



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 27, Issue 1

Spring 2014

Annual Meeting

May 20, 2014 at 4 p.m.

The annual meeting will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the museum, 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor. The meeting is open to society members and to the general public.

The brief business meeting will include a summary of BRHS activities over the past year and the election of trustees and officers. Accepting invitations to serve an additional term on the board of trustees: Sarah Giles, Susan Lloyd, Leigh Reinecke, and Barbara Wilson. Nominated to fill a two-year vacancy is Lisa Orne Hallinan; nominated to fill a three-year vacancy is Jim Botti. Kay Wilder, Howie Barter, Judy Eastwood, and Sarah Giles have been nominated for re-election as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Following the business meeting, members of the Exhibit Committee responsible for the popular and currently running Civil War Exhibit will read soldiers' letters. At the conclusion of the program, there will be an opportunity to enjoy light refreshments and conversation.



Historic Home Tour

September 13, 2014



Please join us for an exclusive party at the historic Leach home on Sawyers Island on the Sheepscot River. It is a home full of history as an inn and a tavern that maintains an 18th-century feel. We will be featuring experts speaking on tavern history along with period food and drink. This is an important fundraiser for the Boothbay Region Historical Society.

Admission is \$50 per person and there are a limited number of tickets available. Reservations may be made and tickets obtained at the museum, 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor, or by calling or emailing us at 633-0820, brhs@gwi.net.

Mark your calendars for the evening of September 13, 2014.

Details will follow in upcoming announcements.

Boothbay: The Post Card View

May 3, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Boothbay Railway Village and the Boothbay Region Historical Society will host guest speaker Kevin Johnson, photo archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum. Kevin will present a slide show and talk, "Boothbay: The Post Card View," featuring local images from the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Co. We encourage our members to attend this interesting presentation located in the old Boothbay Town Hall on the Railway Village grounds. Admission is free.

New Raffle!

For its 2014 raffle, the society is pleased to offer a handmade quilt donated by Betty Wilder of Dayton, Ohio. This charming quilt is perfectly sized, 48 by 60 inches, for use as a cozy sofa/lap quilt, wall hanging, or on a child's bed. Tickets for this year's raffle will be available at the museum beginning at the annual meeting, May 20. The winner will be drawn at our holiday open house December 6, 2014. Entrants need not be present to win. All proceeds from BRHS raffles go directly toward supporting the society's mission.





Boothbay Region Historical Society

President
Kay Wilder

Vice President
Howard Barter

Secretary
Judy Eastwood

Treasurer
Sarah Giles

Trustees
Lorraine Hodgdon
Susan Leach
Susan Lloyd
Wally Reed
Leigh Reinecke
Carolyn Shubert
Ronald Spofford
Ann Sutter
Barbara Wilson

Trustee Emeritus
Bea Walker

Administrator
Kathleen Duffy

Local Historian
Barbara Rumsey

Newsletter Committee
Susan Leach, Editor
Kathleen Duffy
Judy Eastwood
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,

Wherever you live, you were probably happy to say goodbye to this year's long winter. In the region we had snowstorms, ice, subzero temperatures, and gale force winds—often on the same day! While it was tempting to simply burrow in, winter is a busy time at the society. It's our thinking time.

We think about what we did right last year and what needs a tweak. We plan social, educational, and fundraising events for the rest of the year. We think about how to encourage more people to visit, volunteer, and support the museum. We think about our place in the community and whether we are fulfilling our mission. And we think about what you might like to see and do.

This year we're pleased to offer a number of special events and programs. We have new and returning speakers, yummy bake sales, raffles, exhibits, and a special invitation to step back in time with an evening at the Leach home.

As always, we encourage you to send in your comments, visit the museum, bring a friend to a program, or volunteer. At the annual meeting on May 20, members will elect trustees for new or returning terms. We'll also be sharing soldiers' letters from our popular Civil War exhibit and take a moment to personally thank you for your support. On behalf of the board of trustees, we hope to see you there.

