



# Past Times

Published by The Little Compton Historical Society ~ Summer 2013

## Remembering Adamsville

### July 5~October 14

#### All About Adamsville

This summer it's all about Adamsville at the Little Compton Historical Society. Our *Remembering Adamsville* project has been in the works for ten months and includes a beautifully illustrated book of oral histories, an indoor exhibit featuring an interactive computer program at the Wilbor House Museum, an outdoor exhibit in the village of Adamsville (a first for the Historical Society), an on-line exhibit at [SakonnetHistorical.org](http://SakonnetHistorical.org), our annual Exhibit Preview Party and Family Day Celebration, along with a brand new event...an Adamsville Ice Cream Social. The project has made for a very busy winter at the Historical Society and will result in a major expansion of the Society's archive of information pertaining to Adamsville. Long after this year's exhibitions and events are over, the expanded collection of Adamsville oral histories, images, and objects will continue to benefit our community.

*Remembering Adamsville* was generously supported by The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and Ocean State Charities Trust as well as a wide variety of local sponsors. (Please see page 2 for a list.)

#### The Book

A book entitled *Remembering Adamsville*, containing 58 oral histories and approximately 100 images, will be available on July 5. Dozens of local volunteers worked to collect and transcribe these oral histories, and dozens of Adamsville residents agreed to share their stories and personal photographs with us. The cover image that you see here and 26 portraits throughout the book were created by Master Photographer Serena Parente Charlebois who braved snowstorms and shaky stepladders to capture these images for us. Another volunteer, Tom Callahan, graciously agreed to design the book.



#### The Indoor Exhibition

This year's special exhibition at the Wilbor House Museum will feature an array of historic Adamsville objects from our collection and loaned by members of the community. Items will include Dr.

White's liquor cabinet, Grace Simmons' rocking chair and Chet Wilkie's square dancing shirt. It will also contain two computer kiosks with an interactive exhibition offering approximately 200 historic images

*Continued on page 9*

#### Save the Dates

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Exhibit Preview Party       | July 5  |
| Family Day                  | July 6  |
| Adamsville Ice Cream Social | July 14 |
| Annual Meeting              | Aug. 14 |
| Cider Social                | Oct. 14 |

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**Wilbur House Museum**

548 West Main Road

Little Compton, RI 02837

(401) 635-4035

**SUMMER HOURS**

**Wilbur House Tours**

**Special Exhibition**

Thursday - Sunday

1-5 PM

or

by appointment

**Research**

by appointment

**Office & Shop Hours**

Tuesday - Friday

9 AM - 3 PM

# WANTED AS GIFTS OR LOANS!

### Antique or Vintage Items

To be sold in our Antique Sale to benefit the Historical Society.

### Antique Items with Little Compton Histories

For possible inclusion in our permanent collection. The Collections Committee will review each item.

### Digital Images of Family Photographs

Your clearly labeled photographs may help us identify the hundreds of unidentified photos in our collection.

### Obituaries, Funeral and Memorial Service Programs, Copies of Eulogies

Help us document the lives of our 20th century residents by sharing information about your loved ones with us.

### Written Histories

Record your Little Compton memories and we will archive them.

### VOLUNTEERS

For Family Day—July 6

Docents

Receptionists

## Corporate Members

Local businesses play an important role in the preservation and presentation of Little Compton's history. Additional Corporate Members are always welcome. Please call 635-4035 or complete the membership form on page 10.

### SEASON SPONSORS

Briggs Beach, Inc.  
Little Compton Catering  
Sakonnet Vineyards  
Serena's Studio  
Spinnaker Real Estators

### REMEMBERING ADAMSVILE SPONSORS

The Barn Restaurant  
F. A. Simmons' Store  
Garman Farm, Middletown, RI  
Gray's Daily Grind  
Gray's Grist Mill  
Katharine H. Leary, CPA  
Law Offices of Michael J. Harrington  
Lees Supermarket  
Madden Electric  
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Odd Fellows Seaconnet Lodge # 39  
Sparks Company. Inc.

