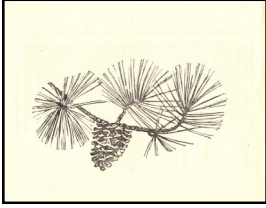


Boothbay Region Historical Society

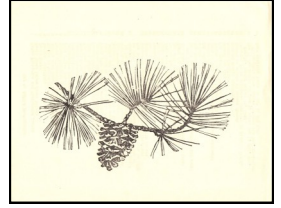
Volume 27, Issue 2

Fall 2014



HARBOR LIGHTS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Please join us for our annual Harbor Lights open house. The museum will be dressed up for the holidays with a variety of ornaments and decorations that have been donated over the years. As always, we are grateful to the Garden Club for providing us with beautiful wreaths and greens. Local historian Barbara Rumsey will be on hand, and society trustees and volunteers will provide delicious food and beverages.

The Harbor Lights open house is our way of saying thank you to the community for your support throughout the year. We hope to see you there. Come on in and sign up for a door prize.

2014 Quilt Raffle

Still time to buy your tickets!

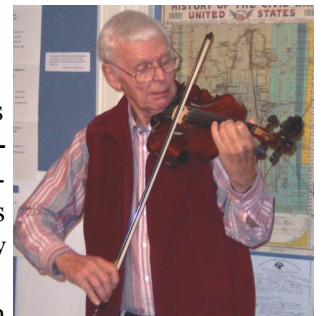


As temperatures drop, it's time to think about snuggling under this beautifully handmade 48" by 60" quilt. Tickets for our quilt raffle are on sale at the museum, as well as at A Silver Lining and Shear Artistry in downtown Boothbay Harbor. The winning ticket will be drawn at our Harbor Lights open house on December 6. The winner need not be present. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

To order tickets by mail, please send a check for the correct amount to BRHS, 72 Oak St., Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Be sure to include a contact number or email address. All proceeds go directly toward supporting our mission.

2014 Annual Meeting

The Boothbay Region Historical Society held its 47th annual meeting on May 20, 2014. Elected as returning trustees for three-year terms were **Sarah Giles**, **Susan Lloyd**, **Leigh Reinecke**, and **Barbara Wilson**. Two new trustees, **Lisa Orne Hallinan** and **Jim Botti** were elected for two and three-year terms respectively. **Kay Wilder** was re-elected as president. **Howie Barter** was re-elected as vice-president and re-elected as treasurer and secretary respectively were **Sarah Giles** and **Judy Eastwood**.



Our new trustees: **Lisa Orne Hallinan** was born at St. Andrews Hospital, graduated from Boothbay Region High School, and is married to Richard Hallinan. She has been active in helping out at the Boothbay Region Elementary School and Boothbay Region High School coaching basketball, helping with school suppers, and the Project Graduation program. For more than 18 years Lisa has been working for Dr. Andrews' dental office as well as running her own small catering business for the past five years. **Jim Botti** and his wife Gerry moved to the Boothbay area from Middletown, New York where Jim retired after 29 years working for the "Times Herald Record" newspaper. They owned and operated the Kenniston Hill Inn for several years. Jim is very active in the Rotary Club and is a past president. He has also served as the Soup Bowl president for 14 years.

Following the business meeting **Judy Dunsford**, Exhibit Committee Chairman, introduced the program "Civil War Letters Home." **Wayne Keene**, **Mark Scott**, and **Barbara Wilson** each read excerpts from letters written home by local men serving in the war. It was a poignant reminder of the hardships suffered and how much the men of the Boothbay Region looked out for each other and missed their homes and families. Wayne Keene entertained the gathering during the reception by playing Civil War era music on his fiddle.



Boothbay Region Historical Society

President
Kay Wilder

Vice President
Howard Barter

Secretary
Judy Eastwood

Treasurer
Sarah Giles

Trustees
Jim Botti
Lisa Orne Hallinan
Lorraine Hodgdon
Susan Leach
Susan Lloyd
Wally Reed
Leigh Reinecke
Carolyn Shubert
Ronald Spofford
Ann Sutter
Barbara Wilson

Trustee Emeritus
Bea Walker

Administrator
Marnie Mitchell

Local Historian
Barbara Rumsey

Newsletter Committee
Susan Leach, Editor
Judy Eastwood
Marnie Mitchell
Jan Reit
Barbara Rumsey
Kay Wilder
Barbara Wilson

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boothbay Region Historical Society is to promote interest in the history of the Boothbay region and to preserve the region's history.

BRHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.

Great Works Internet (GWI) offers a subsidized service free of charge to non-profit organizations. Thank you to GWI for generously providing BRHS with an email account.



Message from President Kay Wilder

Dear Friends,

The mission of the Boothbay Region Historical Society is to promote interest in the history of the Boothbay region and to preserve the region's history. This statement seems so simple; however, achieving these goals requires, planning, action, and oversight, as well as financial support. One way we have been able to achieve these goals is through the dedication of our volunteers. Those who work with local historian Barbara Rumsey at the museum on Wednesdays always have a job waiting for them among the 30,000-plus documents, photographs, and artifacts housed at the museum. Just as important are the volunteers who join mailing parties, work on special projects, serve as summer greeters, create exhibits, prepare food, or host special events.

This year, we are especially grateful to Susan Leach and Sally Leach Sewall for hosting an exceptional fundraiser at their historic home in September. We also want to thank the committee members who worked with Sally and Susan for many months to make the evening such a success. Well done!

Clearly, we are grateful to the many volunteers who donate their time and effort to help the society fulfill its mission each year. We also want to thank you, our members. Your financial support, through donations and dues, is essential to the society's ability to maintain and carry out its mission. Your continued interest, membership, and generosity help keep the history of the Boothbay region alive.

On behalf of the board of trustees, we wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Kay Wilder

Volunteer Spotlight—Judy Dunsford

Volunteers come in all varieties. The very best combine a "can-do" willingness, competence, intelligence, and an upbeat buoyance. Judy Dunsford is the whole package. She's been helping out when possible for more than 12 years. Manning tables to sell cheese and baked goods over and over, baking for sales, and producing cards showing old cheese and apple recipes from local 1940s church women's recipes for our cheese sale. She dug in the yard, has written for the newsletter, wrote an architectural profile of our building, chairs the exhibit committee, serves on the buildings and grounds committee, and served on the board—no job is too big or too small for her. She's also done some institutional research for us. She helped with the Scouts, *Balmy Days*, dairy, and Civil War exhibits, and she's worked on the permanent exhibits. She helped with the 2010 Fishermans Island party and the recent 2014 Leach party, putting the artifacts together with labels.

The astounding thing about her energetic versatility is that she's away a lot. She's followed her project director husband to his construction sites all over the world. She trooped around to the developing third-world nations (excluding Canada) as they built their modern selves: Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, Dubai, Canada, Brazil, and China. Somehow when she would get back, she had the wherewithal to volunteer for our little society.

Barbara Rumsey said, "I met Judy on archaeology digs. The leaders figured out pretty quickly how good it was to have her on the job. A sharp eye, good digging skills, and she could draw test pit walls and features like nobody's business. I plotted to get her involved with the historical society as I dug alongside her. Plotting wasn't necessary; she's up for anything!"

Boothbay Region Elementary School Museum Visit

On October 23, 2014 the museum welcomed Deb Jones's and Sue Sceviour's third grade classes as part of their Social Studies unit on "community." The program included a presentation by local historian Barbara Rumsey on the history of schools in the region, a museum tour and a scavenger hunt. Jan Reit and Marnie Mitchell were on hand to assist as well as several parents. When students were asked to choose their favorite artifact - their overwhelming choice was the swords in Room 2, followed closely by the dolls in Room 7.





Transcription Grant and New Exhibit

by Barbara Rumsey

When I became involved with the society in 1986, founding trustee Cecil Pierce asked me to help him record the memories of many townspeople. Cecil had the camcorder but found using it difficult. I'd joined to help out in any way, so I taped those Southport people he wished first, then continued on with other region individuals. One group of videos and tapes was transcribed and printed in 2001 with small grants.

