



*Heal Cove: an icon of
island history and beauty*

WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY CENTER EXHIBIT • JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025



Although little is known of Heal Cove's pre-colonial history, it is likely fair to say that life centered on the water, as when European settlers arrived. The Cove's waters provided transportation, food, work, and with its favorable geography: power.

Early settlers — the Duntons and the Shattucks — saw and capitalized on the economic potential of the site. They created an inland pond adjacent to tidal waters by attaching a small island near the shore to the mainland on one side and to a stone dam on the other. A sliding gate in the dam created the ability to generate power by capturing and releasing tidal waters of the Sasanoa River in and from the pond. These waters powered what became lucrative saw and grist mills under the stewardship of the James Heal family, shipping products to ports up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

The property stayed in the Heal family for more than 100 years. In 1947, the Heal homestead became the dream home of the Jack and Jean Smith family whose descendants own and honor its legacy to this day.

This exhibit was designed to share and preserve the history of this iconic Westport Island homestead.

CHAPTER ONE

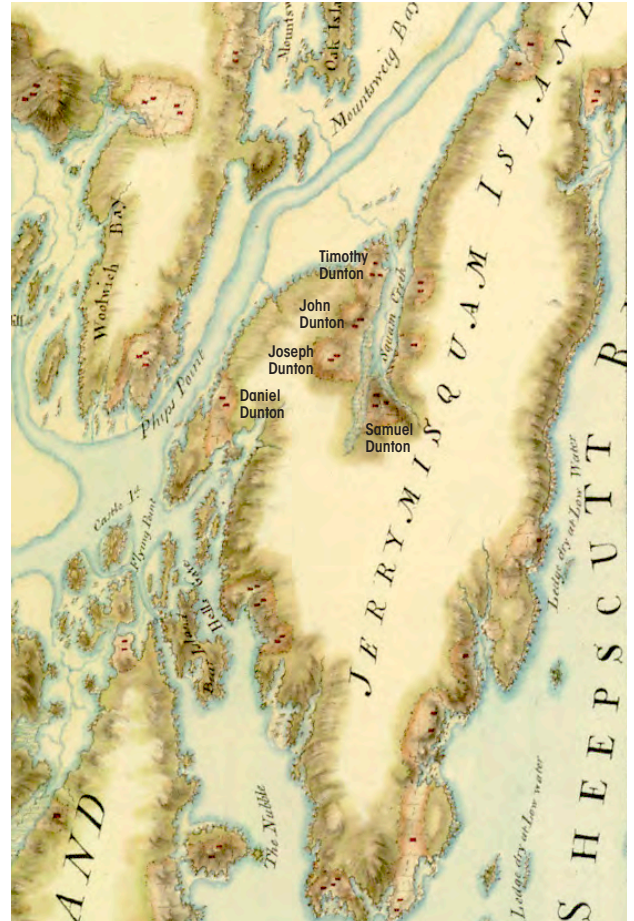
The Original Claim



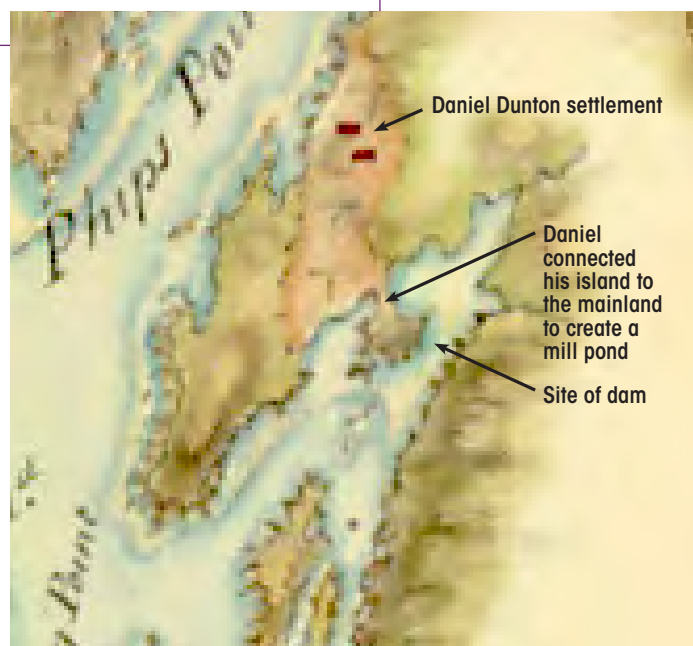
In about 1770, **Daniel Dunton** (1755–1817), the youngest son of Timothy Dunton—the first settler of Jeremysquam’s west shore—claimed land south and west of brothers Joseph and Samuel’s land.

Part of Daniel’s property was a boot-shaped island in what later would be known as Heal Cove. Recognizing both the need and potential for tidal power at his family’s settlement, Daniel filled in the waterway on the western side of his island, creating a peninsula. Between the eastern side of the new peninsula and the mainland he built a dam, creating a large pond. He then began construction of the lumber mill he had envisioned.

Tide mills had large sliding gates within their dams that were pushed open by the incoming tide, allowing water to fill the millpond. After reaching high tide, the water in the pond began to recede through the gates, causing the gates to close. Water pressure then caused a sluice gate positioned below the mill to open. The rushing water turned a water wheel, which then powered the mill. Working hours were regulated by the tides rather than by the clock.



ABOVE: Section of 1772 British Map by Deputy Ensign George Sproule, showing land claimed by settler Timothy Dunton and his sons.



LEFT: Enlargement of 1772 British Map showing Daniel Dunton claim.

WATER POWER

Tide Mill Operation

THE SAWMILL AT WORK

D. TO MOVE THE LOG CARRIAGE (2) FORWARD, AN L-SHAPED LEVER ARM (10) WAS FIXED TO THE UPPER FRAME. THE OTHER END OF THE ARM WAS KINGED (11). FROM A SERIES OF NOTCHES (12) HUNG THE FEED POLE (13) THAT ENDED WITH A CHISEL-LIKE PAWL. THIS PIVOTING IRON BAR, CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TEETH OF AN IRON RIM (15) ENCIRCLING A WOODEN RACK WHEEL (16). WHEN THE SAW FRAME WAS ON ITS UPSTROKE,

C. THE SAW BLADE (OR BLADES) WAS BOLTED TO THE FRAME TOP (8) UNDER TENSION. WITH EACH REVOLUTION OF THE WATER WHEEL, THE DOWNWARD THRUST OF THE BLADE CUT THE LOG LENGTHWISE.

B. THE FLUTTER WHEEL AXLE (2) TURNED A CRANK (3) TO RAISE AND LOWER A LONG ROD (4) CALLED THE PITMAN. IT HONORED THE POOR FELLOW WHO WORKED THE OLD PIT SAW AND FOUGHT OFF THE SAW-DUST FROM BELOW. THE PITMAN DROVE THE SAW FRAME (5) UP AND DOWN BETWEEN THE TWO POST CHANNELS (6).

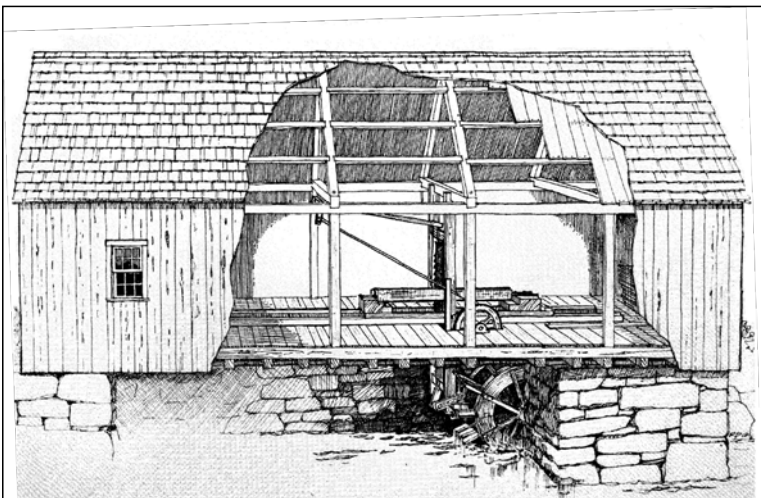
A. THE UNDERSHOT WHEEL (1), THE USUAL DRIVING FORCE FOR A SAWMILL, SOUNDED LIKE FLUTTERING WINGS WHEN THE STREAM OF WATER REVOLVED THE PADDLES.

