

Colby & Stuart map of Mount Desert (1887)

Centre? Center? Where and What Was That?

Raymond E. Robbins, Jr.

Centre? Center? What's that? Oh, really? Well, where was it? What happened to it? Why?

Reasonable questions, all of these! "Center" was a small, very active and (for its time) well populated village on the western side of Mount Desert Island. It was settled prior to 1800 and for some time during the next several decades was called "Centre". On 24 August 1893, the official name of its post office was changed from "Centre" to "Center".

Conventional wisdom has it that it was so named because it was the center of religious activity and influence on the western side of the island. This was certainly so in the early part of the eighteen hundreds. But let's back up a little!

Well-known written histories tell us that Champlain explored and named our island *Isle des Monts Deserts* as early as 1604. Over the years people visited the island for various amounts of time, some shorter, some longer. Indians, of course, have lived on the island, off and on, for thousands of years.

In 1789 Mount Desert was incorporated as a Town that included all of Mount Desert Island and many of the surrounding islands. On 22 February 1796, Eden, which would much later become Bar Harbor, was set off from Mount Desert as an incorporated town. On 3 June 1848, another split took place in the western and southern part of the island, and a new town called Mansel was incorporated. However, the town's name was changed to Tremont in August of that same year. The remaining Town of Mount Desert then was nestled between Eden and Tremont. The final split came in February of 1905 when Southwest Harbor split away from Tremont to become the island's fourth town. In the meantime many little settlements grew and flourished in varying degrees. One of these was Center, on the western side of Mount Desert Island and in the northwest corner of the Town of Tremont.

Of course, after Southwest Harbor split off from Tremont, the population of Tremont dropped drastically, while that of Eden – soon to become known as Bar Harbor – was growing rapidly as our beautiful island was “discovered” by the artists, the “rusticators” and the early tourists. As the table below shows, by 1900 the population of Eden was more than double that of Tremont, which still included Southwest Harbor.¹

TOWN	1850	1870	1880	1890	1900
Tremont	1425	1822	2011	2036	2010
Eden	1127	1195	1629	1946	4379
Mount Desert	682	918	1017	1355	1600
Cranberry Isles	?	350	343	320	374

Changing Population of the Towns, 1850-1900

But now let’s get back to Center, the bustling little place that history is trying to forget while many of its present and past residents want to keep it alive!

Center was indeed a thriving community during its heyday. Many of its residents were sea captains and sailors, some were fishermen, several were farmers, others were blacksmiths, some worked in lumber and grist mills, and a few would travel by horse and wagon to Southwest Harbor or Eden/Bar Harbor where they were carpenters, house painters and paper hangers. People weren’t afraid to work then. An empty stomach was a good incentive! (Things are a little different today. Too many aren’t as willing to work the soil, dig for clams, fish the bottom or scour the woods and fields for nature’s bounty!)

Common sense dictates that the northern boundary of Center would be at the Tremont-Mount Desert town line. The southern boundary is a different story. As near as I have been able to tell, it would be somewhere in the vicinity of the present St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, part way up Seal Cove Pond, or perhaps at the Old Center Road just up the road from the present Antique Auto Museum. One person says the church; another says the Old Center Road. The line – wherever it really was – would then have marked the northern boundary of the settlement of Seal Cove.

Seal Cove's boundaries always have seemed somewhat nebulous to me, but I recently learned that a survey many, many years ago settled at least the southern boundary. Admiral Richard E. Byrd of Latty Cove was unhappy about something and wanted his mail to go to Seal Cove, so he hired a surveyor to identify the line between Seal Cove and West Tremont. Apparently it was determined to be a short distance, maybe a hundred yards or so, north of the intersection of the Dix Point Road and the present Route 102. Thereafter, the Admiral's mail could be delivered to the Seal Cove Post Office. So be it.

When I was a youngster growing up in West Tremont, there were seven settlements, albeit small, in the Town of Tremont: Center, Seal Cove, West Tremont, Richtown, Bernard, Head-of-the Harbor and McKinley. One could almost include "the Cape Road" and Kelletown as separate settlements, but I won't. McKinley started out as Bass Harbor, became McKinley after the assassination of President William McKinley, and then changed back to Bass Harbor in more recent years.