### SCHOOL PROGRAM SPONSORS

All Metals Welding & Fabrication  
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### CORPORATE MEMBERS

Able Engineering, Inc.  
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Mataronas Lobster Co., Inc.  
Partners Village Store, LLC  
Phil's Propane  
Sakonnet Lobster Co.  
Richard Sisson, Jr. Lawn & Garden  
Stone House  
Walker's Roadside Stand  
Wilbur's General Store, Inc.  
Windy Hill Nurseries, Inc.  
Wishing Stone Farm

## Found

Man's green jacket left behind at Thanksgiving Service in the Friends Meeting House. Call to claim.

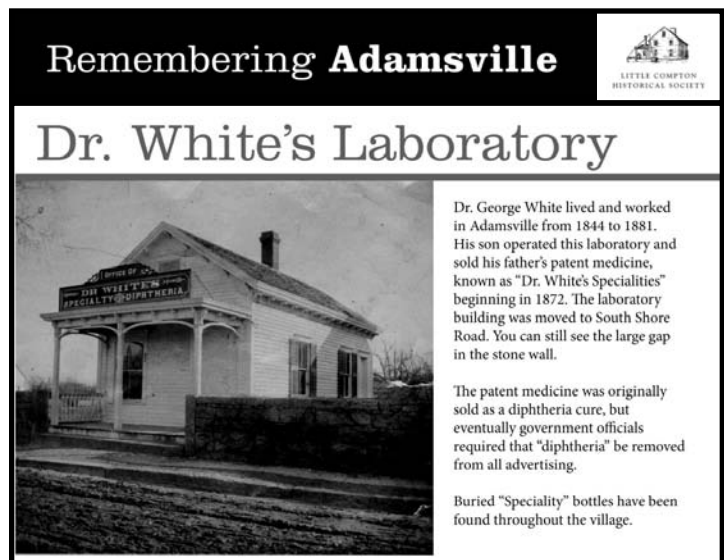
# Adamsville Ice Cream Social & Outdoor Exhibit Opening

Sunday, July 14  
4~6 PM

Adamsville Ball Field  
Open to the Public

Ice Cream Sundae Bar  
Self-Guided Exhibition  
Smart Phone Application  
All-Ages Whiffle Ball Tournament  
Kids' Activities  
Book Sales

Free Activities  
Suggested Donation for Sundae  
\$3 per person  
\$10 per family



# Special Exhibition 2013

## Remembering Adamsville

Indoor Exhibition  
Wilbor House Museum  
548 West Main Road

*An exhibition of oral histories and  
historic objects*

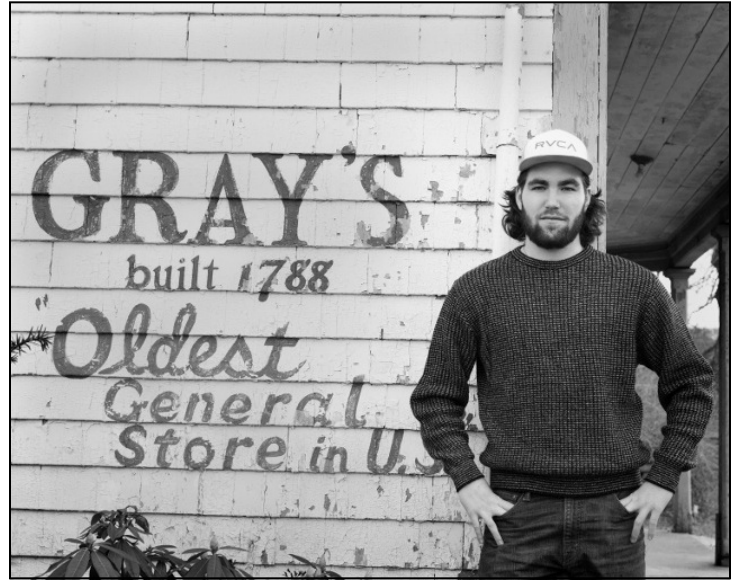
Free to Members

\$5 Non-Members

(\$7.50 includes Wilbor House Tour)

\$2.50 Non-Member Children

(\$5 includes Wilbor House Tour)



*Portrait by Serena Parente Charlebois*

July 6—Labor Day

Thursday—Sunday 1-5 PM

Labor Day—Columbus Day:

Saturday & Sunday 1-5 PM

Private Tours for Groups of Any Size—By Appointment

## Where Can I Buy the Book?

**\$15 Members \$18 Non-members**

July 5 ~ Exhibit Preview Party  
(Reservations Required)