THE LEVER ARM RAISED THE FEED POLE (13) AND THE PAWL (14) TO TURN THE RACK WHEEL A FEW NOTCHES (15). THE RACK WHEEL'S AXLE (17) ROTATED A SMALL GEAR THAT DROVE THE TEETH UNDER THE LOG CARRIAGE. THE CARRIAGE ADVANCE WAS INCREASED OR DECREASED BY MOVING THE FEED POLE TO A DIFFERENT NOTCH (12).

E. TO RETURN THE CARRIAGE FOR THE NEXT CUT, THE SAWYER DISCONNECTED THE PAWL (14) THEN LEVERED THE GO-BACK SHAFT (18) AND ITS GEAR (19) INTO THE WOODEN SIDE TEETH OF THE RACK WHEEL. HE THEN OPENED THE WATER GATE TO THE GO-BACK WHEEL (20) TO REVERSE THE RACK WHEEL GEAR (17).

LEFT & BELOW LEFT: Diagrams of sawmill operation.

BELOW: Sawmill workers posing for photo, c. 1880s.
Jerry and Dike Mason Family Collection



CHAPTER TWO

Levi Shattuck Arrives

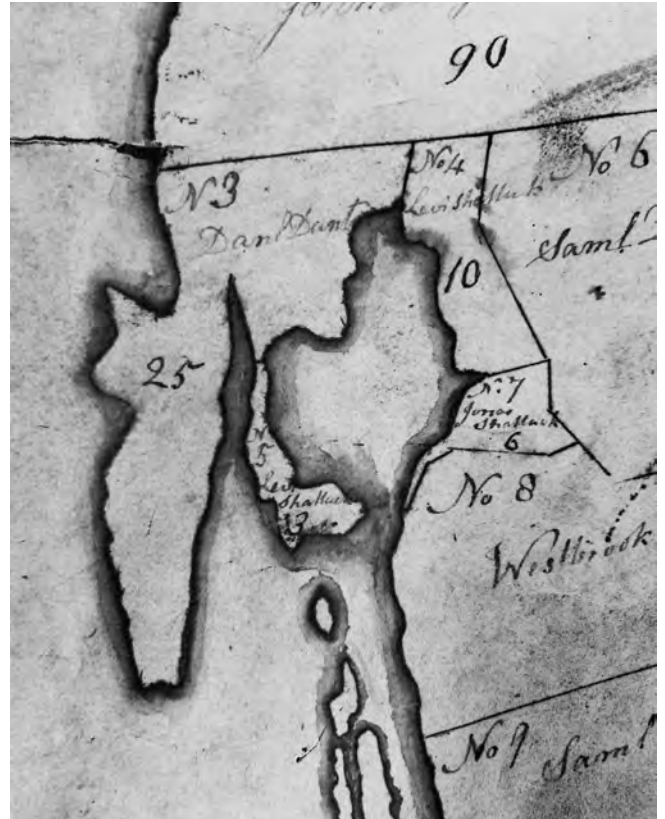


In 1766, carpenter and millwright **Levi Shattuck** (1755–1817) moved from Pepperell, Massachusetts to the District of Maine. He lived and worked in Bath, Woolwich, and Georgetown before settling on Jeremysquam island.

By 1784, Daniel Dunton may have found the cost of constructing his lumber mill beyond his means. He sold his island and mill rights to Levi Shattuck. Levi paid £15 for the mill rights and two parcels of land (a 1-acre potential home site and 12 acres around the pond).

After completing the lumber mill, Levi added a grist mill, doubling the mill's operation. This required purchasing additional land to the east of the millpond, enabling the Shattucks to control much of the land surrounding the pond. The mill became known as the Shattuck Mills.

Levi settled here with his wife, Margaret Robbins Shattuck, and two children, David and Sarah. The first United States census in 1790 lists Levi, Margaret, and two teenaged children. Their home still stands as a part of the home presiding over Heal Cove today.



ABOVE: Section of Parson's 1815 map showing properties owned by Levi Shattuck and brother Jonas Shattuck.



ABOVE: Team of horses hauling logs, c. 1800s.
Connie Ostis Collection

109. LEVI SHATTUCK, s. of David, (p. 103,) was b. in Pepperell, Aug. 17, 1742. He was a carpenter and millwright, and in 1766 removed to Maine, and worked in Bath, Woolwich, Georgetown, and Edgecomb, now Westport, on Squam Island, Lincoln Co. He d. in Westport, June 20, 1823, æ. 80 y. 10 m. 3 d. In 1784 he bought the water-power at that place, and in company with his brother Jonas, erected the tide grist-mills and saw-mills, since known as the "Shattuck Mills." These mills are still owned by the family—Levi's part by David and Thomas Shattuck, father and son; and Jonas's part by the brothers Jonas and Robbins Heal. An extensive business in the manufacture and sale of lumber has been transacted at these mills.

He m. Jan. 1, 1770, MARGARET ROBBINS, b. in Ipswich, Mass., Sept. 2, 1742, dau. of Wm. Robbins, who was b. in Ipswich in 1707, and d. in 1781; and of Sarah Campbell, b. in 1707, and d. in 1759, all in the same town. She d. in Westport, Feb. 16, 1815, æ. 52 y. 5 m. 14 d.

HIS CHILDREN, BY MARGARET ROBBINS, BORN IN WESTPORT.

1. David, b. Oct. 27, 1774; m. Ruth Mahony, 246
2. Sarah, b. June 5, 1777; m. George Reed, 247

ABOVE: Section of page from *Memorials of the Descendants of William Shattuck*, 1855, describing Levi Shattuck.

Brother Jonas Joins



In 1784, Jonas Shattuck (1756–1847) moved to Jeremysquam and purchased a half interest in the grist mill his brother Levi had established.

Jonas had served in the Revolutionary War, fighting at Lexington and Concord and in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was briefly with General Benedict Arnold's march to Quebec, but then served as a corporal in Capt. Jewett's Company, at Drummond Island in Lake George, N.Y. On Sept. 24, 1777, he was badly injured by British gunfire and was subsequently captured by the British. While a prisoner, his badly infected leg had to be amputated above the knee. A year later he was exchanged and sailed with 700 former prisoners to Boston.

After the war, Jonas became a shoemaker. Although he owned a half interest in the grist mill, he did not participate in mill operation. His home was on the southeast side of the millpond.

Jonas married Anna Robbins in 1786 (sister of Margaret, Levi's wife); they had two daughters, Dolly (1787–1812) and Hannah (1791–1849).



ABOVE: Illustration of the Battle at Bunker's Hill, one of the battles that Jonas Shattuck fought in.
Yale University, Mabel Brady Garvan Collection

114. JONAS SHATTUCK, s. of David, (p. 104,) was b. Dec. 2, 1756, and d. at Westport, Me., Jan. 27, 1847, æ. 90 y. 1 m. 25 d. He was a revolutionary pensioner, and the extraordinary circumstances of his military service are worthy of being stated more in detail. In the fall of 1774 he enrolled himself with Abijah Shattuck, John Shattuck, Oliver Shattuck, David Shattuck, Josiah Shattuck, Jeremiah Shattuck, Jr., and others of their connections and fellow patriots in Pepperell, in a company of "minute men," under Capt. John Nutting, in Col. Prescott's regiment; and on the 19th of April, 1775, marched to Concord, and followed the retreating enemy to Cambridge, where they remained during the summer, and were in the battle of Bunker Hill, (p. 141.) He was a volunteer in Capt. Wm. Goodrich's company, under Gen. Arnold, in the expedition which left Cambridge, Sept. 13, 1775, and went to Quebec by way of the Kennebec river, and through the forests of Maine and Canada, suffering intensely from cold, fatigue, and hunger. After the unsuccessful termination of that expedition he was one of the retreating party under Lieut. Bixby. At Beaufort, Canada, he was discharged, and afterwards returned to Pepperell, where he remained a few months. In Dec., 1776, he enlisted in Capt. Holden's company under Col. Thatcher, and served until he was discharged in Aug., 1777. He then enlisted as a corporal in Capt. Jewett's company, Col. Bullard's regiment, and was in the attack on Drummond's Island in Lake George on the 24th of September. While with a party in a boat he was severely wounded in his left leg. Several shot holes were made in the boat by the firing of the enemy; and to prevent it from sinking, notwithstanding his wounds, he stripped off his clothes with which he made plugs and stopped the leaks, and thus saved the lives of the crew. He was taken prisoner and carried to the fort. After remaining four days in the open air, suffering intensely, his leg was amputated four inches above his knee. In November he was removed to St. Johns, in January, 1778, to Montreal, and in May to Quebec, where he remained three weeks in the hospital. He was then put on board the old prison ship Maria, and carried to Halifax. He remained on board this ship and in the garrison at Halifax about eighteen weeks; and on the 8th of October, 1778, was, with 700 other prisoners, exchanged for British subjects. They were sent to Boston crowded together in a small ship, and suffered very severely from filth and disease. About one hundred died before their arrival. He entered a hospital in Boston, where he remained until Jan., 1779, when he was able to return to his home in Pepperell. A report had been circulated that he was dead; and the joyful surprise that his arrival produced can better be conceived than described. Being thus disabled for active labor he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he subsequently followed until within six months of his death. In 1784 he removed to Squam Island, Me., and, in company with his brother Levi, erected the mills already described, (p. 146.) He received a pension from government of \$60 per annum, from 1790 to 1816; of \$96, from 1816 to 1832; and of \$180, from 1832 to his death.

