

**Holbrook Education Initiative 2015-2016**  
in collaboration with Harpswell Coastal Academy

Voices of the Working Waterfront: A Harpswell Stories Project, has been a year long, hands-on learning experience for High School students at Harpswell Coastal Academy that explores the changing dynamics of coastal Maine's fishing economy. Using Cundy's Harbor and Holbrook's Wharf as our primary classrooms, and the people of Harpswell as our teachers, we have studied both the history and present-day reality of this place and its people.

Our study began in the fall trimester with students conducting historical inquiry projects based on a Cundy's Harbor-related artifact of their choosing. Some students examined old postcards or portrait photographs, while others looked at local Victorian architecture as a way of understanding regional United States history, as well as gain a better appreciation for the rich local history of this community.

Over the course of the winter trimester, a different group of students conducted oral history interviews with a dozen Harpswellians living and/or working in Cundy's Harbor. Students underwent a rigorous media production process to edit the interviews into short, coherent audio stories which have been shared with the public on the Harpswellstories.org website. The oral history phase of the project built on the theoretical and historical context established in the fall, by connecting students with the people living their lives on the waterfront.

Finally, in our third trimester, a third group of students are producing a short documentary film constructed from the historical understanding established in the fall, the oral history footage gathered in the winter, and additional "b-roll" and interview footage shot this spring. The film will culminate a full year of study and exploration of Cundy's Harbor, and represents a rich, multi-dimensional understanding of this community. It also represents thousands of student work hours, and enormous growth and skill-building that will directly move students closer to high school graduation. Our hope is that this body of work will be a treasured archive, accessible to the world, serving the mission of the Holbrook Community Foundation, and the people of Harpswell whose shared stories have made it possible.