



Janet Gilnack
Popham's 400th Celebration Committee
203-725-5280
jansixgil@aol.com
<http://www.popham400.org>

POPHAM CIRCLE – “Yesterday and Today”

The Popham Circle started as the “Ladies Sewing Society” in the early 1880’s, a group of ladies meeting weekly at each other’s homes. On December 29, 1887 Mr. P. O. Vickery deeded them land adjacent to Atkins Bay, for the purpose of erecting a building. Through the efforts and hard work of the Ladies Sewing Society and volunteers, Society Hall was built, and equipped with dishes, silverware and tables and chairs which were delivered by ox-cart from Bowdoinham. Society Hall was used for many social activities, such as card parties, concerts, plays, dinners and dances, as well as religious services

During WWI & WWII , Society Hall was turned over to the army for the duration of both wars. Interestingly, during WWII Battery D used it for a mess hall while the new army barracks at Ft. Baldwin was being built. In the early 40's Society Hall, much in need of repair, was returned to the ladies. Sadly the hall was dismantled and the contents and funds were turned over to the newly formed Popham Circle. Over the years, the Circle dwindled to just a couple of members, but was revived in 1981, when efforts to raise money to totally repair the Chapel became their focus.

Currently the Popham Circle has more than 30 members who's primary role is to raise money for the Chapel and Chapel House, which are used for multi-denominational worship and fellowship. Today they are a gathering place for weddings, funerals and meetings ...and just like the 1880's ...community suppers. In its good neighbor role, the Circle also responds to local community needs.

The Popham Circle will support Popham's 400th Celebrations, in Popham Beach on August 23 –26, 2007. On August 23rd the Circle will sponsor "The Taste of Sagadahoc", a bountiful array of delicious food from nine local premier restaurants. You'll be amazed at what's being cooked up by Anna's Water's Edge, Edgewater Farms, Kennebec Tavern, Lobster House, Mary Ellenz Cafe, Mae's Café, The Pilot House, Taste of Europe (formerly the Old Munich Restaurant) and Starlite Café. On August 24 & 25 the Circle will open the "Circle Café" selling white bag lunches – crab or ham salad rolls or vegetable wraps with chips and a sweet surprise, with drinks and water, as well as a "Bake Sale" featuring home baked pies and other goodies. On 25th the Circle will also sponsor over 40 Craft Vendors from 10am – 3pm, where the Circle Table will feature all the Popham 400th related merchandise. Of special note is the "Phippsburg Quilt", stitched by the Circle Ladies, and raffle tickets will be available. Other items include T-shirts and sweat shirts with the Popham 400th logo, as well as Jane Steven's DVD of local history, "Popham Historical" coloring books, pillows showing local scenes, all of which can be purchased at the event.

For more information on Popham 400th , - merchandise, directions, parking, event schedule and free shuttle buses, please go to <http://www.popham400.org>