He m. in Edgecomb, Me., March 16, 1786, ANNA ROBBINS, b. Nov. 14, 1745, in Ipswich, Mass., a sister of his brother Levi's wife. She d. in Westport, April 28, 1816, æ. 70 y. 5 m. 14 d.

HIS CHILDREN, BY ANNA ROBBINS, BORN IN WESTPORT.

1. Dolly, b. Feb. 28, 1787. } Both m. James Heal, 251
2. Hannah, b. Sept. 20, 1791. }

ABOVE: Section of pages from *Memorials of the Descendants of William Shattuck*, 1855 describing Jonas Shattuck.

Westport Jan 17th 1842
 Account of Jonas Shattuck's Services in the
 Revolutionary War
 I enlisted in the fall of 1774 as a minute man
 in Capt John Nittings Company Col ~~Prescott~~
 Prescotts Regiment April 19th 1775 marched for
 Lexington and followed up the English on their
 retreat to Boston laid in the Siege of Boston
 till September I then volunteered in Capt William
 Guttridge Company's Company Gen Arnolds
 Detachment to go through the Woods to Canada
 by way of Kennebec River to take the City
 of ~~Quebec~~ Quebec arrived at Quebec and
 Besieged the City remained in the
 Siege untill the last days of Jan. Montgomery
 being killed ~~we~~ were obliged to retreat
 Capt Guttridge being taken prisoner the
 command then fell on Lieut David Pixley
 untill discharged in Beauport Canada
 in May 1776. Arrived in Pepperell my Native
 town and there remained till December
 I then enlisted in Capt Hobbens Company
 Col Trachers Reg Served untill Disbanded
 in August 1777 I then enlisted in Capt Jewetts
 Company Col Bulards Reg on the 21th of Sept
 we made an attack upon Diamond in Lake-
 George I was wounded by a twelve pound shot

and taken prisoner carried to fort Independ
 four days after had my leg amputated above
 the Knee in Novm was sent to St Johns remained
 till Jan 1778 was then removed to Montreall
 in May was again removed to Quebec
 was about 3 weeks in the Hospital then put on
 Board the Prison Ship Maria after about 15 weeks
 was landed at Halifax was about 2 weeks
 in Gaol at Halifax ~~was then~~ carted to Boston
 on my passage with a fever and brought so
 low the physicians gave me up to die but
 however my time was not yet come I was landed
 in Boston and laid in the Hospital till Jan
 1779 when I was so far recovered as to be
 able to get home to my Friends in
 Pepperell Mass Jonas Shattuck

To Benjamin Brundall Esq
 Representative to Congress in 1842

ABOVE: Statement written by Jonas Shattuck in 1842 detailing his service in the Revolutionary War. Written to ensure the continuation of his pension.

RIGHT: Document regarding Jonas Shattuck's pension, upon passage of the Pension Act of 1785. National Archives and Records

Invalid Maine Roll

Issue a new certificate
 for Jonas Shattuck,
 Private Massachusetts
 Militia, \$8 per
 month commencing
 March 17, 1786.
 In lieu of one dated
 May 29, 1787, which has
 been cancelled.

Send cert. to Hon. Benjn.
 Randall,
 House of Rep
 Act 7 June 1785

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CHAPTER FOUR

Shattuck Homestead

L

evi's son **David Shattuck** (1774–1859) worked both with his father at the mill and as a shipbuilder. In 1797 he married Ruth Mahoney; they had ten children. He succeeded his father Levi with a half interest in the lumber mill and grist mill. In about 1825, David built the Greek Revival house that now stands on the property, most likely adding to the original home which is believed to be the modest wing now serving as a woodshed.

David served as a Surveyor of Highways on the island for many years. Roads were important to the mill in order to access and move raw materials, connect the family's land, and move product to the landings and markets.

By 1840, David's son **Thomas Shattuck** (1813–1900), a carpenter, owned shares in the mill operations. That year, mill production grew to 400,000 board feet of lumber and 1,250 bushels of grain.

246. **DAVID SHATTUCK**, s. of Levi, (p. 146,) was b. in Georgetown, Me., Oct. 27, 1774, and succeeded his father as one of the owners and managers of the "Shattuck Mills" in Westport, where he now (1855) resides, enjoying a vigorous old age.

He m. Aug. 28, 1796, **RUTH MAHONY**, b. in Edgecomb, Feb. 14, 1775, dau. of James and Abigail Mahony, a farmer of Georgetown.

HIS CHILDREN, BY RUTH MAHONY, BORN IN WESTPORT.

1. **Levi**, b. Jan. 11, 1798. He is a ship-builder; first settled in Westport, but in 1832 removed to Wiscasset, where he now resides. He m. Dec. 3, 1827, **Hannah B. Cushman**, b. March 24, 1805, dau. of Kenelm Cushman of Wiscasset, and a descendant of the May Flower Pilgrims of Plymouth. Their children have been—1. **Levi P.**, b. March 13, 1829; 2. **Martha H.**, b. March 16, 1831; 3. **Emeline G.**, b. June 22, 1833; 4. **Sarah C.**, b. Nov. 5, 1834; 5. **Abby P.**, b. Jan. 12, 1837; 6. **Lucy M.**, b. July 16, 1840, d. Aug. 13, 1840, m. 27 d.; 7. **John P.**, b. Dec. 21, 1841, d. Feb. 2, 1845, m. 3 y. 1 m. 11 d.; 8. **Sidney B.**, b. May 15, 1844; 9. **Mary A.**, b. April 16, 1846; 10. **John**, b. 16, 1847.
2. **Jones**, b. June 17, 1799; d. July 17, 1814, m. 15 y. 1 m.
3. **Abigail**, b. Feb. 14, 1801; m. Aug. 27, 1818, **John Thomas**. They live in Westport, and have had—1. **Harriet N.**, b. June 20, 1820, m. Nov. 14, 1844, **John Heal**, and have **Margaret T.**, **Harriet P.**, and **Ruth H.**; 2. **Ruth S.**, b. Nov. 14, 1822, m. Sept. 6, 1840, **Stephen Hodgdon**, and have **Emeline** and **Gardner**; 3. **James**, b. Aug. 9, 1828; 4. **Elijah S.**, b. March 29, 1832; 5. **Sarah A.**, b. June 25, 1834; 6. **John F.**, b. Nov. 28, 1836. On the 16th of August, 1850, **Elijah** and **John**, two of the above children, were caught in a heavy thunder shower, about three miles from home, between Westport and Bath; and while taking shelter under a tree, were struck by lightning, and instantly killed. Their father was with them and received some injury, but soon recovered.
4. **Margaret**, b. Dec. 17, 1802; m. Dec. 23, 1827, **John Brooks**. They live in Westport, and have had—1. **Susan A.**, b. Aug. 21, 1829; 2. **Elijah T.**, b. March 7, 1838; 3. **Margaret Ann**, b. Sept. 23, 1840; 4. **Phebe Augusta**, b. April 29, 1846.
5. **Ruth**, b. June 11, 1804; d. Feb. 9, 1807, m. 2 y. 7 m. 28 d.
6. **David**, b. Feb. 9, 1806. He is a ship carpenter in New Castle, Me.; m. April 30, 1835, **Mercy Greenleaf**, b. Dec. 22, 1811, dau. of Westbrook Greenleaf, and has had—1. **Willmot G.**, b. April 24, 1836; 2. **Ruth Ellen**, b. Sept. 8, 1837; 3. **David A.**, b. Sept. 24, 1842; 4. **Charles E.**, b. Feb. 28, 1845; 5. **Mary Z.**, b. Aug. 20, 1846.
7. **Phebe**, b. Sept. 6, 1807; m. Oct. 7, 1832, **James Prebble**, a ship and house joiner in New Castle. Have had—1. **David S.**, b. Nov. 12, 1833; 2. **Sarah T.**, b. May 25, 1837; 3. **James M.**, b. July 31, 1839, d. March 21, 1841, m. 1 y. 7 m. 21 d.
8. **Sarah**, b. March 7, 1809; m. May 1, 1838, **Dennis Mahony**. No issue.
9. **Elijah**, b. June 17, 1811; d. Jan. 1, 1832, m. 20 y. 6 m. 14 d.
10. **Thomas**, b. May 18, 1813. He is a carpenter, and one of the owners of the Shattuck Mills; m. March 7, 1839, **Jerusha Knight**, and has had—1. **Ruth**, b. Oct. 14, 1839; 2. **Betsy K.**, b. July 17, 1841; 3. **Sarah B.**, b. March 7, 1843; 4. **Henry R.**, b. July 9, 1846; 5. **David**, b. May 14, 1848; 6. **James P.**, b. April 6, 1851, d. March 12, 1854, m. 2 y. 11 m. 6 d.; 7. **Ella**, b. Sept. 9, 1854.

