

2021 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Bodwell Granite Company Scrip

In 1871, 150 years ago, the Bodwell Granite Company was incorporated and became a major employer of men and boys on Vinalhaven. With offices in Rockland and on the island, and multiple quarry operations, we can only imagine that payroll and bookkeeping were complex. Quarry workers were paid in trade tickets, also known as scrip, a sort of punch card that could be redeemed only at the Bodwell Company Store which stood where Carver's Harbor Market is now. The building was completely destroyed by fire in 1967 but, luckily, 6 boxes of scrip ended up in the attic space of what is now Davidson Realty and Skål, and were gifted to the Museum by Bob and Lois Candage.



You may have read in previous newsletters about our work to organize the Bodwell Granite Company scrip for a few years now. What information on these small pieces of paper was going to be the most valuable, and what would be the best way to arrange the data so it could be easily searched? We knew we could, at the very least, populate a list of names of men who received payment. We created a spreadsheet to record who the scrip was paid to, the year, and the amount, and began to enter each piece. (We actually created several before finding the right arrangement!) A sample of the spreadsheet can be seen on pages 2 and 3. The scrip recorded was dated between 1880 and 1897, and we know that quarrying was going on before and after these years, so it can

	Value then	Value in 2020
1880	\$1,322	\$33,748.33
1881	\$15,592	\$398,036.24
1882	\$27,907	\$712,416.46
1883	\$39,662	\$1,022,525.63
1884	\$32,219	\$856,063.41
1885	\$5,150	\$138,247.24
1886	\$1,669	\$46,232.72
1887	\$2,012	\$55,147.44
1888	\$3,483	\$95,466.46
1889	\$6,841	\$193,621.12
1890	\$3,180	\$90,992.73
1891	\$10,178	\$291,233.96
1892	\$220	\$6,295.09
1893	\$8,354	\$241,697.93
1894	\$14,637	\$443,174.32
1895	\$2,138	\$66,274.95
1896	\$9,272	\$287,418.75
1897	\$10,075	\$316,073.39

be assumed that we only have a small percentage of what was issued. This may also account for why some names only appear once. The table on the left shows the total dollar amount of scrip tallied for each year and what that would be worth in today's value.

In last year's newsletter we talked about census data. The 1890 census was destroyed in a fire, so there is a 20 year gap between the 1880 and 1900 censuses where we have few other accounts of who was living and working here. By documenting the scrip, we were able to build a list of people who were on Vinalhaven at a time when they may not appear on any other record.

We now introduce you to a few men and their families who worked at different jobs in the Bodwell Granite Company quarries. Our database totaled 1291 different names and we wish we could give them all what they are due for the hard, dirty, dangerous, yet beautiful work they did.

Charles B. Athearn may have been one of the most talented granite carvers employed by Bodwell Granite Company. Charles was born in Hope, ME, in March 1857 to William and Nancy (Fuller) Athearn. William was a peddler or "huckster" around Rockland and Camden. On the 1880 census, Charles, his parents, and sister Phila, are living in Felton, Minnesota. 23-year-old Charles is a farmer and William is a farm laborer. Although we don't know why or for how long they were in Minnesota, Charles, at least, was back by December 1881 to marry Flora Hall at Vinalhaven. The first scrip we recorded for Charles is in 1882. He seems to have excelled at stone carving quickly and became so skilled that he was sent by the company to oversee the granite installation at the National Bank of Commerce in Kansas

Name	Job	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887
Berry, Leonard P.	Granite Cutter*								
Beverage, Josiah	Laborer*	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 16.00				
Beverage, Orman									
Beverage, Roland T.	Stone Cutter^		\$ 7.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 83.00			
Bickford, Ralph J.	Stone Cutter^								
Billings, W. J.	Tool Sharpener^								
Black, J. C.				\$ 11.00					
Black, Wm.	Blacksmith^							\$ 57.00	\$ 25.00
Black, Wm. 1st	Paving Cutter^								
Black, Wm. 2nd									
Blake, Edward	Granite Cutter*		\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00					
Blighe, O. L.						\$ 55.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 10.00	
Blood, L. D.				\$ 17.00	\$ 261.00	\$ 222.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 21.00	
Blunt, Wm.	Attending School*		\$ 1.00						
Bodwell, E. J.		\$ 24.00	\$ 121.00	\$ 127.00					
Bodwell, Edward S.	Clerk BGStore*		\$ 35.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 172.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 10.00	



