

## Annual Meeting includes *Dairy Days* Slideshow Program

**May 21, 2013 at 4 p.m.**

The annual meeting, which will be held Tuesday, May 21, at 4 p.m. at the museum located at 72 Oak Street in Boothbay Harbor, is open to the society's members and friends and to the general public. Light refreshments will follow the presentation.

The brief business meeting will include a summary of BRHS activities over the past year and the election of trustees and officers. Accepting an invitation to serve an additional term on the board of trustees are Howie Barter, Bill Messmer, and Ann Sutter. Stepping down from the board are Sally Bullard, Doreen Dun and Mary Kaler. There are two additional vacancies. Nominated to fill one-year terms are Susan Lloyd and Susan Brackett; nominated to fill a two-year term is Lorraine Hodgdon; and



Image left: Claude Miller and his Model T Ford delivery truck  
Image right: "Ma, Paw, and Jumping Joan," image from the Chesebro family



nominated to fill three-year terms are Susan Leach and Wally Reed. Sarah Giles, Judy Eastwood, and Howie Barter have been nominated for re-election as treasurer, secretary, and vice president respectively. Kay Wilder has been nominated as president.

Following the business meeting, a slideshow of images related to our *Dairy Days* exhibit will be presented along with recited remembrances from people involved with dairy farming and milk delivery including Hazel McCobb Poore, Lester Barter, and Chesebro family memories. Come to hear these stories or to share your own!

## Barbara S. Rumsey Reference Room

On April 25, a small group of volunteers and trustees (including past, current, and future board members) joined director Betsy Spekke with the unveiling of the newly-named Barbara S. Rumsey reference room. Underneath a handsome sign, crafted anonymously by a long-time member, Barbara Rumsey was recognized for her tireless devotion to the museum and specifically to its historical archives housed in the back room.



Barbara Rumsey

## Spring is Membership Renewal Time!

As with any small non-profit organization, BRHS relies on its members to keep the museum going. While bake sales, raffles and special events allow us to purchase a few extras, membership dues are used for standard operating expenses such as utilities, building and collections maintenance, salaries, supplies, etc. Each fall, members receive an invitation to also contribute to the annual fund campaign and, as with dues, annual fund donations directly support basic operations, unless otherwise specified.

Recently, a number of members have generously included an additional amount along with their membership dues. To prevent any confusion, if you choose to add additional funds to your membership payment, please clearly note how these funds should be recorded: general donation or annual fund donation. We want to be sure to thank you properly. If annual funds are

included, we will update our fall mailing list accordingly.

Understanding that these are two *separate* mailings, along with clearly noting how any additional donations should be applied, will avoid accidental membership lapses. For more information on the difference between dues and annual funds, please contact Betsy Spekke, at the museum. As always, thank you for your continued support!

### New benefit for our members

As a new benefit this year, we will offer guided tours of the museum and its collections on specific days in June and September. Space is limited. Please refer to page six (back cover) for dates and time. Call or email to reserve your space on these special tours. Our phone number is 207-633-0820 and our email address is [brhs@gwi.net](mailto:brhs@gwi.net). See you at the museum!

For over 25 years, Barbara has collected, catalogued, and cared for the artifacts, ledgers, diaries, books, photographs, maps, genealogical records, and oral histories of the Boothbay region. What better way to acknowledge her selfless dedication than by naming the reference room after her. Congratulations and thank you, Barbara. Here's to 25 more!

## Boothbay Region Historical Society

### President

Sally Bullard

### Vice President

Howard Barter

### Secretary

Judy Eastwood

### Treasurer

Sarah Giles

### Trustees

Doreen Dun

Mary Kaler

Bill Messmer

Leigh Reinecke

Carolyn Shubert

Don Soler

Ronald Spofford

Ann Sutter

Kay Wilder

### Trustees Emeritus

Bea Walker

### Director

Betsy Spekke

### Local Historian/ Curator

Barbara Rumsey

### Newsletter Committee

Betsy Spekke, Editor

Judy Eastwood

Jan Reit

Kay Wilder

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

## Wish List

5x7 rug

Volunteer  
tech aide

New office  
computer



Dear friends,

Several important changes have taken place at the museum over the last few months. Betsy Spekke has stepped into the role of director, enabling Barbara Rumsey to concentrate more on the collections in the reference room, where she is very happy. Her new title is "local historian/curator."

