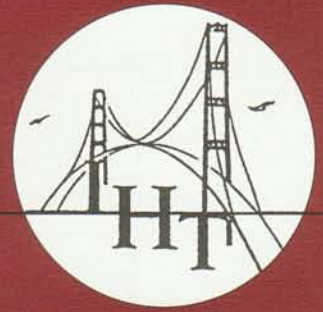


ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

The Conservation Land Trust of
Deer Isle and Stonington, Maine, and Surrounding Islands



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When Granite Was King!

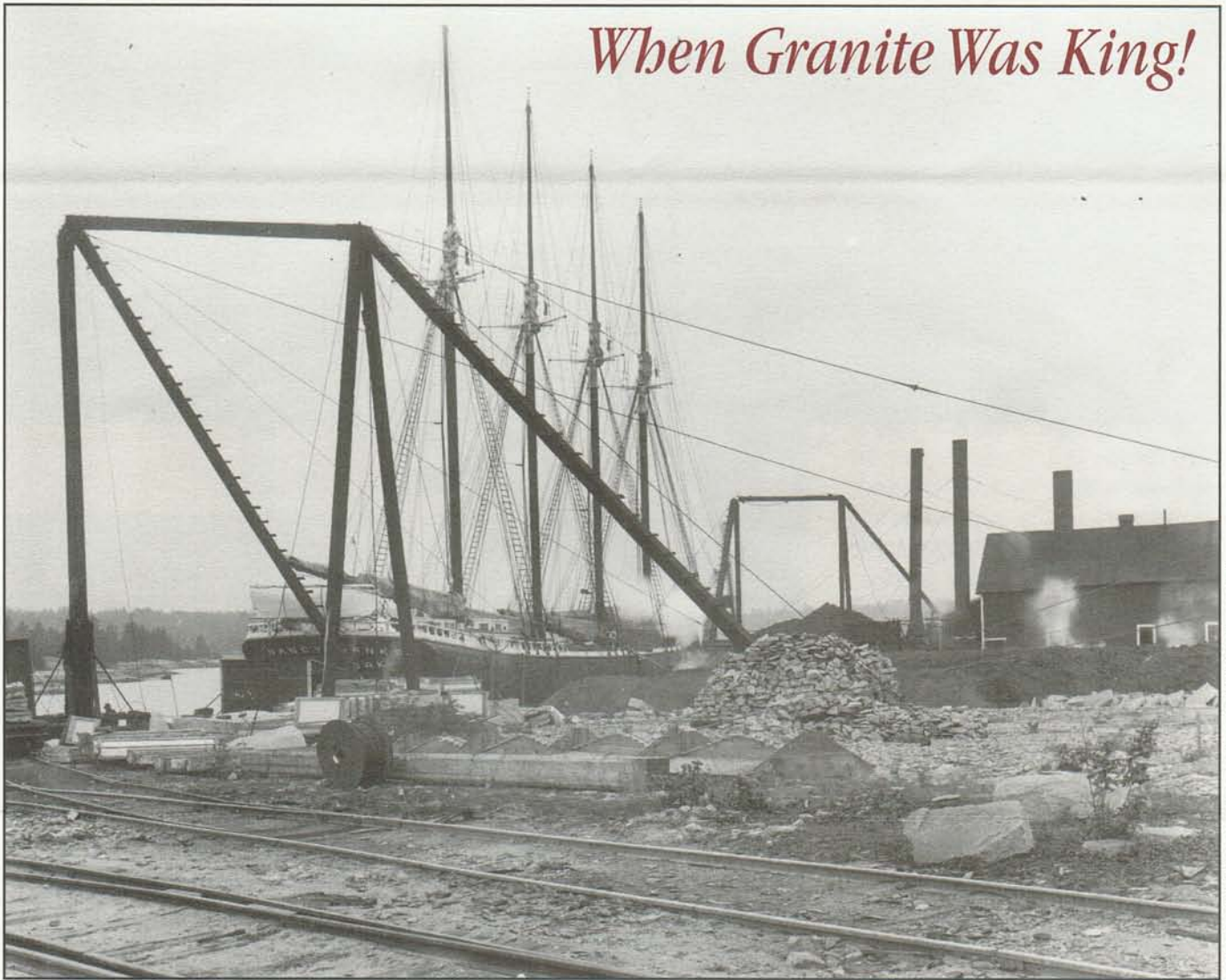


PHOTO COURTESY DEER ISLE-STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Four masted schooner Nancy Hanks at the Settlement Quarry wharf circa 1925.