Center's Houses and People

From what I've been told, most of the houses on the Cape Road were considered to be in Center, although those at the southern end of the Cape Road were considered part of Seal Cove.

There are still quite a few houses along the Cape Road, but most are now actually well off the road itself. Some of the old houses are still in use, including the Stewart Homestead and the Jonathan and Pearl Robbins house. I believe that the Isaac Dow homestead may also still be standing, having become a "summer residence". There are countless cellar holes where the old houses had burned or fallen down.

An 1887 map by Colby & Stuart² listed some of the Cape Road residents:

R. A. Harper	J. Ober	H. P. Harper
Mrs. W. Hodgdon	A. Ober	W. Ober
N. A. Murphy	P. S. Harper	G. Galley
Pearl S. Robbins	Capt. L. W. Stewart	M. Hodgdon
W. & I. C. Dow	J. Farrell Est.	J. Hodgdon
S. Hodgdon	S. Nutter	K. K. Hodgdon
J. B. Stanley	I. Reed.	

Contributing to Center's relatively large population were the numerous homes along what is now Route 102 as it passed through the village. Colby & Stuart's 1887 map identified many. Starting at the north end could be found:

David Clark	Matthew Hodgdon	Joseph Hodgdon
William Hodgdon	J. B. Ober	S. Leonard
Thurlow Dow	A. Robbins	S. W. Herrick
W. H. Clinkard	W. H. Clinkard, Jr.	W. Harper
S. H. Robbins	J. H. Robinson	J. Billings
E. C. Harper	Mrs. C. Fuller	Capt. S. Billings
Capt. C. Robbins	Capt. N. A. Harper	J. W. Ober
Benj. Sawyer	L. W. Reed.	

Along the Cape Road and in other parts of Center, small coves were named for the men who owned vessels – the sea captains such as the Stewarts, Sawyers, Hodgsons, and Someses, to name a few.

Between the Cape Road and the so-called “main road”, now known as Route 102, were many acres of fields and good farmland with homes. Robbins Hill, now in Seal Cove, probably was named for the writer's great, great, great grandfather, Benjamin Robbins, and his wife, Judith. He was a blacksmith and had a son, also named Benjamin and also a blacksmith. Other sons followed the sea. I've often wondered where the older Benjamin's blacksmith shop was located. Logic would place it close to his home on Robbins Hill, where he could serve his neighbors in the immediate Seal Cove area. The younger Benjamin is buried in Ellsworth, so I have no idea where his shop was.

There are very few people left in the Center area now who can remember much about the “old days” when the settlement was at its peak. Oh, there are still Butlers, Harpers, Hodgsons, Campbells, Kelleys, Reeds, McIntires and a few other descendants of the old and prominent Center families, but many more of the old names are gone, if not nearly forgotten. No longer found are names like Farrell, Ober, Robbins, Stewart, Carter, Clinkard, Somes, Sawyer, Dow, Leonard and others.

Post Offices

Center, Seal Cove, West Tremont, Bernard and McKinley each had their own post offices. I have an old post card showing the home of a

Thurston who had the post office in his home. This house was in what we called Head-of-the Harbor and it was the Bernard Post Office, at least for as long as Mr. Thurston was Postmaster. When the job was assigned to someone else, the post office would be relocated to his or her home. That's the way things were in most all of the little settlements in Tremont until the job got "big" enough to warrant a small but separate building for the actual post office.

The Postmaster at the time "Centre" became "Center" was William W. Hodgdon, grandson of Joseph T. Hodgdon, III, the first Hodgdon on Mount Desert Island and one of the first settlers in the village. Juanita Hodgdon Stanley, a direct descendant of Joseph T. Hodgdon, III, was told by her father or grandfather that there was a Center Post Office in a building on what is now Route 102, on the west side of the road and between the old Grange Hall and the small marsh just before the upper end of the Cape Road. Undoubtedly, it was in the Postmaster's private home and would have been moved to another home when someone else took over the job.

