

The Stores at Pulpit Harbor

Island stores have not only offered necessary provisions, but also served as important gathering places, where people could share news, talk politics, discuss the weather, and swap jokes and stories. Over a 100– year period, six different stores existed at Pulpit Harbor. While some stores provided for residents during Pulpit Harbor’s heyday, others saw the community through its decline.

In the late 1800’s as the village at Pulpit Harbor thrived and fishing schooners regularly came to the harbor seeking supplies, several stores were in operation. William Pipers store sat at the end of Frye Point and Ben Calderwood’s store and fish house were located on a large wharf east of the present public landing. Roscoe Babbidge started a store on property across from the Grange Hall and then in the 1890’s moved his business to the harbor’s shore, just west of the present public landing. In both locations, Roscoe Babbidge housed the Pulpit Harbor post office, with his wife Hannah appointed as postmistress.

The Beverage family, Hanford and Elmira and their daughter Isa, opened a store just past the Beach Bridge in the 1870’s and remained in business until 1948. Accompanying the Beverage store was a long wharf, an icehouse, a grain shed, and later on, a gas pump.

North Haven historian, Sam Beverage called this store “the most wonderful place of my childhood.” Sam wrote, “I especially recall the large boxes of fancy cookies and crackers and the jars of candy. A few cents then would get some real great treats.”

Summer resident Lucia Norton Valentine remembered the Beverage store was “a delightful place and held everything from needles to milk. Its shop was a joy to the eye; spice drawers with china handles, black and gold Chinese tea caddies, a very large red coffee grinder with a hopper and a wheel, shelves with bolts of cloth, and goods such as onions or coils of rope hanging from the rafters.”

During the early 1900’s, Sands Witherspoon and Hanson Crockett each opened stores at Pulpit Harbor. The Crockett store was located across from the Grange Hall, near the same location as today’s North Haven Grocery. Reportedly Crockett’s store was a favorite hangout for students from the nearby High School.

Sands Witherspoon’s store opened in 1906 and was located on a ledge in front of Witherspoon’s house overlooking the harbor. Summer resident Lucia Norton Valentine described Witherspoon’s Store as “a gathering place, and a goldmine of interest because of its mysterious selection of goods. It once had a trumpeted Victrola for sale, which so endeared itself to Sands that he took it off the market and played it to his customers instead. It had a pair of rubber roots, which could not be sold for the logical reason that it was the last pair in stock.”

Reportedly, Sands eclectic store also offered an assortment of hand carved picture frames, ship models, garden and nursery stock, wallpaper, and island made hooked rugs. Sands Witherspoon also served as a representative to the State Legislature and became a skilled photographer who, with his glass plate camera, provide many early images of Pulpit Harbor.