In 2014 many more were transcribed and bound, thanks to a grant from the Elizabeth Ann Leach Charitable Trust, for which Margaret Tew did much of the transcribing. The individuals taped and transcribed were: Harold B. Clifford, Virginia and Gleason Gamage, Hazel McCobb Poore, Jim Stevens, John Moses and Carol Joy, the trio of Ruth Gardner, Ruth Potter, and Nora Brewer talking about Doc Rockwell, and East Boothbay Methodist Church members speaking at their 125th anniversary. They included Frank Dodge, Jim Stevens, Edith Dodge, Ginny Stapleford, and Mary Alice Fairley. Chip Griffin also taped Virginia Gamage and allowed us to include his transcription.

We have at the museum a small exhibit of photos of and information on those above, two bound copies of the transcriptions on display, and a small DVD player at the ready for listeners.

Membership Matters

We wish to thank all our members for their continued support, vital to the society's day-to-day operation. We are grateful for your support. Membership benefits include two newsletters, e-updates and a 10% discount in the gift shop.

We are always curious to know why you have joined, whether it be an interest in a property you own, a family connection to the area, or perhaps you are a descendant of a region family. Please, let us know!

New Members

Mary Barrett	Atlanta, Ga.
Carolyn Crewell	Boothbay Harbor
Bonnie & Ray Eberling	Boothbay and Mahwah, N.J.
Kenneth Franz	Boylston, Mass.
Marnie & Cameron Mitchell	Boothbay Harbor
Henry O'Neill	Columbus, Oh. and Boothbay Harbor
Tracy Robinson & George Ross	Southport
Patricia Seybold	Boothbay
Lynne Stoye	Santa Rosa, Ca.
Kathy Tibbetts	Southport
Barbara and Ralph Thompson	Ossipee, N.H.
Frank & Tammy Thorp	Annapolis, Md.

2014 Fundraising Events

In addition to our special fundraising event at the Leach house (see page 4) nearly \$2000 was raised through bake sales, a yard sale, and our annual cheese sale. None of these events would have been possible without our dedicated volunteer bakers and event workers. Thank you to all who helped make this another successful year, including event coordinators Ann Sutter, Sarah Giles, Susan Leach, Sally Leach Sewall, Giselle Armstrong, Kay Wilder, and Lisa Hallinan. You are the best!

Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for the perfect gift with a local connection? Our gift shop offers popular books including region histories by Greene (1906) and Clifford (1960), *Sketches II* and *III* by Barbara Rumsey, a number of other books and monographs by local authors, and a selection of antique editions. Stocking stuffers include our exclusive photo magnet depicting Boothbay Harbor in the 1910s, commemorative coins, note cards, and more. Selected items will be on sale Nov. 22 through Dec. 20.

This year, we are pleased to offer a special assortment of framed antique photos and postcards generously created and donated by Pam Tupper Murray. These special items, available now at the museum, will make a wonderful gift.





Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Back in the reference room, I've had the warm weather help of Robert Rice, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Ken Hanson, Kay Wilder, Judy and Chuck Davidson, Margaret Tew, and Barbara Wilson. Many thanks to all for their cataloging and organizational skills!

Acquisitions

Artifacts

John Chesebro: Chesebro's Dairy sign

Judy Marshall: 1977 Anderson & Gaw mirror

Julie Brown: tablet of paper stamped with "Boothbay Harbor, Maine" from C. F. Kenniston stationery store

Sharyn Dahn: Ethel Fowler seagull framed print

David Younts: ice pick pole

Jane Eames: Masonic and Eastern Star items of Fred and Laura Greenleaf

Manuscripts

Jane Eames: Billy Sawyer ice account books, 1906-1914

Dana Davis: Hodgdon Yachts material

Jolly Arsenaull: 1967 Couples Club material

Paul Feyling: DVDs of summer talks on

Tilton Dairy stories by Ronnie Richardson and Barter's Island stories by Ronnie Spofford

Images

Mary Coventry: Duffy Dodge photos

John McKown: Rice Brothers shipyard and other 1910s local photos

Susan Miller: the 1978 freezer fire on the east side

Bought: From the British Library with Bill Messmer facilitating: a color copy of the 1772 Sproule map showing the mid-coast

Published Material

Mary Ellen Barnes: Cora Tarbox's *Westport Island, Maine, 1605-1972*; Tarbox family history

