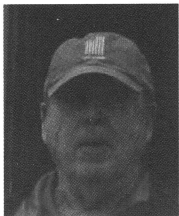


EAGLE ISLAND JOURNAL

A publication of The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island



FROM THE DESK OF THE FRIENDS' PRESIDENT

Harry Rich, RAdm, USN, Ret. – President of The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island - One of the great joys of working with The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island is the quality and quantity of support from the group. A recent example: Arcadia Publishing Company contacted the Friends to do a book about Eagle Island Admiral Peary's Harpswell Home as part of their series "Images of America". Two of our talented board members, Steve Harding and Beth O'Connell accepted the challenge and prepared a draft outline with pictures and captions.

Our Executive Vice President, Steve Ingram recently brought me a final draft copy and again I am impressed. Steve and Beth did a masterful job of culling through a sizable number of photos (hundreds) and literature to tell the story of Peary's Eagle Island. Steve and Beth visited several sources to get copies of these important photos. I hope the publishers will be as enthusiastic about this work as I am. With support from board members like Steve and Beth my job is easy and the legacy of Admiral Peary will live on forever. -Harry Rich

*** Please note our new address! ***

**The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island
P.O. Box 43
Harpswell, Maine 04079**

THE SUMMER OF 2017 ON THE ISLAND

Park Manager, Zane Wallace ~ This summer is going to be an exciting one on Eagle Island. We have partnered with the Bowdoin College Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum to have two of their summer employees/interns spend time working on our collections. They will work under the supervision of Susan Kaplan, Bowdoin's Director of Arctic Studies, and myself to catalog the contents of the museum. I am excited that Eagle Island is redeveloping a stronger relationship with Bowdoin College.

We will also be building a new 10'x12' tool shed/workshop near the old green outhouse and gardens. All of the tools are currently housed in the park office/residence and a rickety, half-rotten shed next to the cottage. It will be nice to get all of the tools out of my house, so I can turn the current tool room into an extra bedroom so I can get the guest bed out of my office as well.

Asst. Park Ranger Nathan Walrath will be returning again this season! I am very grateful to have at least one person return so that I can start the season with an employee who is already trained and authorized to operate the State boats. Now I won't have to worry as much about being able to take days off.

So, it looks like I'll be spending another season on what I affectionately call "The Rock." I look forward to seeing all of the familiar faces again this summer and to frequent trips to Erica's Seafood for haddock sandwiches!



Announcing: New Wand Tour Narration Friends Thank Jeff Pierce and WGAN Radio

Wayne Miller, Docent Coordinator – Though we have docents on Eagle Island throughout the season to answer questions and help visitors to enjoy their trip to the Island and Admiral Peary's home, at the Eagle Island Visitor's Center, every visitor is offered an individual tour wand which allows them to investigate the house and library at their own pace. The wand narration explains the various artifacts at eleven different locations, and contains three delightful stories told by Admiral Peary's grandson, Edward Stafford.

Over the years, new projects, moving of artifacts, and the return of more artifacts to the house by the Peary family have made much of the narration outdated, so this past winter, a committee of dedicated volunteers set out to completely rewrite and update the script to reflect what visitors were actually seeing. The new script was completed in December, but the project was by no means completed, as we now had to find a narrator and a studio to record the revised script.

It was soon discovered that production costs for such an undertaking would be extremely costly. After several attempts to find a less expensive alternative, a plea was sent out to local radio and TV stations offering them the "opportunity" for a community relations project. What we hoped for was a decrease in production costs. What we received was dramatically different, when Jeff Pierce, Operations Manager for WGAN radio, stepped forward and offered his services as narrator, and studio time and editing at WGAN facilities on a gratis basis. The new audio files were forwarded to Tour-Mate Systems, the provider of our wands, for uploading to the wands for use during the 2017 season.

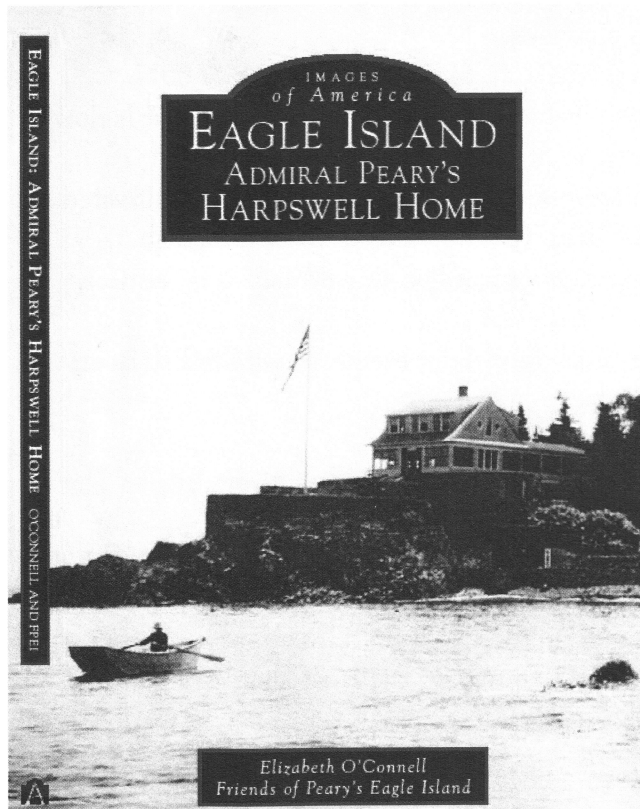
Many thanks to Jeff and WGAN for facilitating the completion of this important project. Many future Eagle Island visitors will enjoy hearing this new narration in the seasons to come.