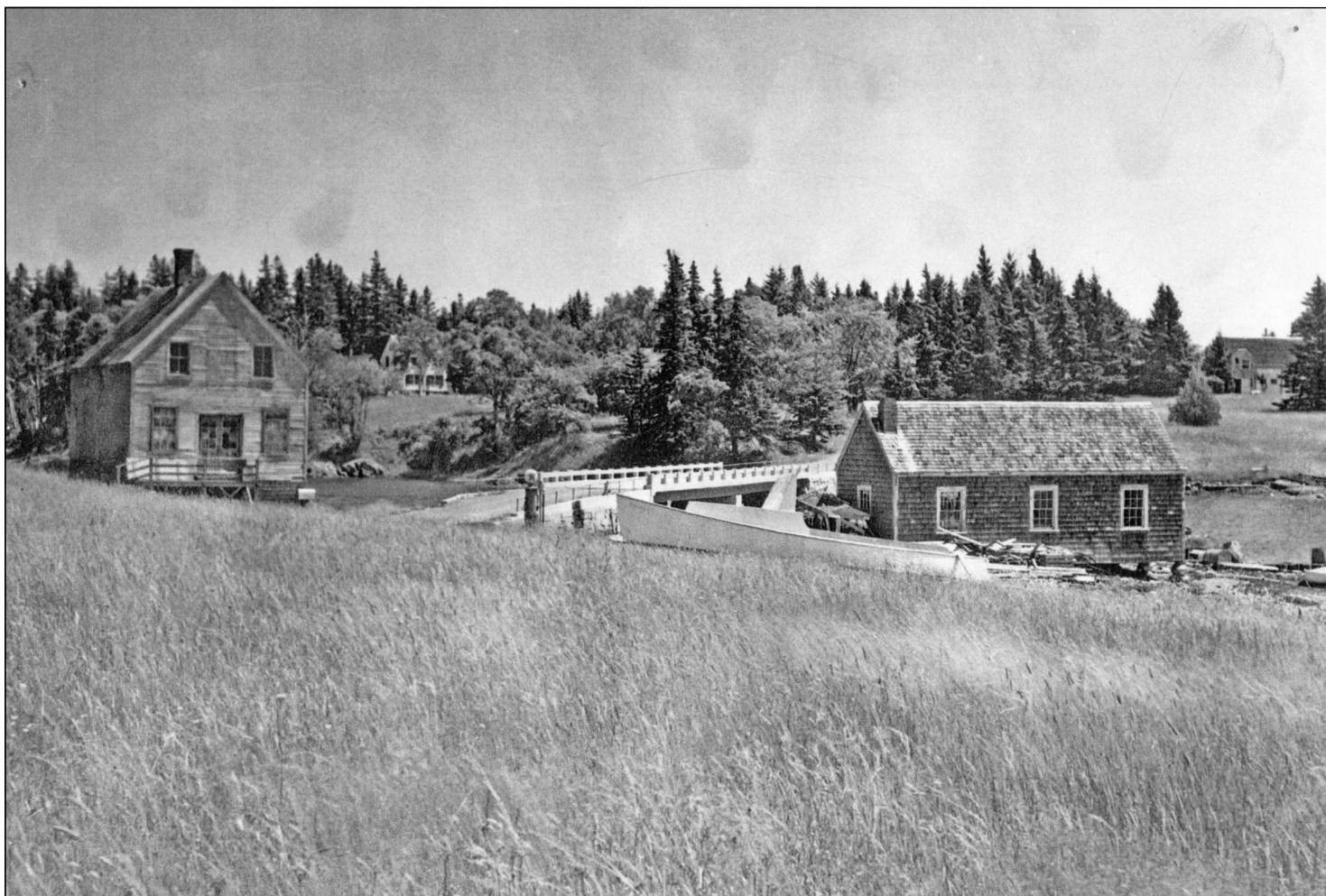
In 1948, the Beverage Store, the last remaining store at Pulpit Harbor, closed and in 1951, the building was torn down. Some say a generation too soon— with the many windjammers and yachts that now visit Pulpit Harbor each summer, a store along the waterfront could do well!