A charitable grant from the Mildred McEvoy Foundation enabled us to purchase a much-needed scanner/printer/copier *and* to fund a temporary office position. Because of her expertise with our GiftWorks database, Carolyn Shubert was chosen to fill the McEvoy-funded grant position. Carolyn did a great job spearheading April's big volunteer drive, just one of our efforts to increase our volunteer base. Another volunteer orientation will be held on June 28 at 11 a.m..

A significant part of the funding for our new website—due to launch this summer—came from the generosity of Prof. Brenda Bettinson and Cordula Mathias. The new design and layout will increase accessibility.

I am excited by the vitality of our trustees. One can feel the energy when entering the museum. It's gratifying to have so many employees, volunteers, and trustees who have new ideas to make the museum a stimulating place to visit or do research. With all of these changes, we would love to have **YOU** get involved! There is always a need for more volunteers, so if you have an extra hour or more, please come join in the fun!

Sincere thanks to our departing trustees: Doreen Dun, Mary Kaler, John McKown and Courtney Nickerson. I will be stepping down as President at the annual meeting in May, but I am very excited to have Kay Wilder take the reins. Her dedication as trustee and volunteer will help make her time as president successful. With her at the helm, the society will be in very good hands as we move into the future. It has been an honor for me to be a part of such a valuable asset to the region.

*Sally Bullard*

## Dairy Display & Other News from the Exhibit Committee by Judy Dunsford, Chair

The current exhibit, *Dairy Days*—up through July 27—features remembrances and memorabilia from local residents involved in dairy farming and delivery through the years. Historically, the dairy industry provided important products and employment in the region.

From the small, one or two cows in the yard, to larger milk operations, suppliers employed horse carts to dories to provide milk to all, mainland or island. Stop by to see the photos, dairy artifacts, and farm implements or to leave your own dairy remembrance in our memory book.



**Jim Chesebro and Jerry Hyson pose  
next to Chesebro Dairy delivery truck**

### Upcoming Civil War Exhibit

Coming in August, an exhibit of the local involvement in the Civil War. Subscribe to the historical society's e-update for forthcoming details. Please let us know if you'd like to join the exhibit committee and help with the Civil War display or future exhibits!

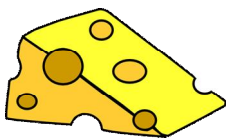
## Buildings & Grounds Report by Don Soler, Chair

Out of the incoming new trustees, we are fortunate to have Wally Reed volunteer to serve on the building and grounds committee. Wally is currently employed as maintenance supervisor at Signal Point Condos. He also serves on the Boothbay Water District's board. With local builder Leigh Reinecke; realtor Howie Barter; and Barbara Rumsey, local historian, we may very well have one of the largest and best-suited standing committees in the years that I have served on this board.

After the first snowfall this past winter, it became apparent that the overhang gutter on the front door

was not catching melt water, and we were getting ice build-up on the front steps. I was able to remedy the situation by moving the gutter rearward to the fascia board and sealing the seam with silicone compound. Bingo, no more ice build-up!

At this time, I would like to recognize and thank Robert Rice and Philip Haselton for volunteering their expertise and generosity. Thank you, Robert, for fixing the first floor toilet and for repairing and painting several wobbly chairs in the reference room. Thank you, Philip, for sending your snow removal man to clear our walkway and steps. The Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the things that both of you do for the museum.