ABOVE: Section of pages from *Memorials of the Descendants of William Shattuck*, 1855 describing David Shattuck and family.



ABOVE: Lumber scene, c.1880.
Connie Ostis Collection



LEFT: Greek Revival-style house that David Shattuck built about 1825.
Photo c.1875.
Connie Ostis Collection

RIGHT: Section of page from 1828 Westport Town Records showing value of David Shattuck's property, including land, house, barn, outhouses, mills, and livestock.

Shattuck David	1	Estate and income 50 Dollars -	\$ 50.00	50
Shattuck Levi	1	3 Acres Improved Land value	36	
		34 do Unimproved Land do	136	
		22 Fens of vessel do	165	
			337	337
Shattuck David	1	3 Acres Improved Land val	36	
		10 do Unimproved do do	40	
		1 Dwelling House do	250	
		1 Barn do	30	
		2 Out Houses do	30	
		1/2 Gristmill do	100	
		1/2 Saw Mill do	200	*
		22 Fens of vessel do	165	
		2 Cows do	24	
		2 Cattle under 3 years do	8	
		2 Swine do	8	
			891	891

CHAPTER FIVE

Enter James Heal

In

1808, James Heal (1781–1861) married Jonas Shattuck's daughter Hannah. After bearing two children, Hannah died in 1812. Six years later, James married Jonas's other daughter, Dolly. By 1821, James Heal had purchased Jonas Shattuck's shares of the lumber mill. James had eight children, with four of his sons succeeding him in mill operation and ownership.

James Heal served at Fort McDonough, War of 1812 in Capt. Samuel Tarbox's Company, Col. E. Cutter's Regiment and was a signatory on the Separation Petition from Edgecomb. He also served the Town as a Surveyor of Highways.

The mid-1800s were a busy time for the Heal family. The gristmill was converted to a sawmill in about 1840. The subsequent increase in production allowed James Heal and his sons **Jonas** (1812–1888) and **Robbins** (1818–1882) to purchase David Shattuck's interest in the mills in 1843. Jonas acted as millwright and overseer of the mill.

With an eye to expansion, in 1848 Robbins Heal purchased $\frac{1}{4}$ interest in the Riggs Mill (Lower Mill). Brother **William** (1829–1886) took over the operation of the Lower Mill.

In 1851, the Town approved building a bridge over the Mill Pond.

251. DOLLY and HANNAH SHATTUCK, daus. of Jonas, (p. 149,) were b. in Edgecomb, now Westport, Me., and both m. JAMES HEAL, b. in Edgecomb, Dec. 17, 1781, s. of David Heal, of French descent, and Sarah Edes of Boston, of English descent. He m. 1, April 28, 1808, HANNAH SHATTUCK, b. Sept. 20, 1791. She d. March 19, 1812, æ. 20 y. 5 m. 29 d. He m. 2, May 3, 1818, DOLLY SHATTUCK, b. Feb. 28, 1787. She d. on her birthday, Feb. 28, 1849, æ. 62. They were members of the Methodist Church.

HIS CHILDREN, BY HANNAH SHATTUCK, BORN IN WESTPORT.

1. William Robbins, b. Aug. 26, 1809; d. May 8, 1826, æ. 16 y. 8 m. 12 d.
2. Jonas Shattuck, b. Jan. 22, 1812; m. June 10, 1838, Ruth Ann Jewett, dau. of James and Phebe Jewett of Westport; and have, 1. Mary Shattuck Parker, b. June 18, 1839; 2. Martha Hannah, b. Oct. 25, 1840; 3. James Robbins, b. Dec. 27, 1842; 4. Jonas Shattuck, b. May 30, 1848; 5. Ruhamah, b. May 16, 1849.

HIS CHILDREN, BY DOLLY SHATTUCK, BORN IN WESTPORT.

3. Robbins, b. June 28, 1818; unm. One of the owners of the Shattuck Mills.
4. Hannah Shattuck, b. March 9, 1821; d. Aug. 10, 1821, æ. 5 m. 1 d.
5. James, b. Oct. 11, 1822; d. in 1838, æ. 16 years.
6. Levi Shattuck, b. Feb. 13, 1825. Postmaster in Westport.
7. Hanna Anna, b. May 6, 1827; m. Feb. 1, 1852, James L. Tarbox.
8. William, b. May 22, 1829.

ABOVE: Section of pages from *Memorials of the Descendants of William Shattuck*, 1855 describing Dolly and Hannah Shattuck, their marriages to James Heal, and their children.

In 1840,

the Upper Mill produced
1,250 bushels of grain and
400,000 board feet of lumber

Heal James	1	10 acres Improved Land baluel	120	
		56 do unimproved do do	22 1/2	
		1 acre of Marsh do	12	
		1 Dwelling House do	50	
		1 outhouse do	20	12 1/2 1830
		2 oxen do	36	
		5 cows do	36	
		1 Cattle under 8 years old	4	
		2 Swine 22 1/2 22 1/2	8	510
		1/2 Saw Mill 100	200	

LEFT: Section of page from 1829 Westport Town Records showing the value of James Heal property.

CHAPTER SIX

The Heal Brothers

U

pon the death of James Heal in 1861, sons **Robbins** and **William Heal** took ownership of their father's Upper Mill shares. Shortly thereafter, in 1864, the Heal family completely took over the Upper Mill homestead, when Thomas Shattuck sold the home, property, and his shares of the Upper Mill to **Levi Heal** (1825–1898). The Upper Mill was now owned and operated by the four brothers: Jonas, Robbins, Levi, and William.

In 1868, William Heal acquired $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Riggs Mill (Lower Heal Mill); Robbins Heal purchased the other $\frac{1}{4}$; the Lower Mill was now completely owned by the Heal Brothers.

Machinery upgrades were introduced, and by 1870 the mill produced 1,400,000 board feet of lumber. The mill was apparently too successful: in 1879, the mill's lumber production exceeded the capacity to ship the product.

According to valuation records, the brothers not only owned shares in the mill, they each owned shares of schooners and other businesses as well.



ABOVE TOP: The Upper Mill, c.1880. Meigs Collection

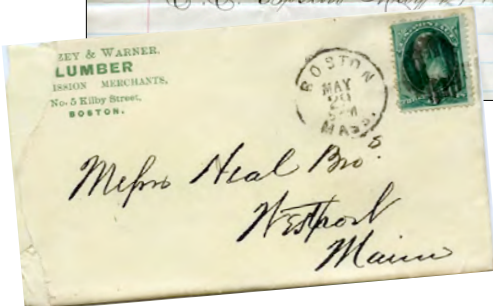
ABOVE BOTTOM: Moving logs at the mill. Lantern Slides Collection

SWAZEY & WARNER,
Lumber Commission Merchants,
No. 5 KILBY STREET, BOSTON.

Sales of Lumber per Sch. Hannah 10" for ops of
Messrs. Heal Bros.

54,780 ft. Spr. Lumber	12.	657.36	
12,208 " Ref. "	8.	97.62	754.98
66,988			
Charges			
Freight 66,988 ft. Lumber	1.62	108.85	
Comm. and Guar. 5%		5.75	114.60
Chas. enclosed for Net proceeds			608.38

E. E. Boston May 29 1876.
Swazey & Warner



ABOVE: Receipt for sale of lumber in 1876 to Swazey & Warner, Boston, Mass. William & Harriet Heal Collection

In 1869,

the Upper Mill produced
1,400,000 board feet
of lumber

✠ Westport is growing into special prominence as a lumber port. The capacity for cutting logs has been more than doubled within seven months. Heal brothers have built a new shop, 40x100, fitting it up and giving it a capacity for 20,000 feet per day. William Heal has just completed a double mill. The building is 40x100, two stories, and will have a capacity of 30,000 feet a day.