The Roscoe Babbidge Store



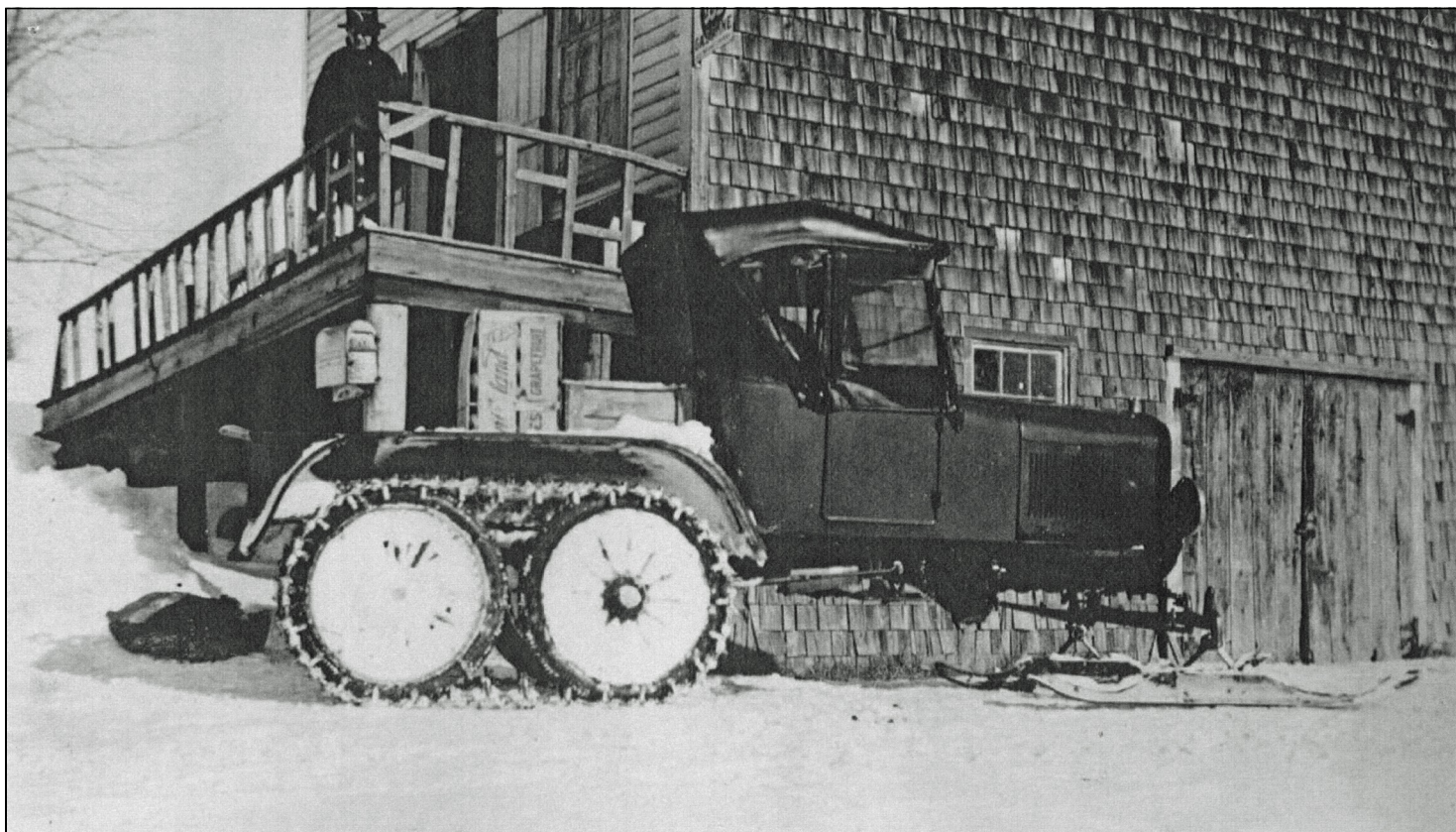
Isa Beverage and the Beverage Store



**Hanford and Elmira Beverage store on the shore of Beach Bridge at Pulpit Harbor.
Their daughter, Isa, ran the store there until 1948.**