Charles Athearn in Kansas City, 1907

City, MO. December 31, 1907, the Courier Gazette wrote: "Charles Athearn returned Friday from Kansas City where he has been employed in the erection of the granite cut by the Bodwell Granite Company." He was also sent twice to Chicago "to do the work of an expert." He worked beside Robert Whyte and other men to carve the large granite eagles that would adorn Penn Station. It is reported that a lady once said to one of the workmen who had just completed one of the eagles: "It's wonderful! How in the world did you do it?" "Oh, there's really nothing to it, for you see, the eagle was already in the stone and all I had to do was chisel it out!" the workman replied. Charles hammered out many other ornamental and decorative pieces including his own family's cemetery stone made to look like a pile of field stones, but from a single block. Charles's obituary said it best: "He was a stone-cutter of more than ordinary ability, working at his trade nearly 40 years."

Charles Allen Creed accumulated the largest dollar amount of scrip we recorded, \$3491.00. He was born on Vinalhaven to James H. and Susan (Allen) Creed in 1848. According to the 1860 census, James was a master fisherman, son Henry was a mariner, and daughter Susan was a net maker, so you might think Charles would be drawn to life at sea, but by the 1870 census, James was listed as a quarryman,

and 21 year old Charles was a blacksmith. Charles married Mary Ann Mills in 1869, and together they had four children: Sarah Evelyn, James Leroy, Charles Jr., and Edith Aubine. James Leroy moved to Northfield, VT, just before 1900 to work as a tool sharpener for Phillips & Slack. Charles and Mary moved to Barre, VT, shortly after their son (around 1901 or 1903), where Charles continued to work as a blacksmith. Charles Jr. enlisted in the Army on July 14, 1917. He served in Co. G., 7th Infantry, and then Co. B., 7th Machine Gun Battalion, at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, France, where he was killed in action October 24, 1918. Charles and Mary returned to Vinalhaven in the spring of 1912 due to Charles's failing health and they lived with their daughter, Sarah, who married Charles Libby. Sarah took care of her mother and father until Mary died in January of 1913 from influenza, and Charles died just eleven months later, at 65 years old.

Samuel R. Cobb first appears in Vinalhaven as a "teamster" in the 1880 census. A teamster is a person who drives a team of oxen or horses that pull a wagon—or a galamander! Before coming to Vinalhaven, Samuel worked on his father's farm in Bristol,



Robert Whyte, Charles Athearn, Herbert Clarke, and Eldridge Rolfe.

1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	Total all yrs:
					\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 10.00		\$ 80.00
										\$ 30.00
						\$ 3.00				\$ 3.00
\$ 7.00	\$ 13.00									\$ 162.00
							\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 84.00	\$ 129.00
			\$ 4.00		\$ 115.00					\$ 119.00
										\$ 11.00
\$ 107.00	\$ 116.00	\$ 87.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 187.00	\$ 231.00	\$ 1,231.00
	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00		\$ 59.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 229.00
	\$ 5.00									\$ 5.00
										\$ 21.00
							\$ 5.00	\$ 20.00		\$ 109.00
										\$ 552.00
										\$ 1.00
										\$ 272.00
\$ 30.00	\$ 65.00									\$ 852.00

ME, which may be how he came to work with horses and oxen on Vinalhaven. The Bodwell Granite Company's stables were located where Hopkins Boat Yard is today. Samuel married Julia Tyler in 1875, and together they had a daughter, Sarah. Julia died just three years later. In 1880, Samuel married Adelaide "Addie" Lee. They were married 23 years and had two children together: Alvin, nicknamed Allie, and Estelle. Allie worked as a fish cutter and supervisor for Lane & Libby Fish Company. At the time of the 1910 census Samuel is listed as an engineer for the granite company, but returns to being a teamster by 1920. Samuel worked for the Bodwell Granite Company for over 40 years. In declining health, and after the death of his wife, Samuel lived with his son Allie until he passed away in 1936 at 84 years old.