July 6 ~ Family Day, Wilbor House

July 13 ~ Church Fair, The Commons

July 14 ~ Ice Cream Social,  
Adamsville Ball Field

After July 6 ~

- Local Retailers: Gray's Grist Mill, Wilbur's Store, Partner's Village Store and others
- Amazon.com



**Remembering Adamsville**

Oral Histories Collected by The Little Compton Historical Society | Portraits by Serena Parente Charlebois

*The Little Compton  
Historical Society  
invites you to their annual*



# Exhibit Preview Party

Celebrating its 2013 Special Exhibition

## Remembering **Adamsville**

Friday, July 5, 2013  
6~8 PM

The Wilbor House Museum

*Hors d'oeuvres by Little Compton Catering  
Open Bar: Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks*

*Book Sales  
Silent Auction Featuring Adventures and Activities*

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## Exhibit Preview Party

Please return this form to  
LCHS, PO Box 577, Little Compton, RI 02837 by July 1

Please make checks payable to LCHS. Tickets will be held at the door.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) plan to attend    Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

- Guests                      \$ 30 per person
- Supporters                    \$ 50 per person
- Sponsors                    \$ 100 per person
- Patron                         \$ 250 per person

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**The amount of your gift over \$30 per person is tax deductible.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) are unable to attend but would like to make the following tax deductible donation. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Little Compton Historical Society

# Family Day

Saturday, July 6  
12~4 PM

Free and Open to the Public

*Celebrating*

## Remembering **Adamsville**

Silent Auction  
featuring Adventures  
and Activities

FREE:

Special Exhibition: Remembering **Adamsville**

Wilbor House Tours

Refreshments

Children's Activities

All-Ages Square Dancing



Sponsored by:



RHODE ISLAND  
COUNCIL  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

OCEAN STATE  CHARITIES TRUST

# Remembering Adamsville

## Outdoor Exhibition July 14 ~ October 15

The village of Adamsville will host a free, outdoor exhibition this summer highlighting 30 of its most interesting historic sites. The exhibit has been designed by the Little Compton Historical Society with the help of Adamsville residents as part of its

*Remembering Adamsville* project. Markers will feature lost landmarks like the No. 6 School, Dr. White's Laboratory and Manchester's Store as well as existing historic sites like The Old Stone Baptist Church, Adamsville Mill Pond and Gray's Store, to name just a few. Exhibit goers may drive or walk from site to site. Many of the exhibit signs will be clustered at the top of Adamsville Hill, at the former site of Manchester's Store and at the Adamsville Mill Pond for convenient viewing. Others will mark specific buildings like Simmons' Store and the former Electra Lodge.

Many of the sites will also link to [SakonnetHistorical.org](http://SakonnetHistorical.org), a new electronic exhibition that will share even more of Adamsville's unique history with the public. See below for more on [SakonnetHistorical.org](http://SakonnetHistorical.org).



## SakonnetHistorical.org

SakonnetHistorical is a GPS-based application that will share the area's historic images and stories with anyone with a smart phone or a computer. The application goes live on July 14 and smart phone users are invited to download the free application.

The application features multiple sites in Adamsville, Tiverton and Little Compton.

It has been developed by the students and faculty of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage. They have been working in conjunction with the Little Compton and Tiverton Historical Societies and the Tiverton Public Library.



Little Compton Historical Society

# Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

7:00 PM Business Meeting

7:15 PM Annual Speaker

United Congregational Church

*Featured Speaker*

## Maureen Taylor The Photo Detective



Internationally recognized photo identification and family history expert, Maureen Taylor will share her secrets for uncovering the hidden clues in family photographs. Maureen's insights often lead to fascinating discoveries about family and local history. Visit [www.maurentaylor.com](http://www.maurentaylor.com) to learn more about her work. See below if you would like to schedule a private consultation prior to the talk.

*Ms. Taylor and the Historical Society will be selling books following the presentation.*

Free and Open to the Public

Refreshments will be served.