**“WE STAY IN WASHINGTON
EVERY WINTER, BUT WE REALLY
LIVE ON EAGLE ISLAND.”
ROBERT E. PEARY, JR.**

Steve Harding, Beth O’Connell - So we learned from researching the new book, *Eagle Island: Admiral Peary’s Harpswell Home*, that the Peary family found Eagle Island to be home.

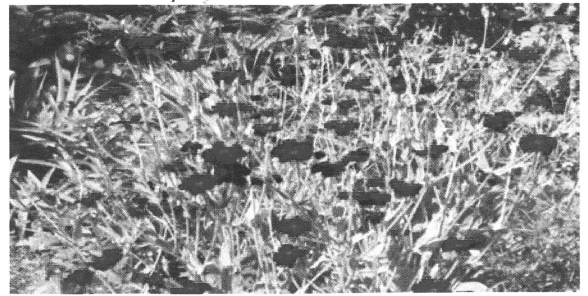
The book is filled with captioned and identified pictures and information about the Admiral, his wife, Josephine, his children, Marie and Robert, Jr., as well as their house, the caretaker’s cottage and life on Eagle Island through three generations of the Peary family.

Ask for “Eagle Island Admiral Peary’s Harpswell Home” for sale this June at local stores and on our website: thefriendsofpearyseagleisland.com.



Eagle Island Needs You!

**What is a weed and what is a flower?
Now is your chance to find out!**



The Friends of Peary’s Eagle Island needs gardeners to work on the plants and flowers located on the island and in the historical gardens on Eagle Island. You don’t need to be a master gardener just a willingness to help out. This is a hugely rewarding program for all involved. Who doesn’t enjoy working in a garden on the most beautiful spot in Casco Bay? Training will be provided. Transportation and all tools and materials are also provided. Contact us through the website for more info.

The Friends need you TOO!

Come volunteer as a Docent!

What is a docent, you ask?

*Someone who acts as a guide.

Why be a docent on Eagle Island?

*You will be on an island on the coast of Maine during the summer!

*You get to hang out in the home built by Admiral Peary for his family where they summered from 1904 to the 1960s.

What will you do?

*Show visitors the house; answer questions about the Admiral, his explorations, his family, house, and island

*Show visitors the island, the flowers, the osprey and other wildlife

*You will enjoy a lovely day on the island.

**For more information e-mail us at:
friendsofpearyseagleisland@gmail.com**

INTRODUCING CRESSON, PENNSYLVANIA

Cresson, Pennsylvania, Robert Edwin Peary's birthplace, is located 80 miles east of Pittsburgh. Population in the 2010 census was 1,711. Peary was born here on May 6, 1856 and lived in this house shown below until moving to Portland, Maine following his father's death. Peary's father was engaged in the "shook business" What is the shook business? A local Maine historian describes it as the trade of squaring up material such as barrel staves to be shipped to the Caribbean. Remember we had wood and they had molasses so material would be processed and kitted up to send south for molasses.



The Historical Society of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, in Cooperation with the Rotary Club of Cresson, Pennsylvania, Presents the following Program for the

**Unveiling and Dedication of the Statue of
ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY**
at the Peary Memorial Park, Cresson, Pennsylvania
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1937, at 2:30 P. M.

Star Spangled Banner Ebensburg High School Band
Introduction of Chairman Dr. I. A. Wesner
President of Rotary Club of Cresson
Remarks of the Chairman P. J. Little, Esq.
President of the Cambria County Historical Society

PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Marie Peary Stafford, daughter of Admiral Peary.
Edward Stafford, Esq., son-in-law of Admiral Peary.
Peary Stafford, Grandson of Admiral Peary.

Unveiling of Statue Mrs. Stafford and Peary Stafford
Accompaniment of Drums by Gallitzin Junior Drum and
Bugle Corps, National Champions, 1936 and 1937.