ABOVE: Article in Seaside Oracle, June 5, 1875

The Heal Brothers



ABOVE: Portrait of Levi Heal, c.1870.
Tarbox Family Collection

RIGHT: Entry in book *Biographical Review: Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties, Maine*. 1897.

LEVI S. HEAL, a former business man of Westport, Lincoln County, now living in retirement, was born here, February 13, 1825, son of James and Dorothy (Shattuck) Heal. His grandfather, David Heal, who was one of the early settlers of the town, died here at a good old age. James Heal, who spent his whole life in Westport, while also engaged in farming carried on quite an extensive milling business. He was a Whig in politics, and was officially connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. James Heal lived to the advanced age of eighty years. His wife, Dorothy, was a daughter of Jonas Shattuck, a pioneer in Westport. Jonas Shattuck was a Revolutionary patriot, who fought with unusual bravery, and suffered much hardship for the cause of independence under General Arnold. He was one of the first settlers of Westport, where he made the original clearing upon the farm now owned by his grandson. After establishing a home in the wilderness, he turned his attention to shoemaking as well as farming; and he erected the first saw-mill upon Westport Island. The rest of his useful life was passed in this town, where he died January 28, 1847. His wife, whose maiden name was Anna Robbins, was formerly of Ipswich, Mass. James and Dorothy (Shattuck) Heal were the parents of six sons and two daughters. Of these the survivors are: Levi S., the subject of this sketch; and Hannah, the wife of James L. Tarbox, who is a well-to-do real estate owner of Westport and a descendant of a pioneer settler here. The mother lived to the age of sixty-two years.

Levi S. Heal was educated in the schools of Westport, and grew to manhood upon the farm where he now resides. At an early age he engaged in the manufacture of lumber. In company with his brothers he operated saw-mills, and carried on a large and profitable business for many years. He has survived the other members of the firm, and after a useful and successful business career he retired from active pursuits some time since. He still owns the mill, together with other valuable property in this town; and he is now passing his time in rest and recreation upon his farm. In 1857 he was united in marriage with Nancy M. Brooks, a daughter of Daniel and Clarissa Brooks, who were highly esteemed residents of Westport. She is descended from pioneer settlers of this island. Mr. and Mrs. Heal have one daughter, Mabel P., who is a graduate of East Greenwich Academy, R.I., follows the vocation of teacher, and resides in Westport.

Mr. Heal was for several years a leading spirit in local affairs. He served as a member of the Board of Selectmen for a number of years, and represented his district in the legislature for three terms. He also acted as Postmaster here for some time. In politics he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party. Prominent in the Masonic order here, he is a member of Lincoln Lodge, of New Jerusalem Chapter of Wiscasset, and of Dunlap Commandery of Bath. He is one of the best known and most popular residents of Westport.

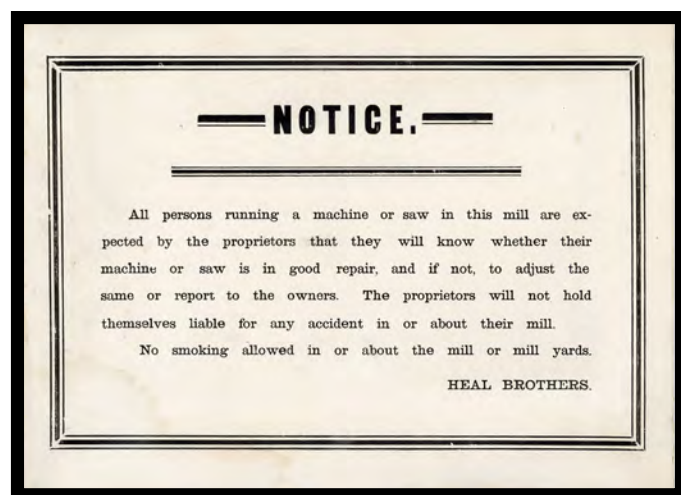
Needham Novm 8th 1861
Brother Wm your of 6th is recd
was glad to hear from you and that
you have got stock of Logs and
the folks well - I am in a hurry
this morning to get this of so you
can get it this week but will
stop to ask the following
questions which I want you to
answer. 1st who keeps your house
2 are you saving now 3 what
help have you got 4th do you
find any market for lumber

LEFT: Part of letter written by Robbins Heal to brother William in 1861. Robbins was then living with his sister Hannah Anna and brother-in-law James Loring Tarbox, in Needham, Massachusetts. William & Harriet Heal Collection



ABOVE TOP: Iconic image of Mabel Heal on mill bridge in front of Heal's Upper Mill, c.1877. *Connie Ostis Collection*

ABOVE BOTTOM: Riding past the Levi Heal house during a family outing, c.1890. *Ames-Krause Collection*



ABOVE: Safety sign from Heal Mill.
William & Harriet Heal Collection

CHAPTER SIX

The Heal Brothers

The 1880s was a difficult decade for the Heal brothers. Robbins Heal "disappeared" on a February night in 1882 at the age of 64. He was declared dead by drowning in 1886 and his mill assets were disbursed to his four heirs.

The Upper Mill ceased operation in about 1890 due to competition from more efficient gasoline-powered mills.

BELOW: Notebook entries detailing the value and distribution of Robbins Heal's assets.

Memorandum of Robbins Heal's Property		
1870 Dec 1/6	Cash Samuel C. Hale	550
1872 Oct 1/4	Cash Royal	400
1873 Dec 1/4	Cash Celina	600
1873 Feb 1/4	Cash Sammie	400
1874 Apr 1/4	Cash Hannah	200
1874 May 1/4	Cash Sammie	225
1873 Aug 1/4	Cash Geo. H. Jewett	300
1876 Jan 1/4	Cash Charles K. Lewis	375
1878 May 1/4	Cash Sammie Goddard	200
1880 Jan 1/4	Cash B. H. Morse	200
1881 Feb 1/4	Cash Mary Sands	637 50
1881 May 1/4	Cash Joseph M. Hayes	100
1881 Aug 1/4	Cash Mary C. Morse	250
1881 Oct 1/4	Cash Geo. Houlton Jr	200
1881 Dec 1/4	Cash Ella F. Harris	100
1882 Jan 1/4	Cash Ellie F. Rogers	500
3	Shares South Bay Marine Railway	100
5	" " " "	200
1870	3 " E. S. Boat Co	225
Appraised by Jas C Drake, Jos Varney & Jas F. Winslow April 22 1887		54250

FINDING OF SKELETON IN WOODS MAY EXPLAIN 35 YEARS MYSTERY

Bath Boys Make Gruesome Find in Georgetown and Natives Believe Bones Are Those of Robbins Heal Who Disappears from Home 35 Years Ago Leaving No Clue to His Fate

The strange disappearance about 35 years ago of Robbins Heal, a prominent and successful mill man of Westport, has been recalled by the discovery Saturday of a skeleton near the northeast shore of Georgetown at the head of Hall's bay. The bones, reposing under an old tree, were blanched with age. The grim discovery was made by two Bath boys, Clyde Stiphen and Ernest Kingsbury, both about 20, who had gone to Sheep Island for a few days holiday at the Stiphen cottage, according to information furnished Medical Examiner Langdon T. Snipe by Alphonso Cookson today. Stiphen is the son of Fred H. Stiphen of 66 Richardson street and Kingsbury is a son of the late Pablo Kingsbury of 5 Meadow street.

The boys, who had crossed the body of water for a purely pleasure stroll through the woods were horrified to run across the bones. The attention was attracted by the skull which seemed to be looking straight at them. After recovering from their fright they went closer and to their amazement found a complete skeleton. They dug about the bones to see if anything that might furnish information as to who the person might once have been, but their efforts were unrewarded.

They at once struck out for the nearest house which is the home of Alphonso Cookson just west of Hockemock Bluffs who lives in a little brown house on a peninsula extending from the Woolwich shore. To him they told their story. They carried to him the skeleton as proof of their tale. He advised them to carry the skull back and place it just as they had found it and today Mr. Cookson came to Bath to report the facts to Medical Examiner Langdon T. Snipe. Mr. Snipe feels that there is little he can do to clear up the mystery and will notify the selectmen of Georgetown to bury the remains.

Several people recall the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Mr. Heal and the efforts that were made searching for him. By some it was believed he had met with foul play and others believed it was just one of those unexplainable mysteries that could never be solved.