**Pre-order  
your cheese!**

**YUM!**

**Details on  
page 5.**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Anne Butler enjoying a task

A member for more than a dozen years, Anne Butler has volunteered at the historical society in a variety of ways. Always at the ready for last minute greeting or a mailing, Anne brings her smile and sharp wit to her time at the museum. This past spring, she logged over 45 hours updating binders that house the society's newsletters and publicity clippings. Although very active in other non-profits, including the YMCA and St. Andrew's Thrift Shop, Anne never says "no" when asked to help at the museum, unless, of course, it's her day to play bridge. Thank you for your outstanding dedication, Anne!

## Wrap-Up on Lunchtime Speakers Program

Under command of trustee Bill Messmer, the Friday noontime speakers program will finish its season on Friday, May 17. Joining Bill for an informal conversation on writing and presenting local history will be Donald Duncan and Ron Orchard of the Southport Historical Society.

Ingrid Grenon, Barbara Rumsey, and Robert Mitchell were other guests sharing their insights at the museum in recent months. Many thanks to these participants for their time and talents.

Filmed by volunteer and member Tam Green, BRCTV kindly aired these programs on local channel 7. Please contact BRCTV.org if you'd like to view one. Thank you to all who contributed to another successful season of this program.

As Tam Green will be leaving the area, we are seeking another willing videographer to tape our future events.

## EXCITING GRANT NEWS

The board of trustees, Barbara, and Betsy are very pleased to share news of grants that the society was recently awarded. We are grateful for the generosity of these donors, since their support helps us to continue our mission of promoting and preserving the region's history.

On November 27, 2012, we received \$2,200 from the **Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation** to support the purchase of a 3-in-1 photocopier and to fund a part-time temporary office worker. The temporary office assistant focused specifically on updating our GiftWorks database as well as increasing our volunteer base.

On May 2, 2013, the **Maine Historical Society** awarded us a Community Mobilization grant in the amount of \$1,000 to digitize photographs and glass plate negatives in the society's collection and put them on Maine Memory Network. If you're not already familiar with this terrific online repository, please check it out at [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net).



Joel Russ, holding original pamphlet for his 1956 boat, a wooden downeast cruiser.

## One Researcher's Success

One of the frequent joys of working at our historical society is being able to help researchers. Every week someone comes into the museum or sends an email, seeking information on topics such as family history, house research, vessel photographs.

Recently, Joel Russ sought information on his beloved wooden boat. A note from him says it all: "I want to thank you, Barbara Rumsey and Robert Rice, for your exceptional service....I couldn't have been happier with the results. Thank you all so much!...I look forward to future visits. You're a great team!"

## Membership Matters

Presently, we have 698 individual members. Membership dues are vital for the society's day-to-day operation. Benefits include two newsletters, e-updates, a special tour of the museum (see back cover), and a 10% discount on gift shop items. Thank you for your continued support of our historical society!

### New Members

Frank Bellizia, Boothbay Harbor  
Susan Brackett, Boothbay Harbor  
Julie Chard, Brunswick  
Laurel Hodgdon DeRitter, Wiscasset  
Susan Lloyd & Tom Fields, Washington, DC and Boothbay  
Brian & Carol McKenna, Boothbay Harbor  
Walter & Elizabeth Reed, Boothbay Harbor  
Joel & Carolyn Russ, Walpole  
Scott & Mylese See, Boothbay Harbor  
Jen Smith & Family, Boothbay  
Andy & Betsy Spekke, Waldoboro  
Kara McGuirk Woods, Melbourne, Florida

### WITH GRATITUDE TO:

**Brenda Bettinson & Cordula Mathias** for a significant contribution to our new website  
**Sally Bullard** for computer monitor & cable  
**Tom Cornell (Seaside Perennial Gardens)** for thinking of both the grounds and our archives in the off season  
**Judy Dunsford** for photo display at the **Red Cup Coffee Shop** in Boothbay Harbor  
**Holly Fulmer** for handwritten notes  
**Tam Green & BRCTV.org** for videotaping and airing our speaker programs  
**Ken Hanson** for recycling runs  
**Susan Leach** for handwritten "thank you" notes and researching grant opportunities  
**Robert Rice** for always being willing to help researchers and going the extra mile  
**Don Soler** for big snow shovel-out  
**Kay Wilder** for audio recorder  
**Bruce Wood** for website updates