The last appointed Postmaster for the Center Post Office was Albert A. Bartlett, who took over on 29 June 1916. Other Center Postmasters had been Mary A. Dow, S. Norton Dow, Isabelle B. Hodgdon, Frank L. Hodgdon and Ina Higgins.

On 15 June 1921, the Center Post Office was discontinued and all Center mail was thereafter sent to the Seal Cove Post Office. Thus did Bert Bartlett lose his job! This, of course, occurred long before ZIP codes came about, so Center had never been issued a ZIP Code.

At the time the Center office was closed, the Seal Cove Postmaster was Mrs. Minnie Harper, wife of J. William Harper, in whose store the post office was located. Since Will Harper's store was just south of the Seal Cove-Center line, this location was not too inconvenient for most Center residents. Minnie Harper held the position until late 1940, when it was taken over by her daughter-in-law, Sylvia A. Harper, and then in January of 1941 by Seth A. Harper. Seth held the job until Leola Pomroy Higgins took over the duties on 30 November 1961. She then moved the operation to a new building her husband had constructed beside their home in South Seal Cove. It still serves the whole Center and Seal Cove area. Leola retired in 1997, but her daughter,

Dawna Spence, has been Officer-in-Charge since late 2003.

As budget-conscious bureaucrats in distant offices wielded their sharp pencils and eliminated the post offices in Center and West Tremont, these settlements lost their focal center and social center. The community lost its identity.

The older residents in particular missed seeing their neighbors, hearing the latest news (and, yes, the gossip, too!) that they'd become used to. A rather pleasant way of life was gone. This has happened to Center, sad to say, and now it is happening to West Tremont. Center is no longer even shown on local maps. Why not? By what right did someone remove Center? What little village will next lose its name and identity?

Center's Schools

Center had at least three schools over the years; Seal Cove, two; West Tremont, two; Richtown and Head-of-the Harbor, none that I know of; and Bernard and McKinley each had one. School consolidations put the Seal Cove students in the West Tremont Grammar School back in the mid nineteen thirties. Later, perhaps in the late nineteen fifties or early sixties, one larger consolidated grammar school was built for all of Tremont, the children being bused from either end of the town.

In Center itself, the first school I'm aware of was at the corner of the present Route 102 and the Hodgdon Road. In the 1920s it became so crowded that another school was built a short distance away near the upper end of the Cape Road. The lower grades were in one building and the upper grades were in another. As the population dwindled, the first and older school was closed and later it was converted to a private home.

There was once another school much further down the Cape Road, not quite halfway down to Seal Cove harbor. It, too, was a very old school and is shown on maps from 1881. This building was a little south of and across the road from the lane or driveway going from the Cape Road to the homes of Capt. Lorenzo Stewart and Pearl S. Robbins. (By the way, the Capt. Stewart homestead was known as the Benny and Helen Carter house when I was growing up.) The school was for the children living along that part of the Cape Road.



Center School, c. 1910



Center School, 1928

This school probably did not include children whose homes were near the northern end of the Cape Road because they were so close to the upper Center school. Perhaps those living at the south end of the Cape Road went to the North Seal Cove school. That's only a guess on my part!

Businesses

Earlier I mentioned some of the occupations in the thriving community of Center. The 1887 Colby & Stuart map, previously cited, shows a blacksmith shop at the bend in the upper part of the Cape Road where it veers south. The map also shows a store at the same corner. Who operated these establishments? My assumption would be that each was run by one of the nearby residents. It wouldn't make sense for Benjamin Robbins to have his blacksmith business far from his home, which was down near Seal Cove harbor. And after all, each little community usually had its own blacksmith. West Tremont certainly had one, and even I remember the shop at the Head-of-the Harbor (Bernard) and the two on the main street in the village of Southwest Harbor.

Such home businesses were necessary then. A hundred years ago Otis Walls of West Tremont (Kelleytown) was a barber, but it must have been only part time. He was also a fisherman. I don't know of any other barbers who were close to or in Center or Seal Cove except for Fred Libhart, who had a barber shop in his home near the Seal Cove Cemetery, but that was in the nineteen forties.