This picture of the *Nancy Hanks* loading granite at the Settlement Quarry wharf on Webbs Cove in Stonington dramatizes how much has changed in 80 years. In the early part of this century the Settlement Quarry was a major industrial site employing

hundreds of men. It was a forest of stacks, masts, booms, and derricks with columns of smoke and clouds of billowing steam. It had coal-fired boilers to generate the steam necessary to run the engines that operated compressors, dynamos, winches, and cranes. It even had

its own locomotive and railroad. Here stone was quarried, then shaped in a giant cutting shed, and shipped by schooner to major ports on the eastern seaboard.

The first major shipment of Deer Isle granite from the

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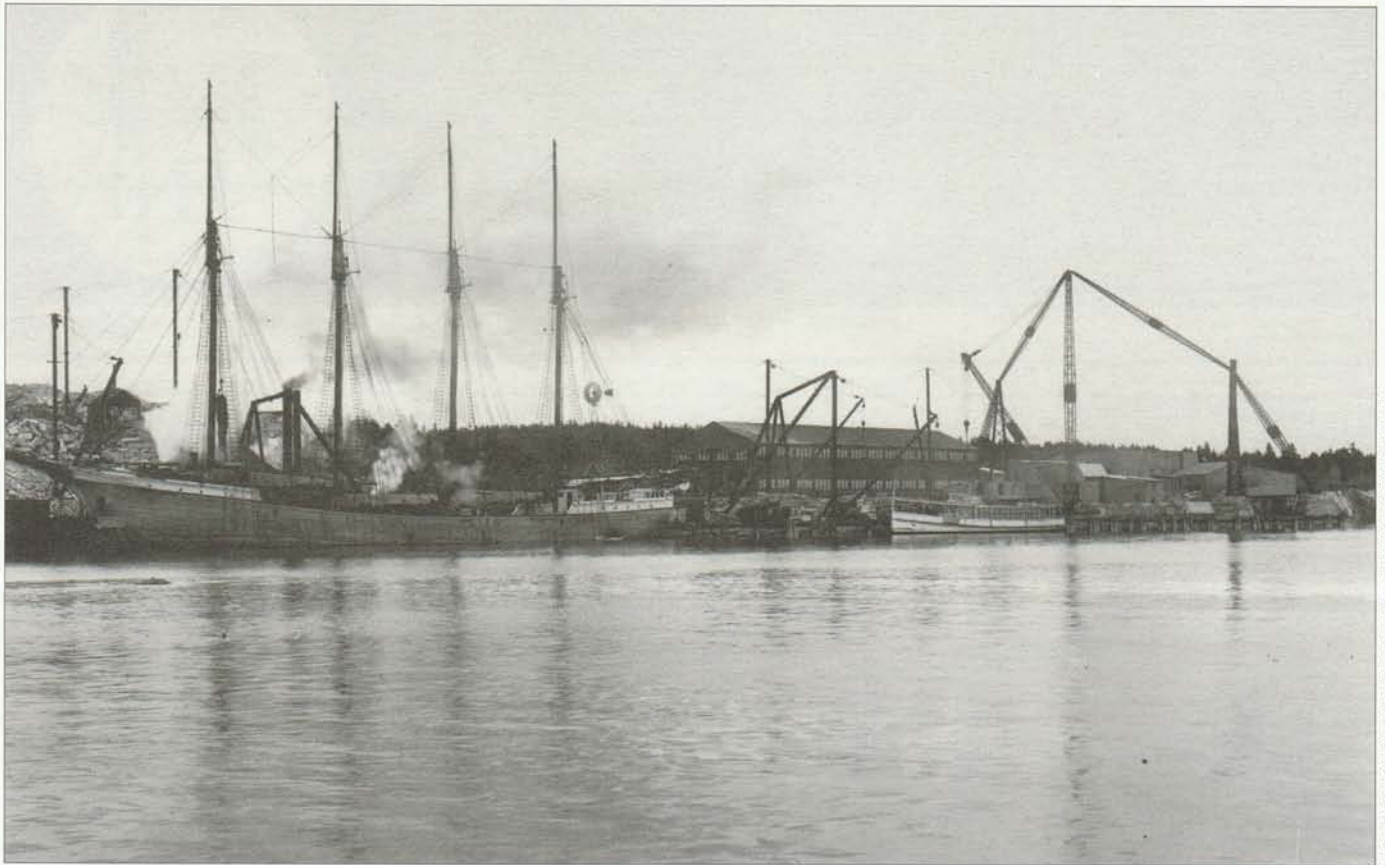