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DAIRY DAYS EXHIBIT CONTRIBUTORS:

Sherry Balderson  
Janet Chesebro  
John Chesebro  
Robert Chesebro  
Norman Rau  
Becky Chesebro Rice  
Robert Rice  
Ron Richardson  
Joan Rittall  
Barbara Rumsey  
Evelyn Snowman  
Margaret Tew  
Ann Sutter Tilton



Norris Dodge at Chesebro Dairy

## Collections by Barbara Rumsey

In the reference room, I've had the cold weather help of Robert Rice, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Ken Hanson, Kay Wilder, and Margaret Tew. It's slow, painstaking work to file even a postcard or letter appropriately. Usually it takes at least 20 minutes or half an hour for each item. Many thanks to those who help with the process!

### Acquisitions

We were given a handmade gameboard that had been in the Chesebro family. Those who know members of the family may be interested to see a little background on their moving to town and how the gameboard was involved. Robert H. Chesebro came to East Boothbay in 1916, but the reason



gameboard detail

dates to about 1900. His younger brother James had tuberculosis, which prompted a prescription of spending time in salt air. Consequently, the brothers and parents Francis and Clara cruised the coast from Maine to Florida in the first decade of the 1900s. The gameboard was made by or for James, perhaps by brother Robert, who was skilled at drawing, and no doubt it was on board their boat for family games. The family sometimes sailed their 36-

foot yawl into East Boothbay, where they often went to Rice Brothers shipyard for work and even stored their boat there. While in the village, Robert met Bernice Race, who lived in the present Savastano house, and they married in 1906, the same year James died at age 17. Robert initially worked in New England hotels with Race relatives and crewed on coastal vessels until he moved here in 1916.

### Artifacts

**Charles Burden:** handmade and hand painted gameboard, "Newport Yacht Race," owned by James Augustus Chesebro, circa 1900

**Jane Cowley estate:** wooden chest with rope handles

**Tam Green:** Leavitt's Garage (Boothbay Center) yardstick section

### Manuscripts

**Town of Boothbay Harbor:** manager Tom Woodin presented us with a couple of armloads of tax maps. The 22 rolls range in date from 1968 to 1997.

**Classmates of 1962 high school class:** "Centerlights," mimeographed 1958 Boothbay 8th grade yearbook

### Images

**Jean Chenoweth:** 1949 photos of the Ocean Point Inn kitchen

**Jolly Arsenault:** 1922 basketball team photo

**Nat Wilson:** East Boothbay postcards

**Pam Reed:** mid-1900s minstrel show photos with almost all performers identified

**Susan Landemare:** local postcards

**Irma Wilhelm:** local postcards

**Bob and Eleanor Bowden:** collection of circa 1890s-1920s glass plate negatives

### Published Material

**Ellen Williams:** Membership Manual of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1914, owned by Sarah Lewis

**Tom Cornell:** 2013 calendar by Kate Libby, "Art for Everyone"

**Sue Hallett Witt:** 1944 book by her grandfather Richard Hallett, *Foothold of Earth*

**Sally Bullard:** 1993 book, *King Shag's Wicked-Traditional Downhummmah Recipe Book* by Alan Campbell and Bill Harris

**Sarah Doupe:** a collection of nautical and historical books

### Articles

Articles by Barbara Rumsey that appeared in *Out of Our Past* column in the *Boothbay Register* since the last newsletter:

