

# ISHRA Newsletter

Isles of Shoals Historical and Research Association

Volume 17 Issue 1

April 2008

Our mission is to locate, collect, organize, preserve, expand, and make available information and knowledge relating to the natural and human history of the Isles of Shoals.

## MAY SPEAKER: ANDREA MELLVILLE SHOALS HISTORY DOCUMENTARY “AN ISLAND KINGDOM”

Andrea Melville is weaving a rich tapestry of four-hundred years of Shoals history in the form of a public television documentary. On the evening of May 13th, ISHRA members will get a sneak preview of some of the footage shot for the Barking Spider Productions' hour-long documentary, “An Island Kingdom,” along with remarks from producer Andrea Melville.



An Island Kingdom

Courtesy of Barking Spider Productions

Last summer, Andrea spent her time at the Isles interviewing Shoals historians and taping scenes of those wind-swept, isolated islands. She's spent the winter editing and preparing to shoot the final scenes at the Shoals this spring.

“An Island Kingdom” will feature entries from Nathaniel Hawthorne's diary, describing his visit to the Shoals in the summer of 1852. A myriad of historic photographs will illustrate the lives of those who lived on the Isles along with those who visited and described the Isles in art, poetry and music.

Contemporary, seasonal images of the Isles of Shoals give a present day look to the program which also features the turbulent 1970s when an off-shore oil terminal was proposed and defeated, the conferences on Star Island, the Shoals Marine Laboratory and the Lighthouse Kids Project.

From the first public note of the Shoals on John Smith's 1614 map to current activities on the Isles, “An Island Kingdom” shows a deep connection to these nine islands off the shore of Maine and New Hampshire. This connection was forged on a field trips Andrea took in grade school while growing up on the seacoast and years later has endured to become the current focus of her production company, Barking Spider Productions.

Andrea has over 20 years of television and film experience, producing programs with both New Hampshire and Vermont Public Television including segments for New Hampshire Crossroads and the 30-part series Rural Free Delivery. She has produced two Emmy-award winning documentaries and has received National Telly and Columbus International Awards.

Don't miss the presentation of scenes from the forthcoming television documentary “An Island Kingdom” on Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00pm at the ISHRA meeting at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire. Our speaker, Andrea Melville, will describe her experiences in producing this remarkable, fascinating program about the history of the Isles of Shoals.

ISHRA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Refreshments at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm

Speaker: Andrea Melville

Seacoast Science Center, Rye, NH

Please Bring Refreshments!

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As a member of ISHRA, have you ever noticed that you've never received a solicitation from the organization? Oddly enough, ISHRA doesn't compete for your donation dollars. Instead, we simply ask that you share your passion for the history of the Isles of Shoals.

Right now, ISHRA is solidly involved in multiple efforts to fulfill our mission concerning the natural and human history of the Isles of Shoals. Rather uniquely, these efforts don't require your money. They call for your time and talent.

ISHRA urgently needs a new treasurer this year. We'd like to receive your contributions to our website and newsletter. ISHRA welcomes your involvement, whether you are a brand new member or have been a member since our inception.

So, don't send money. Just send an email.

Ann Beattie  
ISHRA President  
abeattie@comcast.net

## ISHRA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please look at the mailing label on this newsletter to determine your dues status in ISHRA. We value your interest and your attendance at activities, meetings and conferences. The note on the mailing label serves as a THANK-YOU to all who are LIFE members or who have already renewed, and a gentle reminder to those whose dues are due.

Dues continue to be \$10 for an Individual; \$5 for Junior (under 18); \$25 for Family, Group, or Institution; and \$100 for a Lifetime Individual Membership. Dues can be paid at meetings, or mailed to ISHRA, P.O. Box 705, Portsmouth, NH 03802.

We welcome several new members in 2007-08: Philip Brady, Mary Ann Cappiello, Jim Cerny, Skip Downing, Walworth Johnson, Joanna Knochen, Katherine Leigh, Stephen O'Neil, Ann Peters, June & Tim Pinkham, Ann Sloan, Gail Sweeney, and Coastal Discoveries of Newburyport.

