



Traps and Trapping in South Dorchester, by Tom Bradshaw, 7 May 2014

Tom Bradshaw was born and raised in Golden Hill. He came from a long line of waterman, farmers, and trappers. He is a historian, a school bus driver, and a County Councilman. He lives in Reid's Grove with his wife Donna and children Matt, Will, and Kate where they operate the Reid's Grove Country Store.

Tom's talk was about Walter A. Gibbs who was from Wilmington Delaware. Mr. Gibbs purchased marsh and timberland in 1913 in the Gum Swamp area for the purpose of hunting. As he was retired from the Railroad, he soon learned that trapping muskrats was a way to make money to at least pay the taxes on the property. This led to the design, development and manufacture of unique traps. Some we use today are still of his design. There was also a muskrat farming operation which was quite revolutionary at the time.