**David McKown**

**Boxer and Enterprise Sea Fight, Part III**

**Boothbay's Post-War Modernization**

**The Old Town Office and Garage**

**The House That Got Away (Machon)**

**Timber for Hodgdon Tidemill, Parts I, II**

**Hope Updegraff and the 1950s**

**East Boothbay School, Parts IV, V, VI**

**Bill Farmer, Storyteller**

## Founding Member and Trustee Emeritus, Alden Stickney

I first came in the museum on Oak Street with my older son, Keith Hartford, who was assigned his 8th-grade Boothbay Project in 1985. He chose to write about the pogie factory that had been on our Linekin Neck property 100 years earlier. Back in 1985 Alden Stickney, a retired D.M.R. marine biologist, often manned the museum on its only year-round open day, Saturday. The day we came in, we met Alden and told him what we wanted.

Alden said they had nothing on that pogie factory and urged us to find what we could and give the society a copy of the paper. He then said they always needed volunteers. Though I hadn't gone in with any such thought, he must have seen something in me; he wasn't a forward guy. Perhaps he sensed I was bookish and might want to help build up the files, since I was obviously taken aback that there was so little there. It didn't conform with my rosy assumption of what was inside those walls.

I've been volunteering and/or working there ever since, with Alden as my initial mentor and guide. I've also been telling people ever since to give us copies of their work on the region and its people. The rows of file cabinets and document boxes are testament to Alden's request to us spinning out into the future.



Alden Stickney next to his steamer *Virginia* painting, which he donated to the society as a raffle item in 2001. Holding the ticket bucket is president Faith Meyer; drawing the winning ticket are Sari and Max Weiss.

Alden brought the first Commodore computer into the building and introduced digital order to the artifacts and photo collection. He did many well-done carpentry projects around the building. For decades relying on his trusty old World War II airplane camera, he spent countless hours making negatives of our images or ones we borrowed. Then he generated all the photographs that people wanted in his darkroom. Despite his love of old-time photography, he moved smoothly into the digital camera and scanning age.

He helped me immeasurably with the books I wrote for the society, creating photos to exact measurements for my camera-ready text and pen and ink drawings to illustrate that text. Once retired, he took up oil painting, specializing in vessels—many of his 140 fine

paintings are in region homes, and we sell his book, which includes 28 of them. We made more money raffling the accompanying painting than from anything else we ever raffled. He was always willing to draw any image that we needed, for a house party program, the newsletter, or the website.

He never insisted on his way—he was the most egoless person I knew. Everything he did was well-thought-out and well-executed with no personal agenda, even at meetings. Ever the scientist, he always laid out the cons, then the pros, and then the middle ground and his neutrality on the topic—always in that order. I sometimes wished he'd reverse the order to pro and con, for I'd see new people stiffen at his initial contra statement and perhaps not listen to the whole array of astute points. But I trust they got it eventually and valued his sharp, fair mind as I did.

Alden never lost his fine mental edge. Even in his last months, when I'd call to check in, we'd cover museum matters and he'd give me excellent advice on aspects of digital images or any other subject, for that matter. He lived to 90 despite various attempts by illnesses to flatten him. He excelled at staying alive and his mind always outpaced time—old as he was when he died, he was still wise beyond his years. —Barbara Rumsey



# 2013 Calendar of Events

## MAY

**Annual Meeting, May 21, 4 p.m.** Business meeting followed by "Dairy Days" slideshow. See page one.

## JUNE

**Guest speaker: JAMES HANNA, June 19, 4 p.m.** Join us for a memory-filled conversation with local resident, James Hanna. James will share recollections of the Boothbay Freezer as well as stories from his days at the old burning dump through its transformation into today's transfer station. Come ask questions or add your own musings of times gone by.

**Windjammer Days speaker event: BARBARA RUMSEY, June 25, 4 p.m.** Barbara Rumsey will speak on the history of the footbridge.

**Volunteer Orientation, June 28, 11 a.m.** This orientation is for people curious about the museum's volunteer opportunities as well as existing volunteers who want to learn more. Our 'refer-a-friend' program gives a gift to you, if you refer a friend who joins our volunteer team!