PHOTO COURTESY DEER ISLE-STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Settlement Quarry on Webbs Cove circa 1925.

When Granite Was King!

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Settlement Quarry (originally known as "the Marsh Settlement") went to construct the abutments of the Williamsburg Bridge across the East River in New York City about 1902. Later, its granite was used for the piers of the Manhattan Bridge, also across the East River. And still later the quarry's biggest job was supplying stone for the New York County Court House (now the New York Supreme Court) on Foley Square in lower Manhattan. This building can be seen weekly on TV as a setting for the currently popular series "Law and Order."

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and The Insurance Company of North America (now CIGNA) building in Philadelphia were among the many buildings constructed with Settlement Quarry



PHOTO COURTESY DEER ISLE-STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Steam Locomotive at the Settlement Quarry, 1922.

granite. Its last major shipment in the late 60's was sent to Washington, DC, for the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Technology changed the quarrying industry. Steel and reinforced concrete replaced granite. High-temperature burning torches replaced black powder. Huge diesel-

powered, front-end loaders and trucks replaced derricks and schooners. At present the granite industry in Maine is largely confined to supplying stone for the veneers used as building facades and kitchen countertops. Because of fractures in its bedrock the Settlement Quarry can't meet these requirements, and so its owner put the long idle 70-acre property up for sale.

In a visit to the quarry today, the industrial scene of the early part of the century has to be recreated in one's imagination. One towering mast still guyed by a web of steel cables and supporting a solitary osprey's nest is virtually all that remains from the boom years. Over the years the buildings seen in these early photographs were taken down, and the equipment salvaged or sold for scrap. The quarry faces remain as do the huge grout piles of broken stone, but the property is now a quiet place to be enjoyed by the hiker, naturalist, amateur geologist or history buff.

The original property has been subdivided into several parcels. Its deep-water wharf was purchased by two marine-related businesses. One buys lobster and the other transfers granite, which is still quarried on nearby Crotch Island, to trucks for shipment to its finishing operations in Rhode Island. Twelve acres will be used for two residential building lots. The largest parcel (50 acres) containing most of the old quarry, significant woodlands and a wonderful island view to the south was purchased by the Island Heritage Trust.

In acquiring the property, the IHT has helped assure that an important part of Stonington's history will not be lost to some future private development. It will remain permanently accessible to the community as a reminder of



MAP BY ROGER STEINHARTER.

earlier times and of its industrial past. Now it is our job to assure the site's educational and recreational potential is developed in a creative and meaningful way. Gordon Rittmeyer's column describes the early work of his Planning Committee.

Stonington celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1997 at the same time the Island Heritage Trust celebrates its 10th birthday. It is just coincidence that these significant occasions take place in the same year, but we think it is a

happy one. It particularly pleases us that as the town reflects on its quarrying history, and welcomes the new Granite Museum in Stonington, the Settlement Quarry will be open to any who want to have a closer look.