Best wishes,

Kay Wilder

Philip Haselton—A Remembrance by Barbara Rumsey

When the little historical society was founded in 1967, Philip Haselton signed up at the first opportunity and remained a committed and constantly generous member ever after. I became involved in the society in 1986 and soon wondered who this mysterious benefactor was; many years would pass before I learned.

Philip had a research bent. His lifelong interest in researching the development of watchclocks resulted in two fine books he wrote on those precision instruments. His natural inclination to look deeply into subjects extended to other areas, such as local history. He knew founding society trustee Chester Swett very well since Chester had been caretaker for the Haselton summer property at West Harbor. And Chester, through his storytelling, had already imbued Philip with a regard for West Harbor history.

In 1999 Philip came in the museum to expand his knowledge of West Harbor, so I then met the mystery man. We soon developed a research bond; I'd obtain document copies to send him in New Jersey which we would analyze jointly in emails. Early deeds, maps, tax records, court cases—they all fell into place in his fine mind.

He came to understand the evolution of land ownership in West Harbor, centering on the stretch between the hospital and Orne's Hill. He wrote up his findings for family and for the society's archives.



After moving here permanently in 2006, Philip took a hands-on interest in the welfare of the society. After all, he lived right next door. Just one example—he arranged for his generator to run our boiler in a power outage. Then he installed a night light in the museum, visible from his window, to monitor our power.

Philip's lifelong non-profit involvement in New Jersey served us in good stead. He willingly provided good judgment and advice when asked, and he served on our board. He did all he could to support our bedrock mission: to increase knowledge of and ready access to the region's history. He, like me, saw the true mission of the society in the written word, the drawn map, and the taken photo. He had an elevated sense of duty, tempered with gentle good humor and a forgiving spirit. His death in February at 88 stole a sharp, clear-sighted man who wished only to do good.



Summer Speaker Series

The Program Committee has arranged a fantastic schedule of speakers who will amuse, entertain, and inform you from late spring to early fall. We highly recommend making reservations by calling the museum at 633-0820.

Thursday, May 1, 4 p.m.—Bet Finocchiaro, well-known for her Famous Fish Fry at the Center, will return to share humorous stories and observations on life in the region.

Thursday, June 12, 4 p.m.—Sally Bullard and Pat Slattery will display and describe unique whaling artifacts from their personal collections, along with stories of life aboard a whaling ship.

Thursday, July 31, 4 p.m.—Ron Richardson will share his recollections of the ups, downs, and laughs at Tilton's Dairy.

Thursday, August 14, 4 p.m.—Ronnie Spofford will reminisce about life on Barter's Island.

Thursday, September 18, 4 p.m.—Mike Dekker, a living history re-enactor, will view the Revolutionary War in the region through the eyes of a local resident.

Light refreshments will be served following each program.



Bet Finocchiaro will share stories and observations, May 1.
Photo courtesy of the *Boothbay Register*

Thank you!

We'd like to extend a special thank you to our members for showing your support through your dues and donations, and by visiting the museum or attending programs and special events.

We couldn't do it without you!

Membership Matters

Presently we have 670 individual members. 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!

We're very sorry to report the death of founding member and invaluable supporter, Philip Haselton. A tribute to Philip can be found on page 2.

We have also lost another pivotal member, Wilson (Bill) Wilde. The fall newsletter will include a summary of the ways Bill and his wife Joan materially and thoughtfully helped the society during the past 15 years.

New Members

Joan Ackerman, Boothbay, Me.

Mary E. Barrett, Atlanta, Ga.

Chamaea C. Edwards, Reno, Nev.

Eliza Jones, Newcastle, Me.

Irene Parks, Port Richey, Fl.

Andrew & Sarah Sinnickson, Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Carey & Ann Swope, Cape Elizabeth, Me.

Dana Twombly, Falmouth, Me. and Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Robert & Kathleen Younger, New York, N.Y. and Boothbay, Me.

What's it?

Hint: This item is related to the history of mackerel fishing.



Answer on page 4.



Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Barbara Wilson, Robert Rice, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Ken Hanson, Kay Wilder, and Margaret Tew have been helping to bring order to the reference room. Many thanks to all! Work continues on cataloging photos and documents all year round, although our group is a little smaller in the fall.