I recently found out that there was once a "tea room" on the Cape Road. Supposedly, light meals were served, dances were held, etc., and it was a very popular place. The building was located part way down the Cape Road, at the top of a hill at the intersection of a long-abandoned crossroad out to the Seal Cove Road. That may have put it somewhere near the old school house mentioned earlier. This tea room must have been in operation into the late nineteen twenties, at least. The lady who operated this tea room later remarried and opened another one on the Seal Cove Road, but I don't know just where. This information came to me, directly or indirectly, from Juanita Hodgdon Stanley; Alberta Hodgdon Cole; her sister, Eloise Hodgdon McIntire; and from Percy Reed, all of whom grew up in the area.

These "tea rooms" are not to be confused with The Freeman House in Pretty Marsh. The Freeman House was operating a hundred years ago and was a very popular place. It was readily accessible by water or roadways. By the time I was a youngster, in the nineteen thirties and forties, it was a big abandoned building. But we're getting away from Center!

In 1900 and for a few decades thereafter, Frank L. Hodgdon operated a working farm at his home on the Hodgdon Road, raised dairy cows, pigs and chickens, delivered milk and sent some to Southwest Harbor and even to Ellsworth. His father, Capt. John F. Hodgdon, had been lost at sea in November of 1897.

Frank's son, John, who also lived on the Hodgdon Road, did carpentry and painting, and he also ran a small grocery store and filling station for some time. This was quite a while after a store was operating in on the Cape Road. In addition to John Hodgdon, Will Harper had his store some distance to the south. I can remember the Harper store on the west side of the road, to the south of and not far from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Someone, probably some of the Hodggons, operated a saw mill on a small brook on the east side of Hodgdon's Pond. Looking at that brook today one has to wonder how there could have been enough water to power a mill; there was, though. In contrast, the saw mill and grist mill on Seal Cove Brook at the outlet of Seal Cove Pond had plenty of water.

Having mentioned the saw mill and grist mill, I'll elaborate a little. The Heath family of Seal Cove, a very enterprising family, operated their grist mill near the outlet of Seal Cove Pond. I can remember seeing the large stone mill wheel lying beside the brook when I was a youngster, and that must have been the site of the grist mill. Their saw mill was further downstream near the present bridge over Seal Cove Brook.

Across the road from the Heath homestead, and near the old bridge, was a small store, also operated by the Heaths, which I remember. The Flye family, neighbors across the road, also had a small store and they had a shipyard south of the original bridge on the east side of Seal Cove.

The Heath and Flye businesses were located in Seal Cove. But I imagine that the Heath saw mill supplied the lumber for many of the homes in the area. It is also most likely that some Center citizens were



*Old Mill at
Seal Cove*



*Old Heath House
at Seal Cove*



Heath House restored

employed in the Heath and Flye enterprises.

There was another interesting building on the Hodgdon Road that was known to the local inhabitants as "the hearse house". It housed a horse-drawn hearse and was used to transport deceased neighbors to the nearest undertaker. L. W. Rumill in West Tremont was an undertaker, and there must have been others on the west side of the island. Juanita Hodgdon Stanley has told me that her grandfather, Frank L. Hodgdon, often drove the hearse; she doesn't know who preceded him in the task. After automobiles were allowed on the island, the horse-drawn vehicle was no longer needed, and eventually it was disposed of and the building dismantled.

As stated earlier, Center had its share of carpenters, painters and paper hangers. There were also stone cutters, stone masons, fishermen, and soldiers and sailors in times of war. In various places scattered over the island were small stone quarries and a few mines, but I don't know just where all the quarries in Tremont were. I imagine most of them were for local use only, such as the one off the Seal Cove-Southwest Harbor crossroad. Quarries in Tremont were not on the scale of Hall Quarry's, however!

As for mines, the only one I'm aware of in Center, or close enough to be considered Center, was a copper mine located somewhere between the Cape Road and Seal Cove Pond. It was about halfway between the present Auto Museum and a point several hundred yards above the road that led to the former Stewart homestead. And just to whet the appetite a little, there was a gold mine on Clark's Point in Southwest Harbor; either a silver or an undeveloped mine on Hardwood Island; another on Dodge's Point in Seal Cove; one on Bartlett's Island; and a few in the Bernard area. They are on private property, so don't get your hopes up!