New LIFETIME members of ISHRA during 2007-08 include: John Diamond, Cassie Durette, Ann Forbes, Felice Fullam, Robert Garland, Alice Gordan, Brent Jackson, John Kingsbury, Betty Lavalley, Virginia Nichols, Marge Nickerson, Richard O'Connell, and Howell Russell.

Jean Stefanik  
ISHRA Membership Chair

## ERRATUM

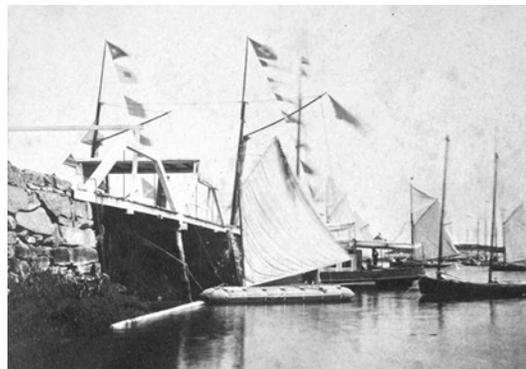
The Isles of Shoals Historical & Research Association and our newsletter Editor deeply regret the publication of an image of a painting by Olaf Brunner in our fall 2007 newsletter. During the newsletter printing process the image was mistakenly substituted for another piece of Mr. Brunner's artwork that we were authorized to publish. Every effort has been made to find the owner of the painting to whom we sincerely apologize.

## ISHRA CONFERENCE SHOALS COMMUNITIES JUNE 21 - 25, 2008

ISHRA will hold our annual June Conference on Star Island from Saturday, June 21st to Wednesday, June 25th, 2008, focusing on community life at the Isles of Shoals in centuries past.

Step back in time and visit the Shoals of the 17th century when Iberian ships sank in the treacherous Shoals waters on their way to fill their holds with the Shoalers' famed dunfish. Investigate historical Gosport, the fishing village on Star Island, and tour the site with 3-D images from the past, contrasting vistas from now and then.

Venture into the 19th century when resort guests filled the hotels on the Shoals and poet Celia Thaxter hosted famous artists, musicians and writers. Live the life of a Victorian resort hotel guest while staying in the historic Oceanic Hotel. Learn of the famous visitors to the Shoals resort hotels, particularly those who visited popular poet and essayist Celia Thaxter. Experience the music and poetry of one of her "salons." Attend a seaweed pressing workshop and discover this Victorian pastime.



Oceanic Regatta, July 24, 1875  
Private Collection

Registration for the conference is \$85 for 2008 ISHRA members and \$95 for non-members (includes one-year ISHRA membership). Star Island is reached by a conference boat that departs from Rye Harbor at a cost of

\$41 per person, round-trip. Parking at Rye Harbor is \$10 a day or any portion of a day. Room & board is as follows: Triple \$377, Double \$403 and Single \$489; Motel Double \$430, Motel Single \$714. A \$75 room & board deposit is payable with registration; the balance is payable on Star Island along with boat transportation and parking fees.

To register for the conference, or for more information, please visit ISHRA's website at [www.ishra.org](http://www.ishra.org), go to Star Island's website at [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org), email [ishraconf@comcast.net](mailto:ishraconf@comcast.net), call 603-778-7480 or write to ISHRA June Conference at P.O. Box 705, Portsmouth NH, 03802.

## ISHRA FALL WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 5 -7, 2008

This ISHRA fall gathering on Star Island brings together people who delight in exploring the history, lore, and legends of the Isles of Shoals. This year, from Friday, September 5th to Sunday, September 7th, both new and old Shoalers will enjoy a weekend of casually organized activities. Explore Star Island, take a rowboat to Smuttynose Island, or watch your friends make the harbor crossing from the comfort of a porch rocking chair. Social events and traditional candlelight service in Gosport chapel are included in the weekend. We will be sharing the island with an Elderhostel group, a Writers group, and North Universalist Chapel Society.