Acquisitions

Artifacts

Diane Randlett: 1980s Nat Wilson canvas bag

Sewall Maddocks: Boothbay Harbor Tuna Tournament T-shirt

Benjamin Beede: three late 1800s Dutch stoneware gin bottles adapted into lamps

Manuscripts

Sewall Maddocks Sr.: John Reed 1790s store account book. 1916 Boothbay Register

Deanne Tibbetts: Harry Bridge handwritten 1940s band music, Harbor Methodist Church commemorative plate and Centennial booklet

Kevin Reilly: 1970s, 1980s Indiantown plans

Anne Butler: The Rise and Fall of St. Andrews Hospital scrapbook

Mark Voight: 2nd Congregational Church treasurer's envelope

Lynda Gans: deeds relating to Le Chalet on Pt. Pisgah

Ed Sprague: circa 1910 Tourists' Handbook of the Boothbay Region

Paula Ragsdale: original watercolor of fish wharf

Images

Cliff Cane: color photos of notable region sites in the late 1980s and 1990s

Chris Sproul: 1950s Knights of Pythias minstrel show photos

Deanne Tibbetts: 1948 Boothbay Harbor High School class photo, 1938 class photo

Sandra Whitehead: Photos of Ethel Fowler watercolors of local scenes

Robert French: early 1900s region images

Steve Teel: Teel family photos

Peter Glueck: 1938 aerial panorama of Boothbay Harbor

Mike Lewis: images of Lawrence E. "Duffy" Dodge and some of his fine woodworking projects for yachts

Published Material

Mark Colby: his 2013 book on region resident *William Johnson Colby*

Pat Slattery: *Whalemen and Whaleships* of Maine by Ken Martin

Gene Colby: *Our Perry Family* by Charles Sinnett, reprint

Sidney Sawyer: 1950s local tourist brochures

Tom Cornell: 2014 Kate Libby calendar

Paul Adams: Dec. 7, 1941 Honolulu newspaper covering Pearl Harbor

Jane Eames: 1920 *Merchant Vessels*, McFarland family Bible, c. 1820

Articles

Below are articles by **Barbara Rumsey** that have appeared in the column *Out of Our Past* in the *Boothbay Register* since the last newsletter.

The 1961 Plan to Fill Boothbay Harbor

The 1961 Boothbay Harbor Town Plan

Charley McCobb—Civil War Soldier, Parts I-III
Winter 1929

The January 1944 Storm

The Mill Cove Ice Company, Parts I and II

The Blizzard of February 1952



Duane Muzzy of Florida recently donated a finely made display case for his 2010 model of *Fame*, a B. B. Crowninshield design built by Rice Brothers in 1910 for the personal use of Crowninshield.

Chris Hoffman, a region baseball researcher and Jack Bauman, local Congregational Church researcher, admire the model and its dedicated case (nearly invisible as it should be.)

What's it?

Answer:

Mackerel plows were used to score mackerel bellies to make them appear fatter and more appealing to a buyer. Fishermen made the handles and fitted the small blade into it. Harold Dodge donated this inventive mackerel plow.

Maine Memory Network Grant Project

BRHS is pleased to announce the completion of the Maine Memory Network project. Having received a \$1,000 Community Mobilization Grant from the Maine Historical Society, we selected nearly 70 images that would be a fair representation of the variety of images contained in our vast collection. Many thanks go to the following: Bruce Wood (scanner of film negatives), Margaret Tew (cataloguer), Robert Rice (glass plate negatives: selector and information), Barbara Rumsey (local historian for accuracy), and Betsy Spekke (image uploader and grant coordinator). The highlight of the project was bringing to light some real "gems" from our holdings, including ten images from glass plate negatives.

Shamrock, seen in this glass plate image, ran aground on the ledges off Spruce Point, Boothbay Harbor in July 1925. She had loaded bait at the cold storage facility in Boothbay Harbor and was on her way to Linekin Bay for ice. *Shamrock* lay on the rocks all day until towed free by the tug *Seguin* at high tide.



The images are now available to view or purchase at www.MaineMemory.net. Check out this terrific visual online resource.