Margaret Orne Kelly: *Aqua Lapis* by Nancy Hemenway, 1983

Marc Brewer: *Drogeoland* by George Lowden, 1948

Judy Dunsford: Chart of Civil War battles and events

Judy Marshall: *The Old Brick House* by Charlotte Beath Brown, 1936; *Our Growing Years* by Alice Larkin, 1975; *The Boothbay Harbor Region, 1906-1960* by Harold Clifford, 1961

Wayne Keene: 1960s and 1970s high school yearbooks

Bought: *Old Man Greenlaw* by Kenneth Kempton, 1936

Articles

Below are articles that have appeared in the *Boothbay Register* column, *Out of Our Past*, since the last newsletter. Thirteen were composed by Barbara Rumsey with one by Susan Leach and Sally Leach Sewall.

- Memories of Residents Through Videos
- Do-It-Yourself Spirits in a Dry State
- Family Memories of the Gray House by Susan Leach and Sally Leach Sewall
- Boothbay's 250th Anniversary, Parts I & II
- A Boothbay Tavern 250 Years Ago
- Kelley Brook
- Moving Little Bear's Pilothouse
- Minesweeper Day in East Boothbay, Parts I through IV
- North Boothbay Adams Mills and Shipyards
- East Boothbay Adams Shipyard



On September 13, the society was pleased to welcome fifty supporters for an evening at the historic Leach home on Sawyers Island. Hosts Susan Leach and Sally Leach Sewall went above and beyond to create an atmosphere harkening back three centuries to when a tavern stood on the property. Working with cultural historian Nate Randall, Sally and Susan created a menu of period foods and beverages. Sally prepared appetizers and desserts including slow-cooked pot roast seasoned with mace, potted cheese spread, gingerbread bites with whipped cream, and more. Nate prepared syllabub, a frothy period beverage.

An array of exhibits and presentations enhanced the evening at The Gray House. Judy Dunsford, chair of the society's exhibit committee, helped identify and display a number of artifacts found on the property or provided for the evening. Trustee Barbara Wilson and Jan Reit prepared displays of period clothing made available by Mike Dekker. Archaeologist Tim Dinsmore shared artifacts from the Bryant-Barker Tavern excavation in Newcastle. Local historian Barbara Rumsey related how a tavern would have fit into life on Sawyers Island.

We thank our guests for making the evening a sellout, raising \$2700 in support of society activities. In addition to the Leach sisters and speakers, we also thank planning committee and event volunteers: Larry Dibble, Judy Dunsford, Barbara Wilson, Carolyn Shubert, Jan Reit, Kay Wilder, Judy Eastwood, Susan Lloyd and Tom Frields, Holly and Jack Fulmer, and Don Soler.

Historic Home Tour



Tom Frields

Jack Fulmer

Don Soler



Bill Wilde - A Remembrance by Barbara Rumsey



Bill Wilde's death has been a personal loss for me and for the society. I'd been affiliated with the historical society for a little more than 10 years when I met Bill and Joanne Wilde in 1998. They came in to inquire about my writing up their property at Linekin, part of which was family land since 1883. Bill had been president of the Connecticut Historical Society, and his bent was history around him; for instance, he saw that a history was written about the company he headed, Hartford Steam Boiler. I spent about a year on the Linekin project, and got to know them pretty well—a wonderful couple I grew very fond of.

During a 1999 visit, Bill said that I and the society were underappreciated and that more people should know about and support us. To that end, he and Joanne suggested a party at their place and we constructed a guest list of about 100. Since back rooms and old books were more my comfort zone, I felt a little daunted at the prospect. But I knew they were right; long term survival depended on more committed members.

They also encouraged our new idea, sparked by a bequest, of starting an endowment fund to assure our future no matter what problems might arise over the long haul. After the party Bill said, "Now you should institute a fundraising letter for those who were invited, suggesting the endowment, and then continue it with the membership." This was a new idea for us since we'd only asked for annual dues during the preceding 30 years. But the board went for it, so we've sent an annual letter ever since. It's been a great help for us, allowing us to keep the museum open more and to do more activities.

