the sale of liquor in his store and was awaiting a shipment of rum. This was against the unwritten policy of the Island and was of great concern to the women folk. They, determined to halt this threat to their husbands and sons, and as Rosanna had more sons than any of them and hence the highest stake in the matter, they looked to her for leadership. The outcome was that on the day the kegs were to land on the wharf, the boat was met by a determined band of ladies each armed with a hatchet!

The storekeeper wisely bowed to this superior force, and Vinalhaven Island remained dry!

IN MEMORIAM

In August we lost our friend Elmer “Army” Armstrong. Army, and his wife Cici, had been coming to Vinalhaven for many summers and we always looked forward to their return every year. Army produced several films with, and for, the Historical Society, including *The Mysterious Mr. Herrmann*, *Island Doctor: An Ode to Ralph Earle*, and *Hollywood Comes to Vinalhaven: The Making of Deep Waters.*, and *Granite by the Sea*.

Frank Peterson passed away in December. Frank was the oldest alumnus of Vinalhaven High School (Class of 1938), holder of Vinalhaven’s Boston Post Cane, and gave a wonderful interview in the latest volume of *Remember When*. Frank was born on Vinalhaven in 1920 and lived 99 amazing years.

In April we learned of the passing of Prof. Harold Borns. A University of Maine Professor, Borns has done extensive research on Dr. DeLaski, one of Vinalhaven’s first practicing physicians who also studied and wrote about glacial movement. Professor Borns co-edited the publication of DeLaski’s 1869 handwritten manuscript titled *Foot Steps of the Ancient Great Glacier of North America* and printed under the same title.

We send our deepest condolences to the friends and families of Army, Frank, and Prof. Borns.

GALAMANDER

Molly O. Carlson of Head Tide Archaeological Conservation was on island over the 2019 summer to conserve the galamander. Molly came to the Museum in early April to do research on the Galamander and take paint samples from one of the remaining original pieces. We studied documents and pictures of the Galamander, piecing together a timeline and history of the rig that now sits at the corner of School Street and Main Street. She also gave the Galamander a full work-up: rot/corrosion assessment, site risks, and pictures from every angle.

The paint analysis was very interesting! Shown is the sample taken by Molly and analyzed by Amy Cole Ives of Sunderland Conservation in Augusta. Under high magnification, and in both UV and reflected visible light, Amy was able to point out the many layers of paint put on the Galamander over the years. The original first layer couldn’t be established, and the second layer was too weathered for a good color match. Layers 3-5 are the same paint, and likely mean the Galamander was painted with this color the longest. Layer 9, an aluminum primer, provides a nice timeline point as these primers became commercially available in the early 1920s. By analyzing layers 3-5, it was determined that the closest commercial color match is Benjamin Moore #777, Summer Nights.



Molly presented the Board of Selectmen with a detailed work plan and began the lengthy procedure. All wood was scraped, cleaned, treated with Bora-Care and/or RotFix, holes were filled with a flexible epoxy, primed, and finally painted with the color-matched Benjamin Moore exterior paint. The iron work was cleaned, treated, and painted as well.

The Board of Selectmen were given a complete summary of all Molly’s work and her recommendations for further preservation. She feels the Galamander should ultimately have an enclosed, humidity controlled space, but in the meantime the Town should work to mitigate moisture as much as possible. Seasonally, a snow barrier should be installed so as to allow ventilation, but also keep the weather from directly affecting the rig. Crushed stone should be installed under the Galamander for better drainage, pressure on the axels should be relieved by leveling, and the wheels should be rotated and placed on wheel pads.

It was also suggested to submit the Galamander to a National Park Service program called the Historic American Engineering Record. A HAER project would record the Galamanders use, as well as 3D renderings, and the portfolio would then be housed at the Library of Congress. We hope the Selectmen and Town continue to support these recommendations and see the Galamander displayed for many years.

Vinalhaven Historical Society
PO Box 339
Vinalhaven, ME 04863

SUMMER HOURS

June 15 - September 25
Monday - Friday 11-4pm
(Also open Saturday in July and August)

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Borne On The Wind - August 4, 2020, 6pm, Vinalhaven Public Library - Capt. Anderson kept over 30 years of journals of his journeys at sea including time spent on the *William Booth*. More info on page 3.

The Stone Gives and Takes Away - TBD - A film by Swedish documentarian Kjell Andersson about the emigration of Swedes to Vinalhaven and New England. Originally in Swedish, we were able to have English subtitles added with the help of a few generous donors.

Like everyone else, we are trying to figure out our new “normal.” As Maine State policies allow, we will be open this summer. We ask that visitors follow all State and Town instructions regarding wearing a face mask while in public places, maintaining an appropriate distance from others, and washing/sanitizing your hands often. Updates will be posted. The Museum runs ONLY on contributions from its members and visitors. We appreciate your patience and support as we all work through this historical event.