Special Events

In addition to our lineup of speakers, please mark your calendars for these events:

May 3, 1:30-3:30

“Boothbay: The Postcard View”

Slide show and discussion at Boothbay Railway Village (see page 1)

May 20, 4:00

BRHS Annual Meeting

Brief business meeting followed by readings from Civil War letters (see page 1)

July 3, 9:00-until sold out!

Holiday Bake Sale—Come Early!
At the museum, rain or shine.

September 13

Reception and tour at the historic Leach home on Sawyers Island (see page 1)

October 11, 10:00-until sold out!

Annual Cheese & Treats Sale

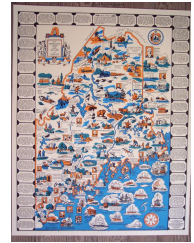
December 6, 10:00-3:00

Harbor Lights Open House

Items for Sale



Sketches Volume III



Maine Map 1938

Books

Explore the region's history and its people through books and monographs written by local authors.

Maps

The museum offers a number of historical maps of the region for sale.

Historical Photographs

The museum holds an extensive collection of historical images of people, vessels, local areas of interest, early views of the harbor, and more. Many of these images are suitable for photographic copies.

Notecards & Postcards * Magnets * BRHS Tote Bags

Please visit our website for full details, or contact the office to request a brief description and price list.

Research is a Joint Undertaking by Barbara Rumsey

People know that I and our volunteers do research, both for articles I write and to help the public with their questions. Inquiries came in person or by letter until we got a telephone in 1996 followed by email in 2001. Suddenly there were four ways to contact us and the volume of inquiries climbed drastically. Email made it almost too easy to fire off a question from Anywhere USA without laying solid groundwork: People are often unsure what they want, unable to provide details to begin a search, and expect a wealth of information with a snap of the fingers. Google has spoiled people who believe everything is digitized and in the ether for grabbing at absolutely no cost—wrong; or they assume if they can't google it, it doesn't exist—wrong again.

Inquiries generally fall into three categories: family history, vessels and shipyards, and house and landmark histories. Inquiries on other subjects pull up the rear. I have to take a moment here to toot our own horn. I've been told repeatedly over the years that our holdings are exponentially beyond most other local historical societies, both in size and ease of retrieval. This is despite my feeling I/we have decades of work in front of me to catalog things really well—in other words, cross-reference wisely.

Inquiries can quickly open-end. A recent request from Lael Montgomery, a descendant of that family extends to the local wives, another eight or ten families. I'll do some footwork, but she's coming this summer from San Diego to do some more. Ideal! Boat designer Bill Peterson of South Bristol wants information on the 13 local shipyards, large and small, and one-man boatshops that his father Murray and he dealt with in their last 90 years of boat design. Another ideal researcher, able to come here and do a lot of the footwork. And all the information they provide benefits our files. Research is a joint undertaking.



1993

BRHS local historian Barbara Rumsey editing a book manuscript for publishing. Such projects require thousands of hours of research, often deep in town, county, and state archives.

MAY EVENTS

Speaker Bet Finocchiaro

May 1, 2014

4 pm at the museum

Boothbay: Postcard View

May 3, 2014

1:30-3:30 at the Railway Village

Annual Meeting

May 20, 2014

4pm at the museum

Open Year Round

Hours of Operation:

Thursday through Saturday

10 am – 2 pm

Local historian Barbara Rumsey is available for research questions on Saturdays from 10–2 or by appt. on Wednesdays.

Phone: 207-633-0820

Email: brhs@gwi.net

Web: boothbayhistorical.org



BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Please advise us of any mailing address, phone number, or email address changes.

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 Kathleen at brhs@gwi.net or 633-0820.

A very special "thank you" to Alice Fossett for her diligent and gracious help as a weekly greeter and her willingness to take on various in-house duties. Thank you Alice!

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

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 _____

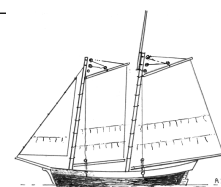
Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Choose Your Membership Level

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 150.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership (over \$150) | \$ _____ |



Please send checks payable to:

Boothbay Region Historical Society

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

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