



Past Times

Published by The Little Compton Historical Society ~ Winter '10/'11

Getting to the Point

Three Local Organizations Create Their First Collaborative Exhibition

Sakonnet Point Perspectives

The Little Compton Historical Society has a decade long history of creating a special exhibit each summer. In the summer of 2011 there will be a new twist. For the first time, two other local organizations will partner with the Historical Society to create their first collaborative exhibit "Sakonnet Point Perspectives."

LCHS, SPA & FSL Together

The Sakonnet Preservation Association and The Friends of the Sakonnet Lighthouse have joined with the Historical Society in this multi-faceted project. The goal is to look at the Point from a variety of perspectives — historical, environmental, economic, cultural — and share the resulting information with the public.

Sakonnet Point Perspectives will:

- create a single, comprehensive, permanent archive of information on Sakonnet Point that will be housed at the Historical Society and made available to the public both in person and on-line
- produce a 100-page illustrated publication on Sakonnet Point exploring its history and its importance as an economic and environmental resource
- present an exhibition on Sakonnet Point at the Historical Society that will be open to the public from July 1 to October 10, 2011
- offer a variety of programs and events encouraging the public to learn more about, and enjoy Sakonnet Point including walking tours, children's programs, an exhibit Preview Party and a Family Day Celebration

The Project Team

Volunteers from all three organizations formed a planning committee in the spring of 2010. They are now well into the research phase of the project. *Sakonnet Point Perspectives* received grant money from the Newport County Fund to provide for the hiring of a researcher/writer. This October, the committee was

very excited to hire the team of Dr. James Garman and PhD candidate Michelle Styger to carry out the research and write the text for the project. For more on Garman and Styger please see page 3.

Community Input Needed

The success of *Sakonnet Point Perspectives* will depend in large part on community involvement. We are relying on the community to share

images, information and oral histories relating to Sakonnet Point with us in order to add to the information currently in the archive and to be used in the publication and the exhibition. For more on community involvement please see page 3.



The *Islander* brought dozens of tourists for outings at Sakonnet Point in the early part of the 20th century. Shore dinners, dance halls, a bowling alley, shops, a three-story hotel and even car rentals added to the fun.

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548 West Main Road
Little Compton, RI 02837
(401) 635-4035

WINTER HOURS

Wilbur House Tours
Educational Programs
Research
by appointment

Office Hours
Tuesday ~ Friday
9 AM ~ 3 PM

WANTED

AS GIFTS OR LOANS!

Exhibit Wish List

Sakonnet Point Images, Documents,
Objects, Oral Histories.

Wooden Chairs

Antique or vintage wooden chairs in
good condition for use in our reception room.

Antique or Vintage Items

To be sold in our Antique Sale to benefit
the Historical Society.

Antique Items with Little Compton Histories

For possible inclusion in our permanent
collection. The Collections Committee
will review each item.

Digital Images of Family Photographs

Your clearly labeled photographs may help us
identify the hundreds of unidentified photos
in our collection.

Obituaries, Funeral and Memorial Service Programs, Copies of Eulogies

Help us document the lives of our
20th century residents by sharing information
about your loved ones with us.



Corporate Members

Local businesses play an important role in the
preservation and presentation of Little Compton's
history. Additional Corporate Members are
always welcome. Please call 635-4035 or
complete the membership form on page 8.

EVENT SPONSORS

Gray's Ice Cream
Katharine H. Leary, CPA
Lees Supermarket
Madden Electric Company
Manchester Tree & Landscaping, Inc.
Sakonnet Vineyards

SCHOOL PROGRAM SPONSORS

Goulart Petroleum, Inc.
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Franlart Nurseries, Inc.
Homestead Construction Co.
Interstate Insurance and Finance Co.
Lamplighter, Inc.
Law Office of Richard S. Humphrey
Little Compton Real Estate, LLC
Mataronas Lobster Co., Inc
Roger King Fine Arts
Sakonnet Lobster Co.
Sisson Lawn & Garden
Sparks Company, Inc.
Stone House
Walker's Roadside Stand
Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home
Wilbur's General Store, Inc.
Wishing Stone Farm

Hooray for the House Tour!