Registration for the conference is \$75 for 2008 ISHRA members and \$85 for non-members (includes one-year ISHRA membership). Star Island is reached by a conference boat that departs from Rye Harbor at a cost of \$41 per person, round-trip. Parking at Rye Harbor is \$10 a day or any portion of a day. Room & board is as follows: Triple: \$203, Double \$217, Single \$263; Motel Double \$232, Motel Single \$384. A \$75 room & board deposit is payable with registration; the balance is payable on Star Island along with boat transportation and parking fees.

To register for the conference, or more information, please visit ISHRA's website at [www.ishra.org](http://www.ishra.org), go to Star Island's website at [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org), email [Jeango4it@aol.com](mailto:Jeango4it@aol.com), call 603-647-1063 or write to ISHRA September Conference at P.O. Box 705, Portsmouth NH, 03802.

## SUMMER ON THE SHOALS

Appledore Island - The Shoals Marine Lab offers several exciting courses for adults and families throughout the summer, many of them running concurrently on the last weekend in August. This enables a couple, a family or a group of friends to be on island enjoying time together while pursuing different interests. The

adult courses for the weekend of Aug. 29-31 include Marine Mammals, Nature Photography and a shoreline study. The long-standing Appledore House Weekend offers a chance to experience the island as it was in the Hotel and Celia Thaxter Era, including meals of the time as researched and taught by the SML head chef. For more information on these and all SML courses please visit: [www.sml.cornell.edu](http://www.sml.cornell.edu) or call Pamela Boutilier at 603-430-5220.

Star Island - Many of the great summer conferences on Star Island are open to the public. Conferences this summer include those involving spiritual exploration, natural history, international affairs, yoga, photography, painting, writing and family gatherings. ISHRA holds two conferences on Star Island, a four-day conference in June and a weekend in September. Star Island conferences offer an opportunity for development in the historic island setting of the village of Gosport. Conferees stay in 19th century cottages or the resort era Oceanic Hotel. For more information on these and other Star Island Conferences visit [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org) or call the Star Island Corporation at 603-430-6272.

**Shoals Classes and Conferences Hosted by ISHRA Members, Summer 2008:** Appledore House Weekend, often hosted by SML founder John Kingsbury (check with SML this year); Elderhostel on Star, coordinated by Joan Cummiskey; Exploring Appledore Through Art with Wendy Turner; ISHRA June Conference on Star Island, chaired by Ann Beattie; ISHRA September Weekend on Star Island, chaired by Jean Stefanik; Star Digital Photography Workshop, chaired by Peter E. Randall; Star Island Photography Retreat, chaired by Peter E. Randall

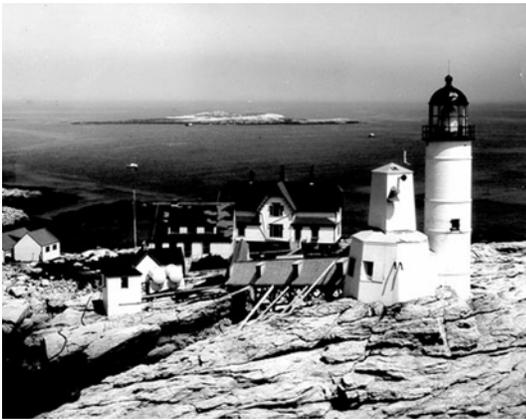
## WHITE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE: AN ICON OF MARITIME HISTORY

By Sue Reynolds, Founder and Director of Lighthouse Kids Corporation

To aid mariners and help protect our shores, a lighthouse has stood on White Island since 1820. The cylindrical brick tower which stands today was built in 1860. For almost 150 years White Island Lighthouse Station has withstood the harsh elements of ferocious ocean storms.

Fortunately, until 1986 the lighthouse was manned, first by light keepers and then by the Coast Guard. The people living on the island took care of the facilities. Unfortunately, in 1986 technology allowed the United States Coast Guard to automate the light. In effect, the historic structures on White Island were abandoned. People no longer lived out there! Federal funding for manned lighthouse stations was curtailed nationwide.

In 1992 the US Coast Guard gave White Island back to the State of New Hampshire. The Coast Guard would still maintain the light as a navigational aid. White and Seavey Islands, including buildings/structures, became the responsibility of State of New Hampshire, Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation. The NH Parks Department traditionally operates on revenues collected from tourists. There were no tourists visiting White Island Lighthouse. It was too remote. An artist in residence program was initiated but did not survive. Atlantic Aquasport of Rye tried to develop a diving destination on White Island. That too fizzled. As time passed the lighthouse station fell into more and more disrepair!



