

CHERRYFIELD NARRAGUAGUS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Stories of Cherryfield - December 2025

Cherryfield's Christmas Past

Story researched and written by Kelley Wescott, Board Secretary

As I write this, we are once again entering the holiday season, known for its hustle and bustle, special gatherings and thoughtful shopping for loved ones. It is also a time for memories, the ones we are making now and the ones we hold dear from years gone by. These quiet moments of reminiscence keep us forever connected to our family and friends, who may no longer take a seat at the table, but are always present in spirit. When we remember them, we recall the stories they have passed down...the recap of their own holiday memories of Cherryfield, finding ourselves humbled by the abundance we have today and the simplicity of "back then".

The approaching holiday season in Cherryfield, in 1900, was a busy one. The Christmas tree harvest was in full swing with men receiving four cents per tree. These were brought to the train station in town, where they were loaded on cars headed for New York. It was estimated that each car carried 600 trees and that the grand total shipped out hovered around 5000. Once in New York, they would sell on the street with a price range of \$1.00 to \$1.50 depending on the size.

Local merchants had also ramped up their inventory and their advertising in the Narraguagus Times. A.L. Stewart & Son offered an array of gift choices from Dress Suitcases and Silver Novelties to discounted dolls selling elsewhere for twenty-five cents, which they were offering for five to ten cents, and bed blankets ranging from fifty cents to six dollars. Susie E. Mack, a shop at the upper corner was offering more personal items with many perfume and cologne scents available, including violet, rose, heliotrope and carnation, as well as the all-popular Bay Rum for the man in your life, each bottle costing between fifty cents and a dollar. Other businesses found these gifts to be on the frivolous side, preferring to focus on practicality. Such was true for G.R. Campbell & Co. and Nickels & Ward.

G. R Campbell & Co. started their ad with the headline "A Useful Christmas Gift Is What A Man

Newspapers
by Ancestry

The Narraguagus Times (Cherryfield, Maine) - Fri, Dec 7, 1900 - Page 4
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CHERRYFIELD, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1900

Annual Holiday Opening.
This week we open to the public our complete line of Holiday Novelties for the Christmas season 1900.

During the holidays we shall be the headquarters for everything in the Book world. Any book that is published can either be found at our store or we will obtain the same at short notice.

Let us show you our bargains in our

5c, 10c and 15c. GOODS
These are on the second floor.

As usual, extra counter space has been provided and additional help secured in order that our patrons may suffer no inconvenience in their shopping.

Here it is! The swellest, richest, handsomest line of dishes ever in this section. We supply you with some very choice dishes, and prices low. Also a special line of Dinner Sets, Tea Sets, Commode Sets.

FOR THE CHILDREN:
COME AND SEE THE PRESENTS.

STERLING SILVER NOVELTIES.
A larger line than ever. It comprises all the new things. Also a large line of **PLATED GOODS** especially for the holiday trade. Price will be low.

Handkerchiefs

ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12,
A special sale of **HANDKERCHIEFS.**
On that day we will make a great reduction on 10's, and for that day only. If you want some for Christmas now is the chance.

A. L. STEWART & SON,
Cherryfield, Me.

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Should Buy. Do Not Spend Your Money On Things Of No Value.” Their idea of value was a solid pair of overshoes or a new dress, not “some fancy article.” Nickels & Ward encouraged people to dispense with the geegaw (showy trifle) and buy more reasonable gifts like a fur coat or a rocking chair for your lady of the house.

Christmas Gifts !!
(OF PRACTICAL NATURE.)
Choosers from our carefully selected
HOLIDAY STOCK will find not only satisfaction but
a great variety of
**USEFUL, HANDSOME AND PLEASURE-
GIVING PRESENTS.**
Boots, Shoes, Slippers, Neckwear, Cutlery, Dishes, Warm
Underwear, Gloves, Mittens, Corsets, Wrappers, Towels,
Table Linen, Suspenders, Handkerchiefs and even Dry
Goods and Groceries make acceptable Gifts. We have all
of them and many more equally as good.
Before making your selection let us show you the many
useful things we have.
W. M. NASH & SONS.
CHERRYFIELD, MAINE.