Robert Whyte was born in New Deer, Scotland, in 1856. We were able to find the 1881 Scotland Census on Ancestry.com and see Robert as a 21 year-old stone mason. Robert came to the United States in 1883 with his wife Jane, and their three children. This is also the first year we recorded scrip for him. They go on to have nine more children, all born on Vinalhaven; twelve children in all. Although Robert appears in several group granite cutter photos, we know little about his work other than he labored alongside Charles Athearn on the Penn Station eagles (pictured left). Robert and Jane's life on Vinalhaven was trying and marked by devastating loss. In just twenty years, 1893 to 1913, nine members of the Whyte family died: in 1893, 1 year-old Andrew and 2 month-old Ernest; 1899, 18 year-old Charles; 1901, 18 year-old William; 1905, 15 year-old Lizzie; 1907, 28 year-old Robert Jr.; 1910, 54 year-old Robert Sr.; 1912, 9 year-old Lawrence; followed almost exactly one year later by his mother, Jane, at 56 years-old. Fred left Vinalhaven and became a cabinet maker in New York, Victor served in the Army as a mechanic

during WWI, and Lola married in Ontario, Canada. Margaret was the only one to stay in Vinalhaven. She married George Gray, also a stone cutter, and they had three children.



The Whyte Family. Standing: Fred, Robert Jr., and Lizzie; seated: Robert Sr., Victor, Jane (holding Lawrence), Lola, and Margaret

Among the hundreds of men's names we also found tickets issued to women. Knowing that women did not physically work in the quarries, we are left to wonder why they received payments: Did they rent out a room? Did they mend or launder clothes or aprons? If their husband was owed money when he died was it paid to his wife? Forty-one women received a total of \$1,872 between 1881 and 1897. Some women, like Mrs. Richard Johns, received just \$1 in 1891, while others made more over several years, like Mrs. Mary Clayter, who received \$280 between 1893 and 1896; Mrs. Ed. Avery, who received \$68 between 1882 and 1883; or Mrs. Reeve who received \$2 each year in 1882, 1886, 1887, and 1889.

This summer, the feature exhibit will showcase the men listed here, and a few more of their peers, alongside samples of the scrip we have in the collection. We hope this project will help those who have been



searching for ancestors who worked here in the quarries but were untraceable through census data. This project has also given us a better understanding of the gritty and backbreaking work that made up the inner workings of the Bodwell Granite Company.

BAND STAND

Since it was built, the Band Stand has been cared for by island organizations. Donated by the W-14 Club in about 1895, the Band Stand was originally situated at the corner of Water Street and Main Street, in front of the Reuben Carver Block of apartments. A few years later, it was moved just up the hill to its present location, possibly to make room for the installation of the granite horse watering trough.

Shortly after WWII the Lions Club made repairs to the structure. Then in early 1974, nine local groups, lead by the Garden Club and Vera Johnson, raised money to again repair the band stand. Students from the High School shop class with teacher John Merritt, volunteered the labor and the money raised went to purchase materials. A concert was held July 14, 1974, after the work was completed.



It would be almost 40 more years before the structure got another touch-up. In April 2011, group of local carpenters and handy-men volunteered time and materials to replace the floor, spindles and railings, and install new lighting.

Now, as a result of encroaching bushes, an unfortunate tango with an automobile, and general wear-and-tear, the 4th of July Committee is leading a fund raising effort to restore this historic icon once again. We fully support and encourage the committee's undertakings to make the 125-year-old gem shine again!

YEAR IN REVIEW

What a year it was! Regularly, we would have a fun map with all the states colored in and there would be a list of far away countries we had visitors from... not this year. This year we had 276 visitors to the museum (last year there were 1050). We didn't plan a feature exhibit, fearing we may not be able to open at all, so the 2019 buoy exhibit stayed in place. State guidelines recommended we limit shared material, so we asked visitors to request specific information from our notebooks that we could copy instead of freely browsing the collection.