White Island, c. 1859, Courtesy USCG

A few local residents, particularly those around Rye Harbor, became aware and concerned. There were cracks in the tower. The US Coast Guard was no longer responsible. The State of New Hampshire had no funds to preserve the historic structures on White Island. WHAT COULD BE DONE? During the summer of 2000, comments around Rye Harbor were, "Someone has to do something!" Sometimes the most unexpected things just evolve.

I, Sue Reynolds, am a boat captain, transiting to and from the Isles of Shoals daily in the summer months. I am a retired teacher, having taught at North Hampton School for 38 years. I have a lifelong love of the ocean, boats, nature and local history. I am acquainted with many Parks Department employees. I am so grateful to have been in the right time, place and position to have been able to facilitate this important effort. Saving a piece of seacoast New Hampshire history continues to be a tremendous undertaking but a truly rewarding and enriching experience! Facets of my life all seem to connect through White Island.

In the fall of 2000 I was employed as a seventh grade science teacher at North Hampton School. In this position, I was required to teach a Community Service Group. We monitored the Little River Estuary Project

and did beach cleanups at North Hampton Beach. While picking up the beach, we talked about the Lighthouse and preserving local history.

Lighthouse Kids evolved slowly but steadily. Local historian Dennis Robinson helped Lighthouse Kids set up a website and set goals. In the fall of 2002 we became a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. We formed an unlikely but highly successful partnership with the State of New Hampshire. Lighthouse Kids goal is to "Save and Maintain White Island Lighthouse Station at the Isles of Shoals."

Students involved in this project learn valuable life lessons. They also teach adults valuable lessons. For example, one female student, while speaking to the New Hampshire Legislature in 2003, said "Well, White Island Lighthouse is historic and it's in danger of falling down . . . It's like the Old Man of the Mountain and what would you do if that fell down?" The irony is that three months later the Old Man of the Mountain did fall down.

Over the years Lighthouse Kids has been instrumental in procuring well over \$300,000 to restore White Island Lighthouse. North Hampton and seacoast community members worked diligently in 2005 to make the "Lobstar Project" a huge success. As a fundraiser, we placed Lobstar statues all around the seacoast. Yes, it was work but it was also fun!

In 2006, Lighthouse Kids incorporated, becoming the nonprofit, Lighthouse Kids Corporation. An eclectic, energetic and talented group of 8 seacoast residents serve as Directors of the corporation. Chapters of Lighthouse Kids are presently at Winnacunnet High School and Rye Junior High.

### **Recent Accomplishments on White Island**

Just in time, before winter frost and ice damaged the tower, New Hampshire Glass volunteered their time and materials to repair the window that had been damaged in last April's ocean storm. The northeast lower window was a new replacement in 2005. April's ferocious ocean storm dislodged the window, pushing it in. The heavy metal frame was bent but amazingly the glass remained in tact. The window is repaired and sealed up tight for the winter!

The marine railway designed and built by Pickering Marine has been completed. Now public access with a small boat is feasible.

The United States Coast Guard has repaired the helicopter landing pad and will soon be installing new solar panels (to charge the batteries that power the light) and installing a new foghorn. Both the solar panels and foghorn were destroyed in the Patriot's Day storm. The covered walkway was also destroyed in the April 2007 storm. Funds are being appropriated and permitting is underway to replace it. The parge

(whitewashing) on the tower was washed off on the northeast side near the damaged window. Hopefully, that too will be repaired this summer.

Our next fundraiser is the Second Annual Walkathon to Preserve White Island Lighthouse Station. On Monday, May 19, 2008 (rain date: Tues., May 20) the Walkathon will begin at the Rye Harbor parking lot and terminate at the south end of the North Hampton Beach parking lot across from the Beach Plum. As long as the day is clear, all participants will have a view of the Lighthouse as they walk a distance of 4 miles. Participants will walk in a southerly direction on the east side of Route 1-A and will be transported back to Rye Harbor by trolley. Everyone will meet at Rye Harbor between 3:45 and 4:15pm.