Over 700 guests enjoyed the Historical Society's Historic House
Tour on September 19. Many thanks to our generous homeowners
and our hardworking committee members and volunteers,
as well as Mother Nature for the spectacular day. Together we
raised almost \$20,000 to benefit the Historical Society.

Meet the Researchers

Greetings-

We're Michelle Styger and Jim Garman, and we wanted to take a minute to introduce ourselves and our project. We're working with the Little Compton Historical Society, the Sakonnet Preservation Association, and the Friends of the Sakonnet Lighthouse to document the history of Sakonnet Point. Jim is the Coordinator of the Cultural and Historic Preservation Program at Salve Regina University, where he teaches archaeology, preservation theory, and other courses; Michelle is a PhD student in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University. We're delighted to have this opportunity to learn more about the rich history of the Point.



We're just getting started on the project, but we've identified about a dozen themes so far, including the fisheries industry, the different aspects of the resort period (including West Island), and of course, the successive devastation of the Point by hurricanes in the mid-twentieth century. We're eager to hear your thoughts on what the project should include. Perhaps you have a story to share, or an old photograph to help illustrate the book. The LCHS will be collecting oral histories for the project; memories of Fort Church will be especially helpful!

Marjory is the point of contact for the project; we'll be at the LCHS doing research on Fridays throughout the fall (our narrative is due in April.) Please stop by and say hi, or let Marjory know if you have material to share. We're looking forward to meeting you as we move forward with the project!

Jim & Michelle

Sakonnet Point Perspectives

Share Your Story Day

Tuesday, November 30

9 AM to 8 PM

Do you have a Sakonnet Point story to tell?

Or a photo to share?

Schedule a one-hour appointment with project volunteers and staff to tell your Sakonnet Point stories. Stories will be recorded and transcribed. All stories will be archived and considered for inclusion in the *Sakonnet Point Perspectives* publication and exhibition.



Sakonnet Point Post Office

Volunteers will also be available to scan photographs of Sakonnet Point while you wait.

We are also interested in documents, paintings and objects relating to Sakonnet Point. All items may be loaned or donated depending on your preference.

Call 401-635-4035 to schedule an appointment for an oral history interview or to share your images and objects.

Sakonnet Point Perspectives

The Lighthouse Dog

as told by Randy Byers

In the mid 1930s the lighthouse keepers had long shifts, something like two weeks on—two weeks off and they didn't leave the lighthouse during their shift. There are stories about babies being born while their dads were on duty.

One of the lightkeepers owned a dog who stayed with him out on Little Commorant Rock. Everyday the dog would swim to shore, landing, most likely, somewhere on Lloyd's Beach. He would run up to McCormack's Ice Cream Shop and wait for Mrs. McCormack to come out. She would tie a newspaper onto the dog. She had wrapped it ahead of time. It is amazing that she was able to make it waterproof back in the days before plastic. When she was done, the dog, a terrier-sized mutt, would swim back to the lighthouse and the keeper would have his paper.

Director's Note: Do you remember the Lighthouse Dog? Or similar stories? Share your Sakonnet Point stories with us and help us create a permanent archive of the Point's past. — Marjory



Explore the Collection

24 Hours A Day



Visit
littlecompton.org

And click on the
On~Line Collection

To browse images and information on over 13,000 items related to Little Compton's History.

People all over the country have conducted more than 7,000 searches to date.

Yale University researchers report that LCHS' on-line collection is one of the best they have seen!

The last time this sleigh was used was in 1917 to pick up a Naval Officer returning home from WW1. Learn more about it and dozens of other objects that helped local residents enjoy their Little Compton winters by visiting the on-line collection.