People were still very kind with their donations to the museum which included William Warren's masonic apron from Barb Philbrook; copies of Anderson, Loud, Burgess, and Robbins family pictures from Charlie and Henrietta Winslow; and a large map of the Pacific Ocean marking the route Herb Conway's ship traveled in WWII from Cynthia Dyer. The Lasansky's gave several pieces including a very large, and very heavy, locking



dog collar with a 1938 license tag, finely braided placemats formerly belonging to Virginia Black, and one of Valerie Morton's sardine can art pieces from 2014. William Lasansky also gifted us a piece of his art—a finely carved piece of gabbro (black granite) titled *Snake Axe*. Jean Conway gave us a whole collection of hats used by the Red Hatters, including Marjorie Conway's Queen hat. Early this spring we were contacted by Roberta Duplisea Pullen, daughter of Ruth Morton Duplisea, who had a pastel by Lucille Burgess she wanted to donate. Of course we graciously accepted. We hope to someday create a space to showcase local artists.

BOSTON POST CANE AWARDED

On Mothers Day, May 9, 2021, Marguerite Mills was awarded Vinalhaven's Boston Post Cane, surrounded by friends and family!

On behalf of all the residents of Vinalhaven, we wish Marguerite the best of health and much love and happiness for many years to come!

The Star of Hope Lodge on Main Street, former residence of artist Robert Indiana, has now been stabilized and the Star of Hope Foundation has offered us the use of the ground floor windows this summer. We are very excited to be given this opportunity! Be sure to check out our display, and all the amazing work that has been done to restore this beautiful, historic building. Visit starofhopefoundation.org for more news and updates. Thank you Star of Hope Foundation!

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!

This year was one for the history books! We had a few visitors at the museum, but totals were far from where they would be typically.

We had to purchase a new dehumidifier for the vault last summer when the unit we had stopped working. The vestibule on the Boy Scout Hall needs to be shingled. Sea Coast Security installed new radio transmitters in the Museum and Boy Scout Hall, but we are still working with them to update the alarm system.

Without visitors, donations, and memberships we are unable to purchase archival materials, upkeep exhibits and create new displays, and maintain the building. Even if you are unable to visit the Museum, please consider supporting our efforts.

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!

William Chilles,
President

Amy Lear,
Vice President

Lucy Bickford,
Treasurer

Lorraine Bunker,
Secretary

Elizabeth Bunker,
Director

Board of Directors

Dallas Anthony

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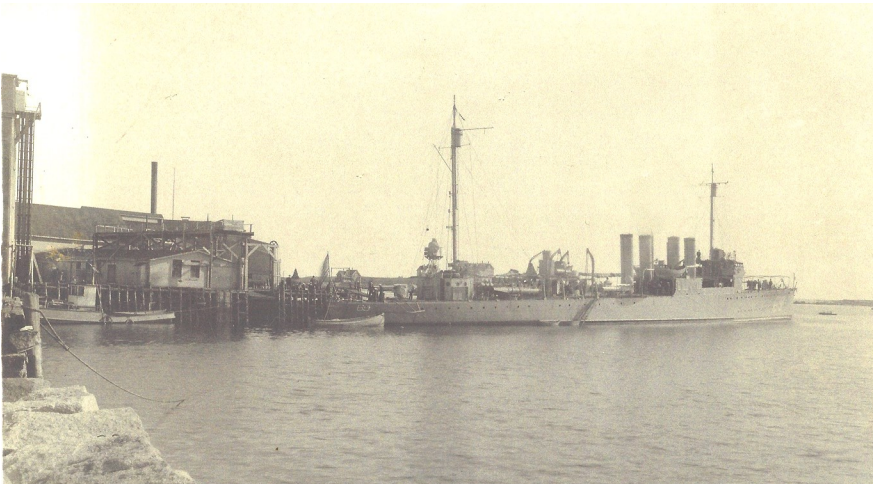
Marion Tolman

Roger Young

MILESTONES

1921 (100 years) - U.S.S. Caldwell in Vinalhaven for Labor Day celebration.