The first wave walkers will begin at 4:00pm. To culminate the event, hotdogs and ice cream will be served to participants at Rye! This should be a great event for Lighthouse Kids! PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO SAVE WHITE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE! If you or your group would like to be a participant(s), you may email Sue Reynolds at [uncleoscar@comcast.net](mailto:uncleoscar@comcast.net), contact Mrs. Cathy Silver at Winnacunnet High School or contact Mrs. Kathy Collyer at Rye Junior High. For more information, please visit [www.lighthousekids.org](http://www.lighthousekids.org) and click on "Walkathon".

## GEOLOGY AT THE ISLES OF SHOALS: THE SHORT VERSION

By Arnie Silverstone

One definition of Geology is "the study of the Earth's history as it is recorded in the rocks." When you think about it, rocks are certainly an archival recording medium, that is, if you know how to read their language. To understand what the Isles of Shoals rock is revealing to us about its origin, we first must review a few fundamental geological concepts from my "School of Hard Rocks."

From the very beginning, the Earth's continents and sea floors (the crust) have been continuously changing their shape and position on the globe. This idea was proposed to the geological community by a few profound thinkers more than a century ago, but it only generated negative controversy and many questions. "How could solid bedrock actually move about, what a foolish proposal?" "What could possibly develop enough force capable of moving entire continents?" Clues to answering some of these questions were finally revealed in the 1950's when deep sea diving, ocean drilling and sea floor mapping technologies were steadily being perfected. Finally, during the 1960's, the confirmation of plate movement gave rise to a new science

called "Plate Tectonics", from the Greek tekton for "builder". It was determined that convection currents of a hot, semi molten layer (athensphere) just beneath the crust provided the enormous power required to push and pull these plates around. There are three distinct plate motions creating the boundaries that shape our oceans and continents along with mountain regeneration.

"Convergent plate boundaries" are regions where two or more tectonic plates move toward one another forming either a subduction zone or a continental collision. In a subduction zone, an oceanic plate may move beneath a continental plate producing volcanic areas. In continental collisions, converging occurs between two continental plates capable of pushing up an entire mountain range, such as the Himalayas.

A "divergent plate boundary" exists when two plates are moving away from each other, producing a new crust as the split fills with magma. These areas can form in the middle of continents, producing rift valleys (e.g., African Rift), or on an oceanic plate, causing sea floor spreading (e.g., Atlantic Rift).

"Transform plate boundaries" are lateral motions of one plate sliding past another. Because of friction, the plates cannot simply glide past each other but rather move in short bursts of motion. The energy transmitted by the strain release is the major cause of earthquakes (e.g., San Andreas fault).



Basalt Dike Cutting Pegmatite on Star Island  
Courtesy of Arnie Silverstone

The second part of this lesson is learning how new rocks are born. There are three fundamental classes of rocks: Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic.

Igneous rock is "born of fire" (the Latin ignis means fire.) All igneous rocks once existed in a molten state known as magma. As magma slowly cools, various minerals will link and grow into their natural crystal forms. The slower the cooling process, the larger the crystals become. Magma cooling extremely slowly pro-

duce a type of igneous rock we call granite. At times magma may find its way to the surface or into narrow cracks. In this scenario, heat is rapidly dissipated and the minerals remain too tiny to be distinguished with the naked eye. Basalt is an igneous rock we find locally that is created in this manner.

Sedimentary rocks generally tell a gentler story of their birth from deposited minerals that have weathered and eroded from our great mountain ranges, producing sandstones and shale. Other sedimentary rocks may be the result of deposits from marine animals or plant detritus accumulating into great depths producing limestone and soft coal respectively. As sediment deposition builds up, the weight of the overburden squeezes the sediments into layered solids in a process known as lithification.

Metamorphic rocks (changed in form) result when any kind of preexisting rock, igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic, is altered by high temperature and pressure without remelting. The rocks basic chemical composition does not change but the recombination can produce new minerals and textures. Frequently distinct bands are produced in the rock, called foliation, and this can be used to identify some types of metamorphic rock. Foliation occurs while the rock is hot enough to be in a plastic state, allowing common minerals to migrate and form these different colored bands. The schist and gneiss we find in our area display examples of this foliation.