Left to Right: Isa Beverage Store, Ice House, James Verrill House



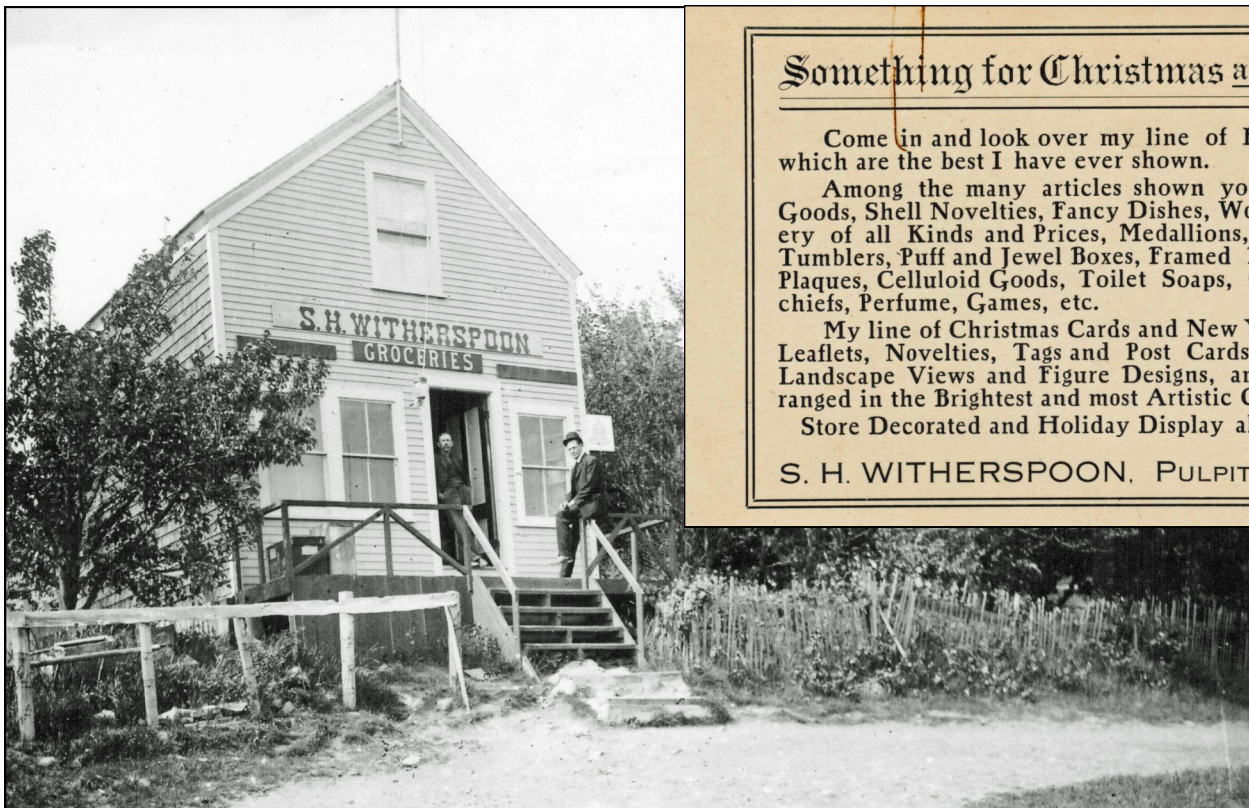
**Isa Beverage on the porch of her store at Pulpit Harbor.
Earl Marden's Model T Ford has been converted into a snowmobile.
Photo taken around 1925.**



High Tide at Beach Bridge with sea water coming very close to the gas pump.



Solomon Parsons (left) in front of Isa's Store on the Pulpit Harbor Beach.



Something for Christmas and New Years

Come in and look over my line of **HOLIDAY GOODS** which are the best I have ever shown.

Among the many articles shown you will find Japanese Goods, Shell Novelties, Fancy Dishes, Work Baskets, Stationery of all Kinds and Prices, Medallions, Souvenir Pin Trays, Tumblers, Puff and Jewel Boxes, Framed Pictures, Books, Wall Plaques, Celluloid Goods, Toilet Soaps, Calendars, Handkerchiefs, Perfume, Games, etc.

My line of Christmas Cards and New Years Cards, Booklets, Leaflets, Novelties, Tags and Post Cards, abound in Flowers, Landscape Views and Figure Designs, and are beautifully arranged in the Brightest and most Artistic Coloring.

Store Decorated and Holiday Display about December 13.

S. H. WITHERSPOON, PULPIT HARBOR, MAINE.

**Sands Witherspoon's store at Pulpit Harbor.
The store, which opened in 1906, was a beautifully constructed building
with a varnished tongue-and-groove exterior.
Inset: Christmas advertisement.**