Stanley Myers
President

Future Plans of the Settlement Quarry

From the start we knew the Settlement Quarry should be set aside for the benefit of the community. But it was not so clear how its potential should be developed. Early on we asked the land use planners, Monro Associates, to study the site and give us their recommendations. Later, we consulted with neighbors of the quarry and others who had special knowledge or interest in it for their thoughts. In this process a series of themes and ideas were identified that are based on the special character of the site. It is clear that this property will appeal to a wide variety of interests.

There is the quarry itself and its close association with the booming development of Stonington early in the century. This is fascinating local history that leads us to the Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society with all sorts of questions: What started the granite boom? Why did it stop? How did the quarry operate? How was the granite shaped? What were the working conditions?

In addition to local history there is natural history and geology. Henry Barry of the Maine Geological Survey visited the quarry, and he has written for us a good description of the "Geology of the Settlement Quarry." He also identified glacial striations created when the site was buried under ice a mile and half thick. The 50-acre site has the potential for some good woodland trails, and for those interested in hiking or picnicking, this is a great spot. Most of the ground is easy terrain (there are easily avoided exceptions), and on a clear day the view is wonderful. Part of the property is quite high, giving a long view to the south across the Deer Isle Thorofare towards Isle au Haut. The Camden Hills can be seen in the west, and there is a glimpse of Blue Hill to the north.

The challenge for us has been to create a simple but effective development plan (within a modest budget) that will meet the varying interests of visitors and add to their knowledge and enjoyment. The conceptual work of Monro Associates gave us a very good start. They defined a small parking area and suggested a simple information kiosk at the entrance. The

plays, the kiosk, and signs will be simple, rugged and made of good materials. They will add to rather than detract from the site.

We are lucky to have the expert help of local architect, Don Reiman, in the development of final plans and construction oversight. Our initial focus will be on the parking area and the entrance kiosk, and then on pictorial dis-



Settlement Quarry in 1995.

PHOTO BY DARWIN DAVIDSON WITH PILOT DUD HENDRICK

kiosk would have a map showing major features of the site, some historical and geological background about the quarry and guidelines on the public use of the property.

Monro Associates also proposed a series of trails, some through the wooded parts of the property and others leading to particular view spots. We see the need to provide simple interpretive materials at various locations that can help visitors better understand what the quarrying operation looked like. Photographs similar to the ones in this newsletter can be placed in small, rugged displays like those in our national parks. These dis-

plays. We have recruited experienced and knowledgeable volunteers to work on trail layout. It would be great to report that all this work will be done by June 1st. Realistically, we hope the parking area will be done before the 1st of July with the trail work shortly after. The kiosk and photographic displays will take longer and depend on adequate funding.

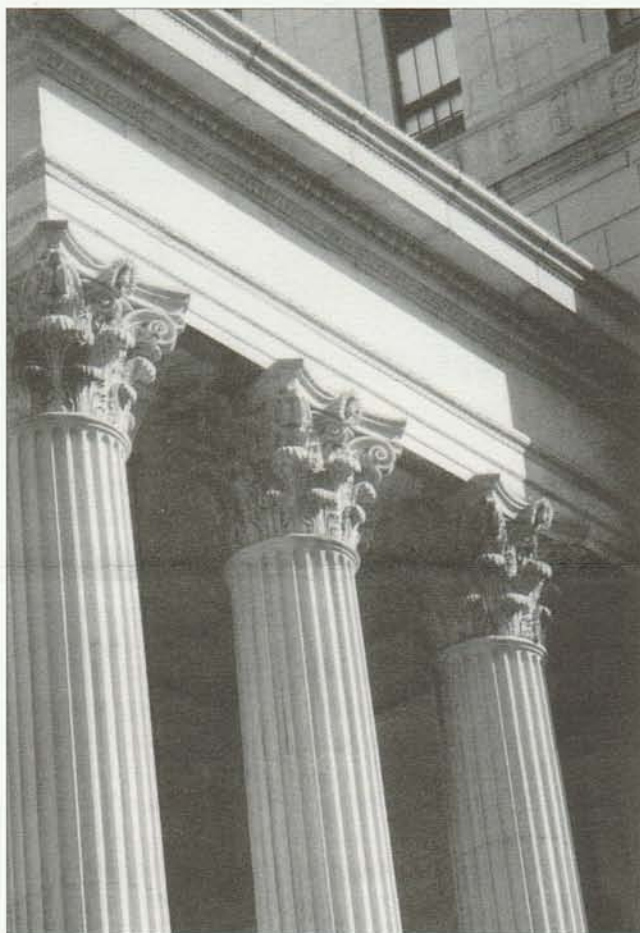
We encourage you to visit the Settlement Quarry, and I encourage you to give me a call if you have ideas you think the Planning Committee should be considering.