Now that you have a “comprehensive understanding” of geology, here is the “short version” of the origin of the Isles of Shoals. Let’s begin the time line at about 500 million years ago when the setting would have looked something like this. Our continent, Laurentia, had a grand mountain range named the Taconic Mountains running north and south along the eastern coast on the shores of the Iapetus Ocean. Moving toward us at the same time were the continents known as Gondwanaland, Baltica, and Avalonia.

As tens of millions of years passed, the erosion of those Taconic Mountains deposited thousands of feet of sediment out into this shallow ocean. The relentless plate tectonic advancement of all the continents toward each other slowly compressed this sediment like a giant vice. These tremendous forces created enough heat and pressure to slowly transform the sediments into metamorphosed rock. The very fine-grained sediments became schist; the more sandy and coarse sediments produced gneiss, granulites and quartzite. These foliated and folded metamorphic rocks are the most ancient rock found on the islands, dating back 350 to 400 million years.

During the period of 300 to 350 million years ago, great pools of magma were intruding into the folds of this previously formed metamorphic rock. Being

trapped beneath this ancient rock, slow cooling occurred which produced the granites. The oldest intrusion was the magma that produced the very dark igneous rock known as diorite found on the eastern shore of Appledore. Subsequent surges of magma continued to push up under, sometimes engulfing the old metamorphic crust, producing other various types of granite and pegmatite as it slowly cooled.

The plate tectonic activity ceased sometime around 250 million years ago when all the continents finally locked together forming Pangaea, “one Earth”. This quiet state ended about 200 million years ago when the plates began breaking apart, giving birth to the Atlantic Ocean. As stresses were relieved in the bedrock, many cracks developed and magma quickly filled these voids. Magma that had cooled rapidly in these narrow fissures can be observed in the many “dikes” that are scattered around the islands.

Other than the continuous erosion by weathering, the last event that profoundly shaped the islands into what we see today was the continental glacier of the Great Ice Age. This great ice sheet, up to a mile thick, wore down, sculpted and rounded off the sharp edges of the various bedrocks. Although the glacier made the final retreat more than 12,000 years ago, the rocks have recorded its presence with several remaining landmarks. Glacial striations (scratches) and Glacial erratics (large boulders) can be readily found on Appledore and Star as well as a beautifully carved pothole on the Star Island side of Gosport Harbor.

For those interested in learning the “longer version” of these fascinating geological events, let me recommend a couple of great publications that I used to research this article. Katherine Fowler-Billings wrote *The Geology of the Isles of Shoals* in 1959, which includes island maps to find various rock types and geological landmarks. Chet and Maureen Raymo’s *Written in Stone* is an easy and non-technical read for those wanting to learn the intimate details of the geological origins of New England.

## THE ISLES OF SHOALS SALON

By Douglas Nelson

I became interested in the art of the Isles of Shoals through my wife, Karin Cullity Nelson. Karin catalogued the collection at the Vaughn Cottage on Star Island in the Summer of 1986. She also assisted David Park Curry in his research for *Childe Hassam, An Island Garden Revisited* while she served as Assistant Curator at Strawberry Banke Museum in the late Eighties. We began collecting period paintings as newlyweds in the early Nineties.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, poet, essayist and painter Celia Thaxter (1835-1894) began to gather around her some of the finest American painters, musicians, writers and poets. Her summer cottage on Appledore Island at the rugged and beautiful Isles of Shoals became the site of one of our nation's preeminent artists' colonies. Many of the finest American painters would travel to Celia's salon each summer, six miles off of the coast of Rye, New Hampshire.

The most notable painter to come to the Isles of Shoals was Childe Hassam (1859-1935), and he may have painted as much as ten percent of his body of work while on the islands. Celia Thaxter is given credit for convincing Hassam to drop his first name "Frederick" in favor of the more interesting middle name "Childe".