Thank you for a fantastic 2010!

On Line Collection

In January over 6,000 images and database records from our collection were placed on-line to provide researchers and the general public with free, easy access to our collection. Over 7,000 searches have been conducted so far. In March we hosted every historical society in Newport County for a day long-workshop Past-Perfect collections database workshop.



Fresh Paint

A generous grant from the Champlin Foundations enabled us to remove the lead paint from the exterior of our buildings and re-glaze and repaint all of our windows. The buildings have never looked better!



History of Little Compton

First Light: Sakonnet hit the shelves on July 2 and author Janet Lisle has been signing copies ever since. 1,175 copies have sold to date!!! The books are available at the Historical Society and area retailers or may be ordered by mail or at Amazon.com.

(See page 7.) Twenty three area artists helped illustrate the book by interpreting moments in Little Compton history with their art. An additional 20 artists created new artwork for the accompanying exhibition which had well over 2,000 visitors.

Historic House Tour

730 visitors toured 11 beautiful Sakonnet properties on September 19 raising almost \$20,000 to benefit the Historical Society. Our sincere thanks to the home owners and almost 100 volunteers who made this event possible!



Historic Preservation Conference

In April 400 historic preservationists visited LC to attend the 25th annual State Historic Preservation Conference. The Historical Society worked with staff from the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to plan the event.

Here, Architect Mack Woodward leads a walking tour of the Commons with LCHS, Managing Director Marjory O'Toole.



School Programs

500 student participants enjoyed LCHS' hands-on history programs this year!

Preview Party/ Family Day

Fourth of July weekend brings BIG celebrations to LCHS. Over 1200 people stopped by to see the exhibit and have some fun!



Cider Social

The Cider Social Antiques Sale raised over \$6,000 for the Historical Society and created a bevy of scarecrow beauties.



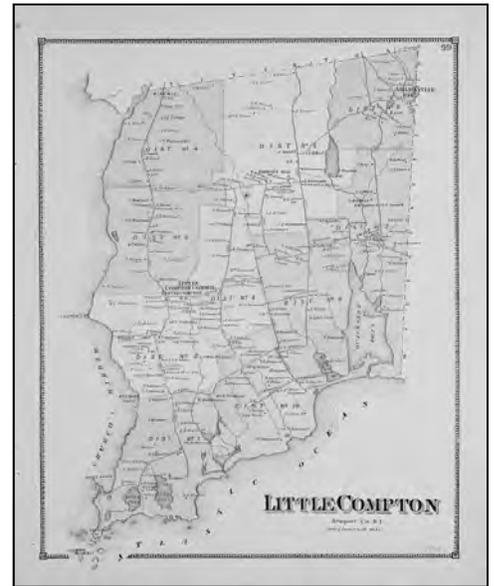
Visit our E~Store

Archival quality reproductions of treasured Little Compton art and artifacts are just a click away.

Visit
littlecompton.org

And click on
E~Store

All purchases benefit the Historical Society



Thank You Boy Scouts

Eagle Scout Candidate, Colby Torre (far left) donated two beautiful picnic tables to the Historical Society as a result of his Eagle community service project.

Over a dozen boys and dads from LC Troop 29 helped park cars during our recent Historic House Tour.