Bill prodded me again in 2002 to have another party to get the word out. Cathy Sherrill, a trustee for many years, helped me make arrangements for one at Hodgdon Yachts, and that again was very successful, thanks to her able planning. Bill's hopes for us to become self-propelled in promoting our local history role seemed to be coming to life! Since then we've had six house parties thanks to Bill's impetus and countless volunteers. Bill and Joanne's constant encouragement, advice, and behind-the-scenes support has brought us along to recognize our responsibility to think further out than our immediate bills and the next year.

2014 Summer Speaker Series

A Resounding Success

Bet Finocchiaro, owner of Bet's Famous Fish Fry and a member of the McLellan family that has fished for five generations, began the speaker series in May. Bet was formerly co-owner of the F/V *Elizabeth*, a 70-foot offshore fishing boat, with her brother Shawn McLellan. Bet opened her fish and chip stand at Boothbay Center nearly 20 years ago, thereby expanding her fish business. A familiar figure, she also had an interview program on Channel 7. Her talks at the historical society are always memorable with lots of laughs.

Pat Slattery and Sally Bullard showed and described some of their whaling artifacts at the museum in June. Slattery, a part-time Boothbay Harbor resident, is an architect who also performs museum assessments. For many decades, he has collected whaling memorabilia for museums and for his personal collection. Bullard, a wedding planner and past historical society president, has many Nantucket and New Bedford forebears who were whaling captains and merchants. Slattery's and Bullard's knowledge of and passion for the history of whaling were clear to all in attendance.

A bit of the history of the local milk delivery business, coupled with lots of laughs, and examples of family life in the Harbor 60 years ago were among Ronnie Richardson's recollections at the museum in July. Richardson grew up in Boothbay Harbor and graduated in 1955 in the last class at the old high school building on School Street. Photos, artifacts, and Richardson's own enthusiasm in telling stories brought life to the history of Tilton's Dairy during his tenure there.



Ron Richardson

The first road on the right after crossing the bridge onto Barters Island is Spofford Lane, home to Ronnie Spofford, one of the island's best-known natives. In August, Spofford shared memories of his life on the island. Spofford grew up on Barters Island, attending the island school and the church on the hill. Though various pursuits took Spofford out of the region for periods of time, he always came back to Barters Island. Spofford's wonderful stories, told with humor and wit, delighted his appreciative audience.

Bringing a close to the speaker series in September was Mike Dekker, an avid student of 18th century American history and culture. He is an interpretive historian and re-enactor of soldiers of the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Dekker discussed Ichabod Tibbetts, whose wartime service epitomized the military experience of many peninsula residents, The Reverend John Murray, whose leadership and diplomatic skills saved the community from potential destruction, and Clark Linnekin who was jailed on suspicion of loyalty to the Crown for conducting trade with the enemy.

Mark Your Calendar



**Holiday Open
House
Dec. 6, 2014
10 am—2 pm**

Open Year Round Hours of Operation:

Thursday through Saturday
10 am – 2 pm

**Local historian Barbara Rumsey
is available for research ques-
tions on Saturdays from 10–2 or
by appointment**

Phone: 207-633-0820

Email: brhs@gwi.net

Web: boothbayhistorical.org



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VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Volunteers play a vital part at the historical society. We are grateful to our dedicated team of helpers and we are always ready to welcome new people to join the fun. Volunteer opportunities include collection work, greeting the public, general maintenance, filing, fundraising events, and more!

We have a particular need for volunteers to help with various projects as well as exhibits and displays. If you're interested, please contact Marnie at brhs@gwi.net or 633-0820.

Give the Gift of Membership.

A gift membership may lead someone to discover his/her family history, learn about their house or street they live on, or gain insight into times past. Your support helps us preserve local history for generations to come.

Membership Form

Members receive newsletters twice a year and a 10% discount on gift shop items.
Memberships run May 1-April 30.

Name _____

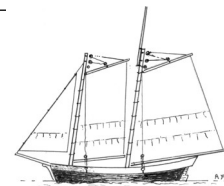
Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Choose Your Membership Level

- Individual \$ 15.00
 Family \$ 25.00
 Contributing \$ 50.00
 Supporting \$ 150.00
 Leadership (over \$150) \$ _____



Please send checks payable to:

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P.O. Box 272, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0272

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*Please let us know if you would prefer to
receive the color newsletter via email.*