One story that was current today was that Mr. Heal came to Bath and drew several hundred dollars from a local bank and that somebody realizing this inveigled him out of his house and then made way with him for the money. According to information received from Westport today the withdrawal of money was only a myth, as it was said he had not been here for many years prior to his disappearance.

Mr. Cookson advanced a theory to Medical Examiner Snipe that Mr. Heal might have gotten into a small boat and that the tide took him up through the big Hell gates and that when he reached the northern end of Castle Island a northeast wind blew the boat down into Hall's bay and that being chilled he went ashore and suffering from exhaustion fell and froze to death.

WESTPORT CITIZEN RECALLS DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS UNCLE (Special to The Times)

Westport, Apr. 28.—The disappearance of Robbins Heal was recalled today by James H. Tarbox, a nephew of Mr. Heal's. He had not heard of finding of the skeleton and at first was inclined not to believe it could have been that of his uncle as he felt that in this length of time the bones would have turned to dust.

In recalling his uncle's disappearance he told of the circumstances, stating that Mr. Heal was one of four brothers who operated mills, one at the upper landing and the other at the lower. The other brothers were William, Levi and Jonas. Mr. Tarbox at the time of his uncle's disappearance was on a voyage from Portland to Buenos Aires but remembers that the affair created a distinct sensation that lasted for months. His mother, Mrs. Hannah Tarbox, was the wife of James L. Tarbox and a sister to the Heal brothers. Robbins Heal lived in her home for a number of years.

One cold February morning her brother Robbins got up, complaining of not feeling well. She told him to return to bed and said she would prepare for him a hot drink. She was in bed at the time and fell asleep for a short period and when she awoke got no response to her continued calling to her brother. Investigation showed that he had not been in his bed for the night.

The island was aroused and a thorough search was made for him. A diver was employed for two weeks but no trace of the body was ever found. Tracks that led from the house to the shore were later believed to be those of a Mr. Fuller of East Boothbay who contracted with Mr. Heal to saw the frame for a three masted schooner. Mr. Heal was said to stand 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed about 170 pounds. At the time he was believed to have worn a heavy pair of rubber boots, a monkey jacket and heavy woolen clothing.

ABOVE: Newspaper article about the disappearance of Robbins Heal, 1919. *The Times Record*

LEFT: Part of a 1862 letter to Robbins Heal from 9-year-old niece Annie Tarbox (daughter of Hannah Anna Heal Tarbox). *William & Harriet Heal Collection*

William Nov 1862
Dear uncl Robbins.
SENT
A GOOD LOT OF PAPER WITHOUT
ANYTHING WRITTEN ON IT THAT
MOTHER SAID I MIGHT WRITE
YOU A LETTER.
LUCH. A STORM. AS WE ARE. HAVING

UPPER LANDING

The Steamboat Era

The introduction of the steamboat ushered in easier travel for passengers and easier transport of commercial goods and the mail. The **Eastern Steamship Company** began service in about **1875**, connecting the Bath railway with surrounding islands, including Westport. From then until 1907 (when rural free delivery started) mail arrived by steamboat and was carried by horse and wagon to the Post Office at the center of the island, where each family collected its own mail.

Beginning in **1884**, the *Wiwurna* and the slightly smaller *Nahanada* traveled the Bath-to-Boothbay route. The *Nahanada* ran between Boothbay and Wiscasset during the winter. Both of these vessels were shallow draft and could therefore land at the long-extended pier at the Upper Landing near the Heal/Shattuck Mill.

The Upper Landing was not usable during low tide. At those times, passengers, freight and mail were unloaded at the Lower Heal Mill (Junction) landing and shifted to small boats to be transported to the Upper landing.

Steamboat service at the Upper Landing ended in 1913 when the pier was no longer usable.

KENNEBEC LINE											
SUMMER SERVICE											
STEAMERS											
City of Bangor AND City of Rockland											
Schedule Effective June 26, 1915											
Leave BOSTON (Fosters Wharf)	16.00	P.M.	Leave GARDINER	13.45	P.M.						
Due POPHAM BEACH	*3.30	A.M.	Leave DRESDEN	4.30	"						
Due BATH	4.30	"	Leave RICHMOND	4.45	"						
Leave BATH	5.30	"	Due BATH	6.00	"						
Leave RICHMOND	x6.30	"	Leave BATH	6.30	"						
Leave DRESDEN	6.50	"	Leave POPHAM BEACH	*7.00	"						
Due GARDINER	*8.00	A.M.	Due BOSTON	*6.00	A.M.						

* Daily except Sundays; also Sundays July 18 to September 12, inclusive.
 * Landing will be made at Popham Beach, weather permitting.
 Connection made at Bath and Gardiner with the Maine Central Railroad and the Lewiston, Augusta and Waterville Street Railroad.

* Daily except Mondays; also Mondays July 19 to September 13, inclusive.
 * Landing will be made at Richmond, tide permitting.

THE FALL SCHEDULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 13, 1915

BATH and BOOTHBAY LINE											
Schedule Effective June 26, 1915											
STEAMERS SOUTHPORT, WESTPORT, WIWURNA AND NAHANADA											
See reference letters below.						See reference letters below.					
BATH	A	C	E	G		PEMAQUID HARBOR	B	D	F	H	J
WESTPORT	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.		PEMAQUID BEACH	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
WESTPORT JCT.	3.30	8.45	2.45	9.00		CHRISTMAS COVE	11.00	1.00	1.30	2.30	
RICHMOND	4.00	9.15	3.15	9.40		HERON ISLAND	11.40	1.40	2.10	3.10	
MECHANICALS	4.40	9.55	3.55	10.00		OCEAN POINT	12.00	2.00	2.40	3.40	
FIVE ISLANDS	5.15	10.30	4.30	10.40		BOOTHBAY HARBOR	12.40	2.40	3.00	4.00	
SAVTER ISLAND	6.20	11.35	5.35	11.40		SOUTHERN ISLAND	1.00	3.00	3.40	4.40	
ISLE OF SPRINGS	6.50	12.05	6.05	12.10		MOOSE ISLAND	1.30	3.30	3.50	4.50	
SOUTHPORT	7.30	12.45	6.45	12.50		CAPTIVE ISLAND	2.00	4.00	4.20	5.20	
MOOSE ISLAND	7.40	12.55	6.55	1.00		SOUTHPORT	2.30	4.30	4.50	5.50	
CAPTIVE ISLAND	7.50	1.05	7.05	1.10		ISLE OF SPRINGS	2.40	4.40	4.60	5.60	
SOUTHERN ISLAND	7.55	1.10	7.10	1.15		SAVTER ISLAND	2.50	4.50	4.70	5.70	
BOOTHBAY HARBOR	8.00	1.15	7.15	1.20		FIVE ISLANDS	3.00	5.00	5.20	6.20	
OCEAN POINT	8.10	1.20	7.20	1.25		MECHANICALS	3.10	5.10	5.30	6.30	
CHRISTMAS COVE	8.20	1.25	7.25	1.30		RICHMOND	3.20	5.20	5.40	6.40	
PEMAQUID BEACH	8.30	1.30	7.30	1.35		WESTPORT JCT.	3.30	5.30	5.50	6.50	
PEMAQUID HARBOR	8.40	1.35	7.35	1.40		WESTPORT	3.40	5.40	5.60	6.60	

* Stops to leave passengers on signal.
 * Daily except Monday, June 26 to July 18. Daily, July 19 to September 12, inclusive.
 B, C, D, E and F—Daily except Sunday, June 26 to September 12, inclusive.
 G, H—Sundays only, July 18 to September 12, inclusive.
 J—Sundays only, June 27 to September 12, inclusive.

THE FALL SCHEDULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 1915

H. J. STONE, Agent, Gardiner. M. A. HARADEN, Superintendent, Bath. J. P. KELLEY, Agent, Boothbay
 O. H. TAYLOR, Passenger Traffic Manager. H. H. CUDWORTH, General Passenger Agent.