*Gordon Rittmeyer
for the Planning Committee*



Frank McGuire stands on a 37' stone block cut for a New York Court House column in 1923.

PHOTO BY STANLEY MYERS.



Finished Corinthian style columns of Settlement Quarry granite at the New York Court House in Manhattan.

PBLTA Discusses Stewardship Practices

As land trusts acquire more and more land and conservation easements, stewardship will become an ever greater problem and opportunity. At the last meeting of the Penobscot Bay Land Trust Alliance a wide variety of ways for improving stewardship practices were examined. These included assigning protected land or easements to individual trustees to monitor, and giving the trustees packets outlining the conservation conditions.

To meet the need for additional stewardship volunteers some land trusts have successfully used newspaper advertising, others their Internet home page. Some have used AmeriCorps volunteers, while others have utilized local school students. Also recommended was the sharing of stewardship responsibilities with other land trusts in the area and with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The meeting also considered the problems of monitoring archaeological sites and of adequately marking easement and land boundaries.

Rowan Wakefield

FLASH! Late Breaking News

Agreement has been reached in principle with the international conservation organization, The Nature Conservancy, to transfer ownership of three islands off Stonington to the Island Heritage Trust. Our obligation is to maintain them as nature preserves. All three islands allow public access. Details at the annual meeting on July 16th.

Ten Years of Achievement 1987-1997

IHT Summer Activities

In the summer of 1997 the Town of Stonington will be 100 years old. To celebrate the anniversary of its incorporation in February 1887 a series of gala events are planned, including parties, dances with period costumes, and the Fourth of July parade and fireworks in Stonington. Details will be found in the *Island Ad-Vantages*.

The Island Heritage Trust is also celebrating an anniversary. It is ten years since the founding of the organization. In order to celebrate both our anniversary and Stonington's we are producing a special centennial T-shirt designed by Siri Beckman depicting the

quarryman of William Muir's statue, which also appears on the 1997 annual report for the Town of Stonington.

As of this writing IHT has not been able to find a suitable space in Stonington for its summer information and sales office. We would welcome suggestions from readers and members. We would also welcome volunteers to help set up and staff our booth in Stonington for the Fourth of July parade and for the Steel Band Street Dance on Monday, August 11th. Please call our business office in Stonington (367-5950) if you can help.

Rowan Wakefield

Absolutely the best map of Deer Isle!

A large (26" x 36"), four-color map prepared from the US Geological Survey 7.5' series.

It is shipped in a tube, ideal for framing.

Only \$16.50, shipping included.

Faith Munson Notecards

A set of four views of Deer Isle, beautifully drawn by Faith Munson, distinguished artist.

Eight notecards in all, with envelopes, now just \$10, shipping included.

IHT Video

A video of scenic Deer Isle and Stonington describing the conservation work of the Island

Heritage Trust is available for just \$2 to cover shipping. (VHS, 12 min.)

Call 207-367-5950 to order.

Annual Meeting July 16

The annual meeting of the Island Heritage Trust will be held on Wednesday, July 16th at the Island Country Club at 7:30 pm. The agenda will include, in addition to the President's and Treasurer's reports, the annual election of trustees, and a program to be announced. It promises to be an interesting evening as we celebrate ten years of achievement. Join us. Mark your calendars now!

Marnie Crowell's Nature Notes

As readers of the *Island Ad-Vantages* will have observed, Marnie Crowell's column of nature observations, which appeared in the fall 1996 IHT newsletter, is now a regular feature in the *Ad-Vantages*. With great knowledge and style, Marnie describes Deer Isle's changing natural world from its many special vantage points.



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