Book Order Form

L is for Little Compton



_____ **Number of Books**

Price \$20 each _____

**The History of Little Compton
 First Light: Sakonnet
 1660-1820**



_____ **Number of Books**

Members' Price \$25 each _____

Non-Member's Price \$30 each _____

Shipping \$5 per book

Shipping Total _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

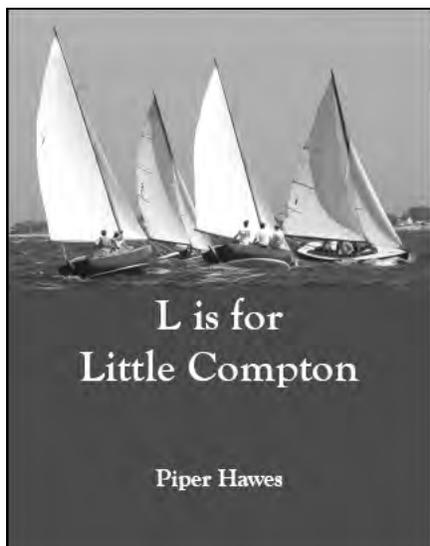
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to LCHS, P.O. Box 577, Little Compton, RI 02837

The Perfect Gifts

Share your love of Little Compton with the ones you love.

For the young and the young at heart...



L is for Little Compton

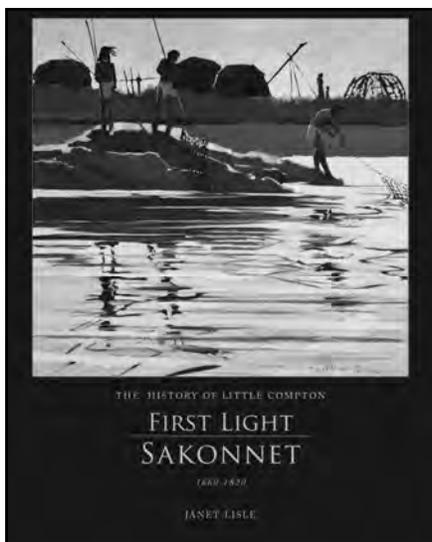
An alphabet book just for Little Compton.

Written in 2009 by Piper Hawes, *L is for Little Compton* will delight children and adults with charming verses and beautiful photographs highlighting 26 of Little Compton's most special places and things.

\$20

Look for these and
other LCHS publications
on Amazon.com

For the history buff...



The History of Little Compton

First Light: Sakonnet

1660-1820

A beautifully written, beautifully illustrated narrative history.

Published in July of 2010, *First Light: Sakonnet* is the first comprehensive narrative history of Little Compton. Its 200 pages are skillfully written by award-winning author Janet Lisle and illustrated with over 20 new works of art by local artists interpreting moments in Little Compton's early history. *First Light* will be joined in 2012 by a second volume telling Little Compton's story from 1820 to 1975.

\$30

Special LCHS Member's Price \$25

Both authors have volunteered their time to create these books and have donated 100% of their sales price to the Little Compton Historical Society.

To Purchase:

- Stop by the Historical Society, Tuesday—Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM
- Order by mail using the form on the opposite page
- Purchase on Amazon.com

LCHS Membership

- Event Sponsor \$250 & up
 - Program Sponsor \$150
 - Supporting \$100
 - Corporate \$75
 - Contributing \$50
 - Family \$30
 - Individual \$20
- My Company will match my membership or gift. Completed matching form enclosed.

Please make checks payable to:

Little Compton Historical Society
PO Box 577, Little Compton, RI 02837

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State: _____ Zip: _____

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Membership

With Benefits from Coast to Coast

Join or Renew Today!

LCHS participates in the
Time Travelers
reciprocal membership program.



Your Historical Society membership card provides you with **FREE or Discounted Admission to 250 historic sites all across the country!**

For a complete list of participating sites log onto
www.mohistory.org/content/membershipservices/timetravelers.aspx
or call LCHS at 635-4035.

As always you'll enjoy local membership benefits including free admission to the Wilbor House and our special exhibitions, invitations to special events and advance registration for our most popular programs. Most importantly, your membership gift helps preserve Little Compton's rich history for generations.

Members receive \$5 off every copy of *First Light: Sakonnet*

Postal Customer

Sakonnet Point Perspectives Share Your Story Day

Tuesday, November 30

9 AM—8 PM

Call 401-635-4035 for an appointment!



Return Service Requested

The Little Compton Historical Society
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