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The churches were busy as well, organizing gatherings gearing toward the children. One such event took place in 1904 when Santa Claus cancelled. They explained... “Owing to various private engagements, Santa Claus deferred his visit to the Congregational Chapel until last Monday evening, when he fully atoned for the delay by appearing in person and presenting to all, both young and old, bags of choice candy.” During this occasion a large Christmas tree was also adorned with Christmas bags and electric lights.

Many things have changed in this quaint town on the Narraguagus since those days when a holiday tree sold for a dollar and electric lights left folks in awe, but the one thing that has not changed

through the generations is the love its people hold for the town, its community and its rich history. It is that same love that keeps those of us at Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society inspired to keep that history alive.

Happy Holidays to All!

Winter has come early to Cherryfield this year...brr!! But memories of winters past warm our hearts as we unpack our long johns and ice skates, stock up on hot chocolate, and embrace the beauty of wintertime in Cherryfield.



Winter waterfront, overlooking River Road



Ice-jam flood of 1959, looking up Main Street

Historical Happenings – Highlights from 2025

Welcome to our new members from 2025, and a huge thank you to our continuing members who have contributed to the Society. Our revenue from cash donations and memberships totaled over \$4,323 – **thank you everyone!!** These generous gifts and lots of time spent by our members continue to bring us closer to our goal to restore the museum and create a safe environment for properly housing our collections and welcoming people to come visit again.

Remembering our Loved Ones. Board Secretary Kelley Wescott built a beautiful memorial garden on the front lawn to honor her mother, Gloria (Mathews) Bagley. In 2026 we will offer opportunities for others to contribute to completing this garden in honor of their own loved ones.



An anonymous donor gave \$2,000 toward completing renovations to the 2nd floor to create exhibit space, in honor of Kathy Upton. Larry Brown has dedicated years to this endeavor, and we are excited that the biggest next step – sheet rocking and most of the wiring – is done! In 2026 a new floor and window trim will be installed, walls painted, and then at last we can begin setting up exhibits!!



Scaryfield Shiverwalk!!! The Historical Society and the Cherryfield Riverwalk are partners in the first annual Scaryfield Shiverwalk – a Halloween party featuring the Historical Museum all decked out as a haunted house. We were thrilled to hear such excitement as people walked in the front door, most for the very first time. People hunted for candy amongst the displays, played games, and drank cider by the fire. We are already full of ideas for 2026....

Structural Renovations. We received a grant through Maine Preservation to conduct a structural assessment of the museum building to help us most effectively tackle those pretty major repairs. The Design Group Collaborative conducted an assessment in September, and we will share the findings on our website when completed.

We have begun to remedy issues in the basement. The rotted bulkhead was replaced, we added a temporary moisture barrier on the dirt basement floor (which is helping!), installed additional window wells and sump pump, and have begun regrading to move surface water away from the foundation.

2026 is a big year for raising funds to make critical repairs to the foundation and structural elements of the building, which are in pretty rough shape – and we could use your help!!

To save the building, we need to: Replace and repair the deteriorating foundational beams and sills, broken stones and mortar of basement walls, and the basement windows, frames, and sills AND permanently line earth floor of the basement with waterproof membrane, Install gutters, and complete grading to direct water away from the building.



The Cherryfield-Narraguagus Historical Society holds a central role in our community. The Society is the keeper of our history, the collector of our stories, and a direct connection to our heritage. **We welcome anyone** interested in the history of Cherryfield to become a member or volunteer, attend future events, come visit us with your curiosity and questions about Cherryfield, or share your own stories.

Become a member on our website - cherryfieldhistorical.com - or contact us by email at CherryfieldHistorical@gmail.com. Our mailing address is PO Box 42, Cherryfield, ME 04622.

DO YOU LIVE NEAR CHERRYFIELD AND WANT TO HAVE A DIRECT ROLE IN PRESERVING AND SHARING LOCAL HISTORY? WE ARE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. CONTACT US WITH YOUR INFORMATION TODAY.

Historical Society Board meetings occur on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Follow us on Facebook or contact us by email for the meeting location, as it may change. Stay tuned for updates on 2026 activities....



**Cherryfield Narraguagus
Historical Society**

PO Box 42; Cherryfield, ME 04622

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

PAID

Cherryfield, ME

Permit #2