Eastern Steamship Lines

BELOW: Remnants of Heal's Upper Mill with Upper Mill steamship landing pier in background, c. 1900. Tarbox Family Collection



ABOVE: Steamship Schedule, 1915. WCA Collection

UPPER LANDING

The Steamboat Era



ABOVE: Upper Landing at Heal Cove, c. 1900.
Connie Ostis Collection



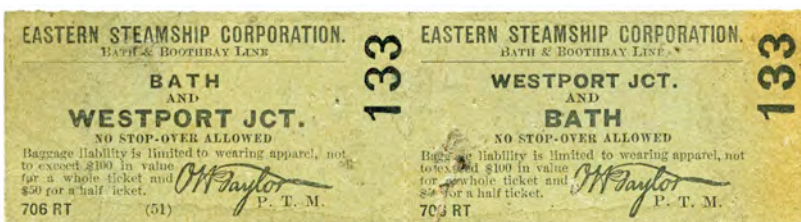
ABOVE: Steamer Westport, c.1900. Swanton Book Collection



ABOVE: Horse and Buggy (with Margaret (Mrs. Eugene Webber) at Upper Steamship Landing. Lantern Slide Collection



ABOVE: Steamship Brochure/
Schedule, 1903. WCA Collection



ABOVE: Eastern Steamship ticket. GD Richardson Family Collection



ABOVE: Steamer Wiwurna,
c.1900. Tarbox Family
Collection

RIGHT: Contract between
Levi Heal and The Eastern
Steamship Company.
Connie Ostis Collection

14
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, Levi S. Heal of Westport, state of Maine, in consideration of one dollar paid by the Eastern Steamboat Company of Bath, Me, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Eastern Steamboat Company, their heirs and assigns as hereinafter provided, a certain lot or parcel of flats situated in the town of Westport in Heals Cove, so called, commencing at the point where Shattucks Fish House stood, opposite the north end of Tylers Islands, being about ten feet in width and extending towards Tylers Islands about six hundred feet to the channel, and now covered by the piling and walk just completed also that portion of the flats and shore occupied by the land^{ing} pier built in connection with said walk, being about fifty feet on the channel side, with the right to land on all sides of the said pier; also a right of way to be used in common for the purposes of the said Steamboat landing extending from the flats hereby conveyed to the county road, said way being as now fenced out, along the bank of the cove, about twenty five feet wide.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforegranted premises, and appurtenances thereof to the said Eastern Steamboat Co. their heirs and assigns to their use and behoof as long as it shall be used by them as a Steamboat Landing, lawfully seized in fee of the premises; that they are free of all incumbrances; that he has good right to sell and convey the same to the said grantee to hold as aforesaid; and that he and his heirs shall and will Warrant and Defend the same to the said grantee, heirs and assigns, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I the said grantor and Nancy M. Heal, wife of the said Levi S. in testimony of her relinquishment of her right of dower in the above described premises, have hereunto sether hand and seal this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

Joseph M. Trott

Levi S. Heal Seal

Nancy M. Heal Seal

State of Maine, Lincoln ss. Sept. 11, 1880. Personally appeared the above named Levi S. Heal and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed, before me, Joseph M. Trott, Justice of the Peace and Quorum.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Two Mabels



For almost 50 years, the Heal Mill property was owned in part or in whole by two Mabels: **Mabel Heal** and **Mabel Eisnor**.

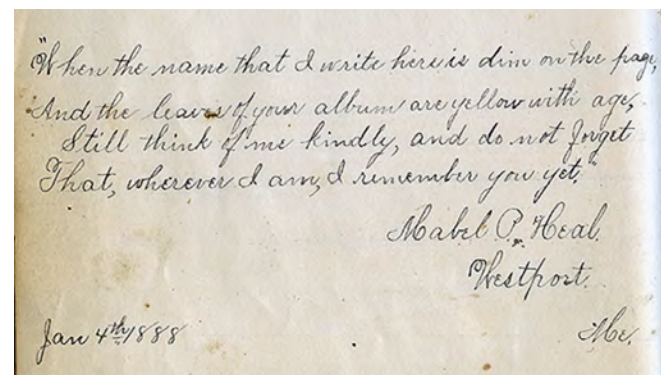
Mabel Heal (1872–1937), the only child of Levi Heal and Nancy Brooks (1837–1915), lived her life at the Heal family homestead. She graduated from East Greenwich Academy in Rhode Island in 1893. She taught for most of her career in Westport beginning in 1895—at the South End, Center, and North End schools—until the mid-1930s. In about 1900, she attended the Page Kindergarten School in Danvers, Massachusetts for additional training.

In 1898, Mabel's father Levi Heal died. Along with her mother, she inherited the house and property from her father's estate. During the next forty years, Mabel remained single, teaching, caring for her mother, working the farm, and raising poultry. She also hosted boarders and farm workers to help her with farm work and expenses.

She was an active participant in the Westport Grange and the Westport Methodist Episcopal Church.



ABOVE: Center School class photo, most likely of teacher Mabel Heal and her students since the photograph was found in the Heal family home. Mabel Heal taught in Westport schools ca. 1896–1934. The majority of her service was at the Center School. *Connie Ostis Collection*



ABOVE: Page from Louise Brooks autograph book, written by Mabel Heal, 1888. *George D Richardson Sr Family Collection*

BELOW: Newspaper tidbits and articles mentioning Mabel Heal.

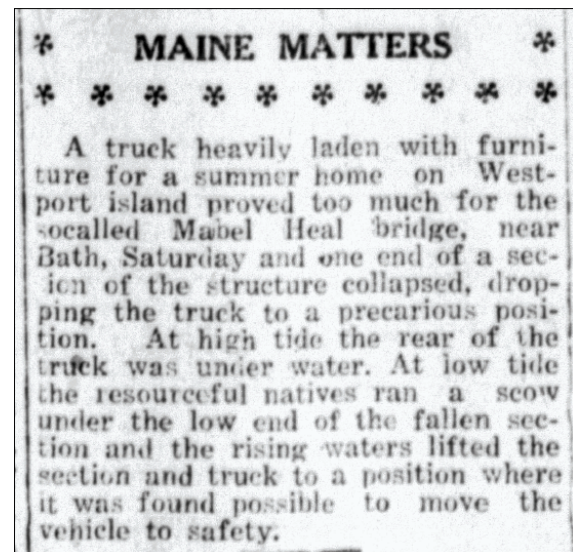
Warren Hodgdon is to move into the Heal house at the upper mill, where he will have employment for the winter

Mrs. L. S. Heal has gone to Rhode Island to accompany her daughter Mabel home, who has been attending school at Greenwich.

Lincoln County News, 11/20/1890

The public schools in town commenced April 27. Miss Alice L. Murphy of Haverhill, Mass., is instructor at the north school, Miss Mabel P. Heal at the center and Mrs. E. V. Lewis at the south.

Bath Independent, 04/30/1904



Biddeford Weekly Journal 1922



In 1916, Mabel Eisnor (1879–1963) came to Westport as a supply (short-term) minister serving as a deaconess at the Westport Methodist Episcopal Church. After serving for two years, she continued to officiate at Westport services and religious functions for the ensuing decades.

The two Mabels became friends, sharing interests in church, farming, and education. In the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Censuses, Mabel Eisnor was listed as a lodger at Mabel Heal's home.

Mabel Heal executed a will in 1929 which upon her death would leave the house and property to her good friend Mabel Eisnor. She had unsuccessfully tried to sell the property in 1932 as a boys' camp or gentleman's estate. The work and cost of maintaining the property on a teacher's salary was likely overwhelming.

Mabel Heal died in 1937, leaving the property to Mabel Eisnor, who lived in the Upper Mill House until 1955.



TOP RIGHT: Heal/Eisnor House, 1946. *Connie Ostis Collection*

RIGHT: Mabel Eisnor (right) with Jean Smith (left) and Sally Smith, c.1947. *Connie Ostis Collection*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Record of Westport Pastors from Methodist Episcopal Church Records

BELOW: Newspaper article from the *Bath Independent*, April 22, 1916.

Once more Westport has a preacher and it seems good after so long a time. The Rev. Mabel Eisner arrived here last week and will conduct services every Sunday. She is a person of more than a pleasing personality and possesses a marked ability as preacher, coming to us from Georgetown and Arrowsic where she has supplied for several years, devoting her time to service and untiring Christian work among the people of these towns, which are now being supplied by the Rev. J. E. Churchill who impressed the people last Sunday with his free practical talk. Rev. Eisner will occupy the parsonage at the Center. She has with her Miss Jones, a teacher, as companion.

I. RECORD OF PASTORS.			
NAMES	WHEN APPOINTED	WHEN REMOVED	REMARKS
Sawyer C.L.	1908	1910	
Wood Edw. J.	1910	1912	
Mae Auliffe John	1912	May 1914	
Jamison Chester P.	May 1914	April 1916	
Eisnor Mabel N.	April 1916	" 1918	
Jesse W. Dues B.S.; S.T.B.	April 1920		

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Smith Family



In 1947, Jack (1915–1984) and Jean Smith (1917–2006) of Westwood, Massachusetts, accepted an invitation to visit Westport Island where their next-door neighbors, the Perrys, had a summer cottage. While there, the beautiful Heal Cove property caught their eyes. Jack approached owner Mabel Eisnor and asked if she was interested in selling her home. Mabel, who had lived there alone for 10 years, said, “I am, but I have nowhere to go.” Jack countered that he wanted to buy it, but didn’t have the money. The two agreed on a price of \$3,000 with a seven-year \$25/month payment plan that included the contents of the house, barn, and outbuildings. Mabel retained the right to live in the house during those seven years. She lived in a rear portion of the house, which included a sitting room and overhead bedroom. The Smiths settled into the main house for summer vacations and long holiday weekends.