Along the present Route 102 and a few hundred yards south of the Hodgdon Road in Center there was once a Grange Hall. As near as I can tell it was on the west side of the road on or near the site of the present Robin Butler house. According to a *Bar Harbor Times* article in 1988 about Lida Butler Carter Noyes, the Grange was a very popular place for young people and adults during the early years of the last century.³ I remember other Grange Halls from my own youth, such as the one at Town Hill and another in North Ellsworth. They were agricul-

turally oriented and were a great place for social gatherings. One could join at the age of fourteen. At Center, meetings were held on Thursdays, and community dinners were served and dances took place there on Saturday nights. Small wonder the Grange was popular! I suspect that community spirit was much stronger then, too. People provided their own entertainment. They didn't depend on shopping malls, mindless television, computer games and organized activities.

With the schools gone and the nearby post office discontinued, it became easier for Center as a name to begin to fade from the memories of far too many people. Older people died or moved away, houses changed hands, new children were born, and travel and communication were much easier. The closeness and coherence of the past slipped away, along with the older folks who had been a part of "the good old days". Still, a lot of us remember Center!

The Churches of Center

Our west side of Mount Desert Island has had its share of churches, several of which are still operational. Others have failed, fallen into disrepair, burned or been torn down. Center has had two. Only one is still standing. But I'm getting ahead of myself!

According to Dr. George Street's first edition of his history of Mount Desert Island and the 1909-10 *Mount Desert Island Register*, the people of Mount Desert voted in 1799 to divide the town into two districts and to erect a meeting house for each.⁴ Subsequently, one of the structures was built in what is now Manset, near where the old Bass Harbor sled road left today's Route 102A. This building, referred to as the "Southern" meeting house, was never finished and was torn down around 1828 to supply material for a new meeting house nearby.

The "Northern" meeting house, erected about half-way between Somesville and Seal Cove on a ledge of what was called Birch Hill, very near Pretty Marsh, was completed but never really finished inside. Services were held there, however. Sometime after, but certainly not before, 1816 this meeting house was destroyed in a forest fire. As late as 1905 bits of charred wood, shingle nails and even molten glass could be found in the moss on ledges near an old quarry.⁵

In 1820 the Mount Desert Baptist Church called Elder Lemuel Nor-

ton as its pastor. Born in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, he had followed the sea for several years and become a qualified ship-rigger. Then he decided, at the age of twenty seven, to devote the rest of his life to the gospel ministry. He built a home in Center overlooking Seal Cove Pond and lived there with his family. He preached in the Pretty Marsh meeting house on the hill for eight years. The last years must have been tumultuous because he was dismissed from the rather new Mount Desert Baptist Church in 1828 for preaching the doctrines of the Free Will Baptists.

Elder Norton remained very active in the local area, trying to establish Free Will Baptist churches wherever he could, including in his own home in Center. None survived. I don't know the name of his wife, nor how many children they had.⁶ I do know that one daughter, Mehitabel, was the first wife of old George Kelley, a son of James, the first Kelley to move to Tremont.⁷ George's other wives were Sarah Sparhawk and Annie Rich. All three wives died before George and they have identical gravestones, each with the inscription, "Gone But Not Forgotten".

During the years following Elder Norton's dismissal, other ministers visited and preached to the remaining faithful of the Mount Desert Baptist Church. One of these was Rev. Calvin Cary, who came in 1832 for eleven years, which Dr. George Street referred to as "a wise and helpful pastorate".