PRESENTATIONS:

His Excellency, George H. Earle, Governor of Pennsylvania.
Captain Robert A. Bartlett, Commander of Ship "Roosevelt,"
Member of the Successful Peary Expedition.
Matt A. Henson, Peary's Faithful Attendant. Also a member
of the Successful Expedition.
Lieutenant Commander C. B. Johnson, Representative of Navy
Department.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Hon. J. W. Kephart, Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Penna.
Hon. James J. Davis, United States Senator of Pennsylvania.
Hon. Thomas A. Logie, Secretary of Internal Affairs, of Penna.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. John Warden, President of Engineers Society of Penna.
Miss Mercedes Buck, writer of "Peary in a Nut Shell,"
Representing the National Geographic Society.

Address Dr. William H. Hobbs
Author of "Peary," Lecturer, Professor Emeritus, University
of Michigan.

America Cresson High School Band

NOTE:—The landscaping of the Memorial Park and the setting for the
monument were designed and executed by the Department of
Internal Affairs through the courtesy of the Hon. Thomas A.
Logie, Secretary, and the work was accomplished with the
assistance of The Federal Works Program Administration for the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
The bronze statue was obtained by contributions from the school
children of Cambria County and was designed and modeled by
Joseph P. Polla, of New York City.

The Citizens of Cresson dedicated a park to Admiral Peary in 1937. Here is the announcement and the statue in the Park.



Cresson also has the Admiral Peary Highway, and several businesses that carry the Peary name including "Peary Dog Grooming." Think about how important sled dogs were to Peary's success and it seems fitting. Mount Aloysius College a four year Catholic institution is also located in Cresson.

Thanks go out to Dave Huber, VP Cambria County Historical Society, "The Digital Grotto at Mount Aloysius College", Cresson, Pa., Cathy Trexler, Administrative Asst., Division of Student Affairs Cosgrave Center, and all of the students who partook in this project. Their work will also be featured on our website soon.

The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island
P.O. Box 43
Harpwell, ME 04079

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Bailey Island, ME
Permit No. 2



Ralph Merrimam the grandson of Leon Merrimam the man contracted by Peary to build the original house and caretaker cottage on Eagle Island has agreed to reproduce the round wooden medallions that are attached to the window cornices in the dining room on Eagle Island. Only one original medallion survives attached to one of the cornices. Another is being held by Park Ranger Zane Wallace. And Ralph owns his grandfather's tools so he'll be using those original tools to make the new medallions. This is exciting and progress will be documented on the website, Facebook and featured in a future journal. Thanks Ralph for agreeing to do this.

2017 NEWS

*The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island will assist the State of Maine in building a new storage shed on Eagle Island. It will be located near the original small, green outhouse which still stands today.

*Trail Day on Eagle Island has been scheduled for Saturday July 15; rain date Sunday July 16. Want to be involved? Contact us through the website.

*Announcing "GREEN" on Eagle Island. Going forward all cleaning and restoration products will be environmentally friendly.

The Flowers of Eagle Island

HABITAT:

- Coastal beaches, fields, open disturbed sites.
- **Eagle Island** find this plant in many places along the shoreline.
- Plant can be between 8-30" tall.

LEAVES:

- Leaves are *compound* (made up of two or more leaflets).
- Leaves are *alternate* (not opposite each other on the stem).
- Leaves are *simple* (with or without lobes, but not separated into leaflets).

FLOWERS:

- Flowers are about .50" (half an inch) in diameter,



Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

Raphanus raphanistrum
(*Non-native, annual*)



Sources:

New England Wildflower Society (NEWS), gobotany.com.; 2 Wildflowers of New England, by Ted Elliman and NEWS The Heritage of Our Maine Wildflowers, by Judith B. Johnson The Plants of Acadia National Park, by Glen H. Mittelhauser, and Gregory, Rooney, Weber; eattheweeds.com ; naturalmedicinalherbs.com

pale yellow fading to white, often lined with delicate purple veins, in loose, ascending racemes (the flowers are on short stalks along a central flower-bearing stem).

- Wild radish flowers May to October.

FRUITS:

- Fruits are narrow, long-beaked siliques (silique is a fruit that is more than 3x as long as it is wide and opens along two sides).
- Fruit is tightly constricted at the seed joints, bead-like, similar to pea pods.

GENERAL AND CULTURAL INFORMATION:

- Wild Radish is native to the Mediterranean, but is now found world-wide.
- It may be confused with *Raphanus sativus*, a cultivated radish that likely developed from the wild radish.
- According to eattheweeds.com wild radish is "entirely edible".
- naturalmedicinalherbs.net mentions wild radish as an antirheumatic.

About the Genus, *Raphanus*:

- Both 'Raphanus' and 'raphanistrum' according to The Heritage of Our Maine Wildflowers, mean "quickly appearing" and refers to the rapid germination of the plant's seeds.
- A fairy tale of unknown origin talks about a wizard, known as the "Counter of Radishes" who kidnaps a beautiful princess. In the end she escapes by turning one of his radishes into a magical stallion. (This short fairy tale can be found in The Heritage of Our Maine Wildflowers.)