From the Courier-Gazette, September 10, 1921: "U.S.S. Caldwell arrived Sunday for one of the attractions of Labor Day celebration. Her length is 320 feet, width 30 feet, nearly 11 times as long as wide, which is very unusual. Her speed is 33 knots. At first the captain thought it not advisable to bring the ship into the inner harbor, but owing to the



capability and experience of the pilot Capt. Walter Tolman, whose services were so kindly offered, it was brought in in such a way at Lane & Libby's wharf that it was possible for people to go on board directly from a gang plank. Hundreds of people availed themselves of this opportunity to visit one of Uncle Sam's destroyers and it proved both instructive and interesting. ... The U.S.S. Caldwell, sent here by Congressman White, by petition of H. W. Fifield, added much to the celebration. It was the first warship to enter our harbor and it was manned by a fine, orderly set of officers and crew. ... The parade was greeted by hundreds of men, women and children and was cheered with enthusiasm along the whole line of march. At 11 o'clock the head of the line began to move on command of chief marshal David Mills with three squads of infantry from the ship Caldwell, World War veterans, Smith's Vinalhaven Band, Civil War veterans and the officers of the U. S. S. Caldwell in autos. ... There were two ball games in the afternoon on the School Street grounds with the Vinalhaven team winner of both games. There was an interesting boxing bout by members of the crew from the U.S.S. Caldwell. A band concert at 7 p.m., and moving pictures and dancing at Memorial Hall, the music being by the Arion Orchestra. There was also dancing at Town Hall, music by Lou's Orchestra. ... The U.S.S. Caldwell sailed Wednesday noon for Newport, RI."

1896 (125 years) - Washington School built.

Report of Building Committee 1897, Town Report: "The Washington School building is located on land purchased from Mrs. Jane E. Hopkins. The lot contains nearly two acres, and the purchase price was \$370.00. ... The Building is warmed by steam, furnished by a 36-inch horizontal steel tubular boiler located in the basement. A granite cistern under the center of the building furnishes the school and boiler with a plentiful supply of pure water, it being taken from a slated roof. The school rooms are furnished with the latest improved seats and desks. ... The appropriation by the town for land, foundation, building, heating, and seats was \$6,000. ... It was also found necessary to build two double water closets. These additions were all necessary and of great advantage to the school, and have been highly approved by all who have visited the premises; and have been the cause of the increased expenditure."



When the school districts were consolidated and the Washington School was no longer used, it was utilized by many island groups, including VIGOR, the Vinalhaven Press, and the VFW, before becoming home to the Vinalhaven Town Offices, with large, bright rooms for town meetings, code enforcement officer and assessor, and a main office for town clerks, treasurer, and town manager.

IN MEMORIAM

We were incredibly shocked and saddened at the passing of our dear friend and long-time patron, Caroline Pardoe. Caroline, and her husband Charlie, have always been enthusiastic and encouraging of all our undertakings. Her warm, bright smile will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

Annie Boyden passed away in August. She was hugely influential in introducing music and theatre to many island children. Though Annie may no longer be with us, her incredible talent and the memories she created will be carried in the hearts of many.

Florice Young passed away February 23, 2021 on Vinalhaven. She was the recipient of Vinalhaven's Boston Post Cane last May. A life-long resident, Florice was a regular feature on Main Street and at the Post Office. She was a hard working lady who lived in her own home until just recently.

LINCOLN SCHOOL FIRE

Fifty years ago, the class of 1971 was the last class to graduate from the old Lincoln School before it was destroyed by fire on August 7. The fire was called in at about 1:20am and by the time firemen arrived, flames were breaking through the roof. A fire engine was sent from Rockland on a special ferry and boys from Hurricane Island Outward Bound School came to help. The men worked throughout the night but the building was totally destroyed. When school began in September, classes were held in split sessions; 4th, 5th, and 6th grades attending until noon, then 7th, 8th, and high school students from 1 to 5 pm. Debris was quickly cleared by volunteers and a new section built, which now brought all grades into one building.



FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 HISTORIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



American Legion Post 18 Vinalhaven has formed a technical alliance with the island historical society. Images as well as pertinent service data will now be gathered online, more effectively. We are looking for pictures of veterans in uniform, discharge papers, clippings, etc., of those who have some connection with this island—summer people included! We can make copies of original images or digital images can be emailed to the Museum.

Image at left: WWII era snapshot “Joe Headley’s niece?” written on the back. Joseph F. Headley (1896-1969) was undertaker on Vinalhaven for many years.



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SUMMER HOURS

June 21 - September 24
Monday-Thursday, 9-3 & Friday, 1-4

At the time of printing, we were not able to commit to dates or locations for any summer programs. Updates will be posted in the Wind and online.

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, 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!