In 1837, during Rev. Cary's tenure, a new church was constructed in Center. Street called it "a distinctively Baptist church". It had a belfry, eight hanging oil lamps, a choir loft, arched windows, a black walnut pulpit, cathedral ceiling and, of course, the usual pews with swinging doors and locks. Supposedly each family had their own pew. I have a copy of the deed whereby Alexander B. Hodgdon, for the sum of ten (10) dollars paid to him by Capt. Jonathan Tinker, Deacon Simeon Milliken, Jr., John Billings and Alexander B. Hodgdon, sold to them "a certain lot of land for a meeting house"⁸ The instrument was signed by Alexander B. Hodgdon and witnessed by Reuben Freeman on 1 January 1838. Notice that Alexander Hodgdon sold the lot, part of his own property, to himself and three others, presumably all of them members of the Mount Desert Baptist Church. Notice, too, that the church or meeting house apparently had already been built on the

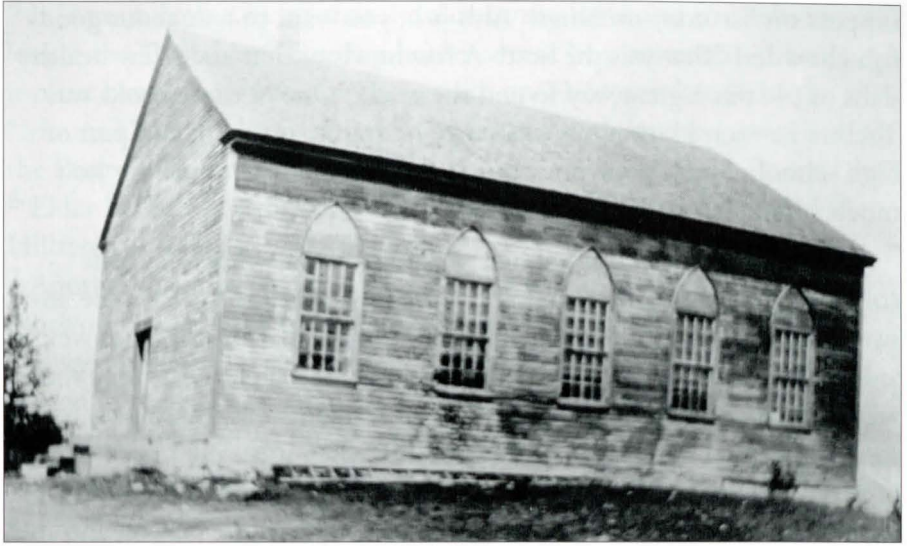
site. At the time the structure was built, the surrounding area was open and cleared.

Again, according to Dr. Street, things seemed to go well for a while. Then eight years after the church was built, Capt. Jonathan Tinker of Tinker's Island asked the church to take up his case against Deacon Milliken. It seems that Capt. Tinker had agreed to build the church and Deacon Milliken was to pay for some part of it and had refused to do so. During the next four years the case dragged on while the church committees and finally the whole church tried unsuccessfully to bring the two men to terms. Even other churches tried to settle the differences between the captain and the deacon, but with no success. Finally both men were expelled from the church and, from what I heard some years ago, the church itself more or less split. Membership dwindled, and in 1853 Elder Cary returned on a part-time basis. It was too late; the damage had been done.

For many years there was only occasional preaching done in the Center church, and a little financial aid was given by the Maine Baptist Missionary Convention. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the Methodists from the West Tremont area used the Mount Desert Baptist Church for their services and spent their own money renovating the church. Still, as interest waned, the church fell into disrepair. During the heavy gale of 10 January 1878 the belfry was ripped off and blew westerly half-way to the shore, never to be replaced.

The Methodists meeting in the old Center church had been using ministers from Southwest Harbor, and by 1888 they had become a separate charge and abandoned the old Center church. The Pacific Hall in West Tremont was purchased for their use as a meeting house. That building was in very bad condition, and it was torn down and replaced by a new church building shortly after 1900.

Meanwhile, the old Center church resigned itself to its fate and began its gradual decay. It was seldom used thereafter. The children in the neighborhood used to play in it and even wrote little plays and skits to entertain themselves and their friends. Finally it collapsed, and eventually the site was cleaned up, but not before I got two "trunnels" (the wooden pegs that held the framing together) and an old brick from the chimney!



The Old Church at Center

The remaining active Baptist membership had gravitated to Seal Cove, where services were held in the schoolhouse, probably the North Seal Cove school. In 1893 the name was changed to Tremont Baptist Church, and two years later it was incorporated.