A Hassam painting of the interior of Celia's salon at Appledore is said to have recently changed hands privately for more than \$20 million. Along with several fellow Impressionists including John Appleton Brown (1844-1902) and Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1915), Childe Hassam was honored by Celia Thaxter's family in having a cottage built on land abutting her own.

Unlike the endless scenery of peaks, valleys and waterfalls available to painters of the White Mountain School, subject matter of the Isles of Shoals was limited to the finite geography of nine islands; a single peak in the Presidential Range in the White Mountains would eclipse the Shoals in sheer volume. The barren rocks, wave formations, and flowers in Celia's garden provided ample subject matter for Appledore's captive audience.

Some of the first painters to work at the Shoals were women. Susanna Hickling Lewis Willard (19th Century) painted locations at the Shoals in 1859. Ellen Robbins (1828-1905) and Celia painted scenery and flowers in the 1880's; Celia Thaxter watercolors of the Shoals are rare and have become highly prized. Maria A'Becket (1840-1904) was among the first students of William Morris Hunt (1824-1879) and French painter Charles Daubigny (1817-1878), and her pioneering impressionist seascapes are in evidence here. Marion Howard (1883-1953) was a key student of Edmund Tarbell, and she has left several impressions of Appledore.

Some of the well-known painters to have come to the Shoals early on include William Trost Richards (1833-1905) in 1869 and 1873, and John Christopher Miles (1837-1911) who in 1874 painted the hypnotic nocturne *Moonrise* at the Isles of Shoals. Samuel Lancaster Gerry (1813-1891) painted a watercolor of Celia's red cow "Juno" at Appledore in the 1870's. Otto Grundmann (1848-1890) and William Morris Hunt, both founders of the Boston School of painting, painted at the Shoals in 1878 and 1879 respectively. However, the tragic outcome for Hunt (and for Celia) was that

his body was found face down in a shallow pool behind her cottage. Ignaz Gaugengigl (1855-1932) was another Boston School teacher who worked in the summers, though Shoals images are lacking for this figure painter.

Addison Thomas Millar (1860-1913), Alfred Thompson Bricher (1837-1908), Thomas Moran (1837-1926) and James David Smillie (1833-1909) are among the prominent painters who came to Appledore in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century.

Brothers Willem Frederick De Haas (1830-1880) and Mauritz Frederick De Haas (1832-1895) both painted at the Isles of Shoals with Mauritz teaching the next generation of painters. MFH De Haas' star pupil was Warren Sheppard (1859-1937), the luminist painter and great designer of racing yachts.

When Celia Thaxter died in 1894, Olaf Brauner (1869-1947) had only visited the Shoals for a few summers, but he would go on to be remembered for his paintings and as the founder of the Fine Art Department at Cornell University. Brauner, Hassam, Appleton Brown and Ross Turner were pallbearers at Celia's funeral.

As the Isles of Shoals Salon of painters moves into the modern era we must recognize the work of John Hatch (1919-1997) who has taught a new generation of representational painters including Tom Glover and Barrett McDevitt (1963). Bill Davis, Louis Guarnaccia (1958), Grant Hacking (1964) and T.A. Charron are among the leading artists at the Shoals who work in representational style. Wendy Turner, Sean Beavers, Sydney Bella Sparrow, James Holbrook Lafleur, Sally Ladd Cole and Catherine Raynes are emerging artists who have done noted works at the Isles of Shoals.

A small oil painting of Boon Island, located several miles North of Appledore, has recently come to light, along with a provenance that attributes the work to Winslow Homer (1836-1910). It is possible that Homer painted at the Shoals as well.

A fire at the Appledore Hotel in 1914 destroyed many of the guest logs as well as the buildings themselves. No doubt other Isles of Shoals works by other artists of merit will surface in years to come, further bolstering the importance of this early artists' colony.

**Visit ISHRA's New Website:  
[www.ishra.org](http://www.ishra.org)**

**Shoals Bibliography  
Visiting the Shoals  
Shoals Archives**

**Coming Soon:  
ISHRA Member Email**

# ISHRA Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 1  
April, 2008



Advertisement from the  
Portsmouth Herald, July 3, 1899

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Isles of Shoals Historical  
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