

Welcome (Aboard)

Dedicated to the memory of John E. Workman and Daisy E. Myrick Workman the last lighthouse keepers of Prospect Harbor Light, 1935-1953.

My first introduction to the lighthouse was Sept. 1944, as the bride of Gordon Workman, the second son of Daisy and John Workman. Gordon was on leave from the Army Air Force. Grandfather Ira Workman and Daisy and John Workman resided at the premises now known as Gull Cottage. It was an lovely home even without any modern conveniences. The black iron sink, handpump and woodstove always shined as new. The floors shined and the uncarpeted stairs were very handzsome and beautiful as the shore and ocean outside. The home was sparsely furnished with just the necessities of life. The out house with its Sears Catalog and linoleam floor even welcomed you.

When wash day c-me on Monday's Mother Workman would bring up her copper boiler from the cellar and put it on the stove to boil. Her big round tub would be put ~~on~~ its stand with her scrub board and wash day began. The wash would then be hung out between the barn and the house to dry.

The walkway between the house and the back of the tool shed ran to the outhouse. The barn held one car and the winter wood supply and a hidden bottle of remedy. Grandfather Ira would sneak out to the barn and have a nip once in a while and take some sugar and water and refill the bottle so John wouldn't know he had his midday toddy.

On Thursday Mother Workman would do her baking in the small pantry off the kitchen that also led to the cellar door. In the cellarway on the shelf, food was set to keep cool and stored. In the cellar was two brick cisterns to hold the drain water from the rood for household use. It was pumped up to the kitchen sink by the pitcher pump. Grandfather Ira's pipe and his tobacco set on the mantle in back of the large black iron stove along with the oil lamps. The house having only one light in the kitchen and two plugs in the sitting room. The oil lamps were kept trimmed and the mantles cleaned to use going upstairs at night along with the chamber pots and down in the morning. On Wednesday ironing was done.

John Workman also worked at his Grandfather Williams and Aunt Bessie Ray's store. Before that he drove for Dr. Larrabee and worked at Stinson's Sardine factory. Daisy E. Myrick also worked there. After moving into the loghthouse Daisy knitted pot heads and bait bags for the lobster men. She also baked donuts for the Summer people and baby sat for most of the small children in town. She was known as Aunt Daisy to many and loved by all.

Allison Workman their oldest son was and still is a lobsterman. He married Marie Rolfe Torrey in Sept. 1940. They have three children. Ann, Mrs. Larry Smith of Winter Harbor. Janice, Mrs. David Myrick of Gouldsboro. Norman, married Jane Sargent, they live in Winter Harbor.

Gordon and I have five children. We were married in April 1944. John married Linda Langaell, now live in Las Vegas, Nev, retired Air Force. Danny married Alive Herrick, now divorced and married to Kathy Lyman - Hernando, Florida. Lawrence married Juanita Day, Searsport, Maine. Annetta, Mrs. Dale E. Zea, Great Lakes, Ill. Gordon married Victoria Norwood, Surry, Maine.

We now live in Inverness, Florida. On Friday nights we would all go to the dances in West Bay. On Saturday Mother Workman would make baked beans and bisquits. On Sunday she would make her New England cop suey. The meal was very easy to prepare. 1 lb. of elbow macaroni half cooked and put in layers with raw hambruger in pieces and chopped onion, pieces of margarine, sprinkled with black pepper and 2 cans of tomato soup and 2 cans of water heated together and poured into a buttered dish and baked in a medium oven for 30-45 minutes till golden on top.

On Friday Mother would make salt cod with egg sauce poured over mashed potatoes. She also made molasses cookies and filled raisin cookies and wonderful tarts. She canned the cranberries from the bog and blueberries. She would make tapioca pudding. Allison called it frogs eggs and refused to eat it. Gordon loved it and would eat Allison's.

Both boys went to Prospect Harbor Grammar School and Winter Harbor High School. Allison served in the army of occupation of Manila and Japan. Gordon served 5 years and 10 months in the Army Air Force.

Grandfather Workman worked for the Railroad and was a mason by trade. He married Susie Williams. Her sister Bessie married L. S. Ray. Inever had the honor of meeting Grandmother Susie but have read many of her letters written to the Ellsworth American and signed Susie by the Sea. One letter to her M.B. friends was of Christmas with a new grandchild in the house and another I remember was a recipe for pork pie. I was given a lovely handkerchief that I shall treasure that was hers. Grandfather Ira also gave me her inkwell and quill pen. He died in the living room of the cottage New Years Day 1951. He had eaten his breakfast and went in to smoke his pipe and listen to the radio. He was filling his pipe and putting the tobacco in when he passed away. Dr. Lumley said he had a heart attack. They had to take him out the window on the back porch as he couldn't go through the small entry hall. He was the only one to die in the lighthouse as far as we know. So, if there is a ghost in the lighthouse it would be a kind and gently one who cared for his family and loved his two sons John and Philip Workman. The pull out mirror in the bathroom was always in the kitchen by the light so they could shave. His bedroom was where the bathroom is now.

My parents came to visit with us at the lighthouse in July 5, 1951. Allison took my Dad William Marino, Gordon and our son John and brother Fran with him and his daughter Ann Fishing. They all loved it.

Daisy Workman was buried Aug. 2, 1963 at the Prospect Harbor cemetery. John remarried 2 years later. John was married to Dorothy Graham for seven years. John Workman was bruied in Prospect Harbor cemetery in October 1972.