In 1912 a much smaller Baptist church was erected on a small rise a few hundred yards above the lower end of Seal Cove Pond. It then had the name of Tremont Baptist Church. Services were held there for many years, but with the passing of the older people and lack of interest by the younger ones, the few who have struggled to keep the church alive almost gave up. While no services are being held there now, Juanita Hodgdon Stanley is working hard to keep it in repair and has been raising money to have it scraped and painted. Who knows, maybe there will be another religious awakening on the western side of the island and the bell will ring again there Sunday mornings to call the faithful!

There is yet another church in what was Center. Built in 1914 and opened in January 1915, it has always been an Episcopal church, named St. Andrew's.⁹ All the time I was growing up in West Tremont, St. Andrew's was served by the Episcopal priest of the larger Episcopal church in Southwest Harbor. Thirty five to forty years or more ago, while I was home in West Tremont on vacation, I would go up to St. Andrew's Church near the old Center line to attend their fish chowder

suppers on Saturday evenings. Ahh-h-h, you want to talk about good fish chowder! That was the best! A few bowls of that and a few healthy slabs of pie was a great way to end the week. One of those cooks was Thelma Lawson Harper, my classmate in grammar school and part of high school. She is gone now, but I've always wanted to tell her how much I liked her haddock chowder!

Maybe some day I can tell her. And just think, when that time comes, any further questions I may have now about Center will be answered. That will be then; this is now. We get what information we can and try to get it in print for those who will come later. Let's hope they will appreciate all that those early Center residents did, those who toiled to scrape out a living and make a good life when it meant a heck of a lot of very hard work. They, and others like them, laid the foundations for their children, their grandchildren and, yes, my friends, for you and me! Please don't let the memories of those folks and the more recent ones be lost. Tell your children, your grandchildren, youngsters in school, about your experiences and those of your predecessors. Keep the memories and the traditions ALIVE!



Raymond E. Robbins, Jr. was brought up and attended grammar school in West Tremont, graduated from Pemetic High School in Southwest Harbor, spent three years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, and graduated from the University of Maine as an Electrical Engineer in 1953. He then moved to Rochester, NY, where he worked at Stromberg-Carlson, Acme Electric and retired from Xerox Corporation in 1992. Since 1962, he has lived in Pittsford, NY. He is married and has three sons.

Footnotes:

¹ Source: *Mount Desert Island Register*, 1909-1910.

² Colby & Stuart. *Map of Mount Desert Island* (1887).

³ *Bar Harbor Times*, 9 June 1988. In some records "Lida" is spelled "Lyda".

⁴ George E. Street, *Mount Desert: A History*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1905.

⁵ It is troublesome to me that the date of the forest fire and subsequent loss of the "Northern" meeting house cannot be pinpointed. I feel it must have been well after 1816, since on 11 September 1816 the "Mount Desert Baptist Church" was formed with fourteen members in the Pretty Marsh meeting house.

⁶ Elder Lemuel Norton died on 18 September 1866 and is buried in Hillrest Cemetery in West Tremont.

⁷ Another daughter, Mary, married first a Mr. Brown and then Oliver Norwood. Mary and Oliver are buried in the Seal Cove Cemetery. George and Mehitabel Kelley, along with George's next two wives, are buried in the Kelley Cemetery on the Seal Cove-Southwest Harbor Crossroad, now called the Seal Cove Road.

⁸ The piece of land is bounded as follows: "beginning at a pile of stones at the south corner of the meeting house, thence eight rods westward to a stake, thence nine rods to the road, from thence eleven rods to a stake, from thence to the first mentioned bound".

⁹ William Baker of Tremont made a presentation on St. Andrew's Church at a Tremont Historical Society meeting in the summer of 2007.

Photographs:

Page 25: *Center School, c. 1910*. George Neal, Photographer-Number 6083. The Southwest Harbor Public Library Photographic Collection. *Center School, 1928*. Photographer unknown-Number 6547. The Southwest Harbor Public Library Photographic Collection.

Page 28: Postcard of the *Old Mill at Seal Cove* and two photographs of the Heath house provided by Raymond Robbins, Jr.

Page 33: Photograph of the *Old Church at Center* used by permission of the Tremont Historical Society.