## JULY

**Holiday Bake Sale, July 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** Goodies for the holiday. Pies, cupcakes, muffins, breads. Yum! New this year: event-day raffles for items donated by local businesses and friends of BRHS.

**Guest speaker: BARBARA RUMSEY, July 11, 4 p.m.** Barbara Rumsey, curator and local historian of the Boothbay Region Historical Society, will speak on "Pursuing Local History And Writing About It." Barbara gave a shorter version of this program at a brown bag luncheon this past spring. It was so popular that we decided to have her expand it and present it during the summer, when our seasonal members may also be able to attend.



## AUGUST

**Bake and Yard Sale, August 10, 8a.m.-3p.m.** More yummy treats with added treasures. Doing some spring/summer cleaning? Why not donate unwanted housewares, jewelry, quilts, small furniture, knick-knacks, toys, etc. in good condition. Items may be dropped off at the museum during regular hours until August 3. Please no clothing or large furniture.

**Guest speaker: GARY ARNOLD, August 15, 4 p.m.** Gary Arnold, local aquaculturist with a long history of farming marine organisms in Maine, comments on the rapid rise and fall of local salmon farming, threats to raising oysters in the nearby Damariscotta estuary, and the emerging opportunity for local production of marine algae. The talk will include changes to the local marine landscape that he's witnessed over the past twenty years. Questions welcome.



**Cheese Pre-Order begins August 15** This year, to be sure no one walks away empty-handed, we will be taking pre-orders between August 15 and September 15. The minimum order will be 1 lb., with payment due when ordering. Prices will be available on our website in August, or just give us a call. **Pre-order discount:** 5% off retail price for BRHS members.

## SEPTEMBER

**Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Sept. 13, 5 p.m.** Our chance to say thank you to our dedicated volunteers. We can't do it without you!

**Cheese Pre-Order ends, September 15** This will be the last day to pre-order your cheese. **Pre-order discount:** 5% off retail price for BRHS members.

## OCTOBER

**Sweet Treats & Cheese, Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Our annual treats & Grafton Village cheese sale is always popular. Come early! Raffles too!

## DECEMBER

**Open House & Christmas Sale, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.** Take a break from Harbor Lights festivities and join us for refreshments and holiday cheer! This year, we will be selling homemade ornaments, decorations, baked goods and gift baskets. Our gift shop is a great place for holiday shopping! Drawing for the Tony van Hasselt print and framing certificate will happen at the end of this event. Winner does not need to be present.



**Watch our new website—launching early summer—for more details on these events, as well as other special programs.**

### Hours of Operation:

Wed. through Sat.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Local historian, Barbara Rumsey,  
is available for research questions  
on Saturdays from 10–2.

Phone: 207-633-0820

Email: [brhs@zwi.net](mailto:brhs@zwi.net)

Web: [boothbayhistorical.org](http://boothbayhistorical.org)

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

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

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 272, 72 Oak Street  
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0272

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOOTHBAY HBR.,  
ME  
PERMIT NO. 1

## FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



#### “Coastal Maine” by Tony van Hasselt

This giclée print is numbered 12/50 and measures  
25” x 19” including mat. This print was remarked  
by the artist, in the lower right hand corner.

## 2013 RAFFLE TO SUPPORT BRHS

This year's raffle is a colorful  
Maine scene generously do-  
nated by noted local artist  
**Tony van Hasselt**. Included is  
a gift certificate for framing  
donated by **Boothbay Harbor  
Framers**. Tickets will go on  
sale in late June and the win-  
ning ticket will be drawn on  
December 7, 2013. Winner  
need not be present to win.

## Attention BRHS members, You're invited!

New this year, a members-  
only tour of the museum,  
led by Director Betsy  
Spekke. For more informa-  
tion, please contact Betsy at  
the museum. *Scheduled  
dates:* June 6, 13, 20; Sept.  
5, 12, 19, 26. *Time:* 3:00  
p.m. Space is limited and  
reservations required.