### **Private Photo Consultations**

5 to 6:30 PM

Ms. Taylor will be offering a limited number of private photo identification consultations in the Ladies Parlor of the Church. Each 15 minute appointment is \$30. Please bring no more than three photos, and in addition to the original photographs please bring photocopies for note-taking purposes. To schedule your private consultation send a request to [mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com](mailto:mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com) using "Little Compton Photo Consult" in the subject line.





*Sponsored by the Historic Sites Coalition of Rhode Island*

# Take a Rhody Ramble!

Visit the Wilbor House and other great RI places this Summer!

**Pick up your Rhody Ramble map (and temporary tattoo) at the Wilbor House.**

**Start exploring with your family.**

**Register on-line to win prizes!**

[www.rhodyramble.org/register](http://www.rhodyramble.org/register)

*Continued from page 1*

and dozens of audio recordings from the oral histories collected for the project. The exhibit opens at the Preview Party on July 5 and runs through Columbus Day. If you have an object or an image that may be appropriate for the exhibition, please contact Managing Director Marjory O'Toole at 401-635-4035 prior to June 24. As always the exhibit is free to LCHS members. (Non-members \$5.)

## **The Outdoor Exhibition**

Our celebration of Adamsville continues with the Historical Society's very first outdoor exhibition. Between July 14 and October 28, approximately 30 of Adamsville's historic sites will be marked with temporary exhibit signs containing images and information about people, places and things unique to Adamsville. The outdoor exhibit has been sponsored by a variety of local businesses and sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you are interested in sponsoring an exhibit sign please call the Historical Society. This exhibition is free and open to the public.

## **SakonnetHistorical.org**

SakonnetHistorical is an innovative new way to bring information about Little Compton and Tiverton's local history to both on-site and long-distance users. This free, GPS-based application enables anyone with a smart phone (or a computer) to access fascinating stories about the area's past as well as dozens of historic images and audio and video clips. An interactive map will encourage users to learn about a specific site or tour the area. The application will include multiple sites in Adamsville, Tiverton and Little Compton and will continue to grow in the future. Sakonnet Historical has been developed by the students and faculty of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage. They have been working in conjunction with the Little Compton and Tiverton Historical Societies and the Tiverton Public Library. SakonnetHistorical.org will go live on July 14, but in the meantime, we invite you to "Like" Sakonnet Historical on Facebook and visit its sister applications ClevelandHistorical.org and NewOrleansHistorical.org to get a sense of the good things to come.

## **The Events**

A variety of special events will celebrate *Remembering Adamsville* including our annual Exhibit Preview Party (July 5) and Family Day Celebration (July 6). This year we will also be hosting an Ice Cream Social on the Adamsville Ball Field on Sunday, July 14 to mark the unveiling of the outdoor exhibit in the village. *Please see pages 3-6.*

## **Buy The Book**

*Remembering Adamsville* will be available for sale at the Wilbor House Museum, the Congregational Church Fair, Amazon.com, Gray's Grist Mill, Wilbur's Store, Partner's Village Store and other area retailers after July 6.

## LCHS Membership

- Event Sponsor      \$250 & up
  - Program Sponsor    \$150
  - Supporting            \$100
  - Corporate            \$75
  - Contributing         \$50
  - Family                \$30
  - Individual            \$20
- My Company will match my membership or gift. Completed matching form enclosed.

Please make checks payable to:

**Little Compton Historical Society**  
PO Box 577, Little Compton, RI 02837

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Membership

## With Benefits from Coast to Coast

Join or Renew Today!

LCHS participates in the

### Time Travelers

reciprocal membership program.



Your Historical Society membership card provides you with **FREE or Discounted Admission to 250 historic sites all across the country!**

For a complete list of participating sites log onto [www.mohistory.org/content/membershipservices/timetravelers.aspx](http://www.mohistory.org/content/membershipservices/timetravelers.aspx) or call LCHS at 635-4035.

As always you'll enjoy local membership benefits including free admission to the Wilbor House and our special exhibitions, invitations to special events and advance registration for our most popular programs. Most importantly, your membership gift helps preserve Little Compton's rich history for generations.

**Members receive \$3 off every copy of *Remembering Adamsville*.**

Special Exhibition  
July 5—Columbus Day

**Remembering Adamsville**



Return Service Requested

The Little Compton Historical Society  
PO Box 577  
Little Compton, RI 02837-0577



Postal Customer

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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