For their four children, it was a summer playground. For Jack and Jean, most vacation hours were spent working on the house and grounds. When the house was paid off on March 1, 1955, Mabel moved to be near friends in Walpole, Massachusetts.



ABOVE TOP: Mabel Eisnor and John “Lloyd” Smith, Sr. (father of Jack Smith), c. 1950. *Connie Ostis Collection*

ABOVE: Jack Smith Jr. and his dad, John “Lloyd” Smith Sr., out on the water with children Spike, Connie, and Sally at Heal Cove, c. 1950. Jack Smith’s father stayed with them every summer until he died in 1952. *Connie Ostis Collection*

No. 714	DATE Dec. 27, 1953	AMOUNTS DRAWN
PAY TO: Mabel H. Eisnor		
FOR: 1956 payment in full		200 00
No. 715	DATE Dec. 27, 1953	
PAY TO: Mrs. G. J. Cottle		90 00
FOR: Interest on 3000.00		
No. 716	DATE Dec. 27, 1953	
PAY TO: Seabrook Community Church		50 00
FOR:		
TOTAL CHECKS DRAWN		340 00

LEFT: Check register entry showing payment to Mabel Eisnor in December 1955. *Connie Ostis Collection*

RIGHT: Heal Cove summer playground: Connie, Spike and Sally Smith fishing (1949); Jack and Spike Smith digging for clams (1957). *Connie Ostis Collection*





In 1971, after 31 years as a manager of Customer Engineering for IBM in Boston, Jack retired. Jean was a registered nurse. The couple moved to Westport. Jack upgraded his farming equipment, earned an instrument rating to fly his plane, and the two remodeled the home. Jack served as a Select Board member (1975–76), as Road Commissioner in 1976, and did town road work for several years. Jean devoted her time to gardening, putting her nursing skills to use in community health programs, and serving the church.

After Jack's death in 1984, Jean lived another 17 years in the home until her health required her to move. Upon Jean's death in 2006, the property went into a trust with her three surviving children serving as trustees.

Prior to Jean's death, funds intended for property maintenance were required for her care. To "save the family farm," daughter **Connie (Smith) Ostis** turned the property into a vacation rental "venue" property. The property hosted many weddings and family reunions until Connie's retirement and move to the island in 2017. As the only remaining child, upon her death the trust will end, and the property will go to Jack and Jean Smith's eight grandchildren for its next chapter.



ABOVE TOP: Heal Cove barn and Jack's truck, c.1949.

ABOVE BOTTOM: Jack Smith's father "Lloyd" Smith with his "shop" in background, 1948.

Connie Ostis Collection



ABOVE: Truck in water belonged to Walter Greenleaf. Herbert Cromwell, Sr. and his son Judd were in the truck when it fell through the bridge, Dec. 1946. *Colby-Greenleaf Collection*



ABOVE: Heal's Mill bridge after Walter Greenleaf's truck and snow plow collapsed the center span, Dec. 1946. *Colby-Greenleaf Collection*

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Smith Family



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

Smith family on Westport c.1957. Jen in front of Jean, Connie, Spike, Jack, and Sal.

Heal Cove house, 1948.

Jack Smith, with his Cessna Skyhawk, c.1975.

Jean Smith by one of her gardens, c.1990.

Jack and Jean Smith with their four adult children, 1982.

Connie Ostis Collection



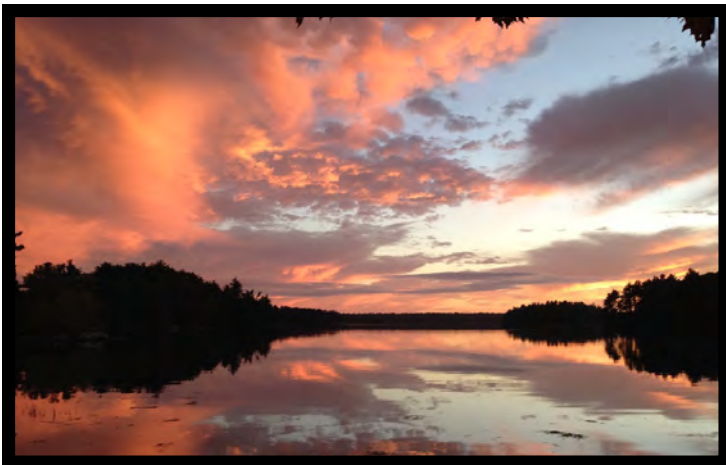
THE NEXT CHAPTER

Heal Cove Epilogue

*T*hroughout time, Heal Cove has captured the imagination. Advantageous geography and natural beauty have invited reflection and creative expression. Remnants of the historic mills still add interest and mystery to its tidal shore.

At the start of the 20th century, the cove and its structures were captured in tourist postcards. In the 1960s, a winter view of the Heal homestead was selected by the Brunswick Naval Air Station as its Christmas card image and was sent to over 700 naval communication groups around the world. In 2019, a view of its waterfront looking towards Tyler Islands was the cover image for Westport's Comprehensive Plan. During its years as an event rental, its beauty was memorialized as the backdrop in countless weddings and family events. In recent summers, a plein air group has met on "Connie's lawn," capturing its beauty with their palettes.

The Smith family would like that their legacy will be to preserve in some way the view that has been celebrated by so many.



ABOVE: Heal Cove Sunset, 2024.



ABOVE: Naval Air Station Christmas card, 1960s.
Connie Ostis Collection



OFF TO FREEPORT! This Westport Island blue spruce tree has been selected to be part of the holiday display at L.L. Bean in Freeport.

Westport Island tree goes to L. L. Bean

Submitted By Connie Ostis
When Jack and Jean Smith retired in 1970 to the summer home they have owned since 1947, they planted a Colorado blue spruce, the type of tree they have had at each home they have lived in since they were married. This tree grew to be a glorious full tree, over 60 feet tall and almost 35 feet in diameter at its base.

While it was a joy for everyone to experience as they went by the property, its size took over the driveway, blocking the entrance to one garage door.

After weeks of looking at many different trees, the search committee for one of Maine's oldest companies chose Jean Smith's tree for their holiday display: L.L. Bean. This was no small task moving this tree. They used a crane to lift the tree straight up, and carry it over the house to lay it on a flatbed truck waiting on West Shore Road. It took almost five

hours to cut, move and tie it down so it was no more than 13 feet wide, the size needed to travel down the highway to the Freeport store.

While Jean, who died in May of this year, would not have been pleased to see her beloved tree cut down, she would be enormously pleased to see it decorated and enjoyed by thousands of people. The opening lighting was held Saturday November 11.

RIGHT: Newspaper article about donated Heal Cove tree, 2006.
Connie Ostis Collection

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Heal Cove Epilogue



DISPLAYED ARTIFACTS:

From the Smith/Ostis barn and back house. Milk jugs, coffee grinder, kettle, and Borden's Condensed Milk promotional fan. All items c. 1910.

Connie Ostis Collection





DISPLAYED ARTIFACTS:

TOP: Logging tools. *Connie Ostis Collection*

BOTTOM: School books and school ledgers used by teacher Mabel Heal. *Town Hall Collection*

RIGHT: Autograph book belonging to Louise Brooks, signed by Mabel Heal. *GD Richardson Sr. Family Collection*

*"When the name that I write here is dim on the page,
And the leaves of your album are yellow with age,
Still think of me kindly, and do not forget
That, wherever I am, I remember you yet.*

Mabel P. Heal

Westport

Jan. 4th 1888

*"When the name that I write here is dim on the page,
And the leaves of your album are yellow with age,
Still think of me kindly, and do not forget
That, wherever I am, I remember you yet.
Mabel P. Heal.
Westport.
Jan 4th 1888*

This exhibit was created in conjunction with the *Friends of Westport Island History* annual celebration event which was held in July 2024. The event was made possible by the gracious support of the Smith-Ostis family who opened their house and their remembrances to honor the legacy of the Heal Cove property and by the generous support of the financial and hospitality sponsors listed below.

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