



# Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 28, Issue II

Fall 2015

## Harbor Lights Open House

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

While out and about for Harbor Lights, please stop by the historical society for refreshments and holiday cheer. The museum will be dressed up with vintage decorations, along with holiday greens generously provided by the Garden Club.

Society trustees will furnish delicious food and beverages, and they and local historian Barbara Rumsey will be on hand to chat about the region's his-

tory. At 2 p.m. the winning ticket for our 2015 raffle will be drawn.

As always, there will be special items for sale to help with your holiday gift giving, along with door prizes and other treats.

The society's Harbor Lights open house is our way of saying thank you to the community for your support and program attendance throughout the year. We hope to see you there.



## 2015 Raffle



"View from the Footbridge" by Earle Barlow and *Sketches II* by Barbara Rumsey

This year we are raffling off a little bit of local history to raise interest in and help support our programs, services, and museum collections. The drawing will be held at the close of our holiday open house during the Harbor Lights Festival on December 5, 2015. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

The winning ticket holder will receive a matted watercolor print by the late Earle Barlow of East Boothbay, and a signed copy of *Boothbay Region Historical Sketches, Vol. II* edited by local historian, Barbara Rumsey. Barlow's print entitled "View from the Footbridge (1910)" is a rendition of the scene that appears on the cover of *Sketches II*. Both images feature a northwest facing view of the mill once owned by H. W. Bishop and later by B. E. Hume. The mill building is now The Chowder House. For a history of the mills, see "Bishop's Grain Mill in the 1910s," by Barbara Rumsey. Copies are available at the museum.

Tickets cost \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for a book of six and can be purchased at the museum, 72 Oak Street Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Go to [brhs@gwi.net](mailto:brhs@gwi.net) or call 633-0820 for more information.

## Officers and Trustees Elected at Annual Meeting

The Boothbay Region Historical Society held its 48th annual meeting on May 19, 2015. Elected as returning trustees for three-year terms were **Judy Eastwood**, **Lorraine Hodgdon**, **Carolyn Shubert**, and **Kay Wilder**. **Kathy Tibbetts** was elected to the board for a one-year term. Board member, **Jan Reit**, was re-elected for an additional one year term.

**Jan Reit** was elected as president. **Barbara Wilson** was elected as vice-president, and re-elected as treasurer and secretary respectively were **Sarah Giles** and **Judy Eastwood**.

Due to unexpected vacancies during the course of the past year the board elected two new trustees at various times. **Jan Reit** returned to the board in January 2015 to fill a vacancy.

Jan previously served on the board from 2009-2012 and has worked as a volunteer in collections at the museum since 2008. In addition to being re-elected to the board at the May 2015 meeting, she was also elected as president. **Duane Dunbar** was elected to the board at the June 2015 board meeting for a three-year term to fill another vacancy.

**Kathy Tibbetts** was born on the east side of Boothbay Harbor. Her family moved to Scarborough where she finished high school. After college, Kathy returned to the region and married her husband Tim. Tracing her family history was the spark that ignited her interest in our local history.

**Duane Dunbar** is originally from Vermont and moved here 20 years ago

where he married his wife Londa. He earned a degree in accounting and spent most of his career in the financial arena. Prior to his retirement, Duane worked for 10 years as a carpenter for the Knickerbocker Group. Duane's interests include reading, antique cars, and being outdoors.

Ken Hanson gave a talk and slide show presentation on the history of Sawyers Island from the mid-1700s through 1996. Ken, with help from his wife Nancy, spent many years researching and compiling the history of the island.

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank **Kay Wilder** for her years as president and to welcome **Jan Reit** as our new president.



## Boothbay Region Historical Society

*President*  
Jan Reit

*Vice President*  
Barbara Wilson

*Secretary*  
Judy Eastwood

*Treasurer*  
Sarah Giles

*Trustees*  
Jim Botti  
Duane Dunbar  
Lorraine Hodgdon  
Susan Leach  
Susan Lloyd  
Leigh Reinecke  
Carolyn Shubert  
Ann Sutter  
Kathy Tibbetts  
Kay Wilder

*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.



When outgoing president, Kay Wilder, passed the gavel to me at our annual meeting in May, I accepted with appreciation for her leadership and a job well done the last two years. I would like to thank Kay again and the board of trustees for all their contributions, including the programs, fundraising events, and projects you will read about in this issue.

I speak for everyone when I say that none of our activities would run as smoothly were it not for the generous spirit of our administrator, Marnie Mitchell, who assists visitors to the museum as well. Lastly, I would like to thank local histo-

## Message from President Jan Reit

rian, Barbara Rumsey, for bringing us all together. Barbara's historical research, writing, and museum curatorship informs and inspires everything we do.

If you have visited the museum recently, you may have noticed fresh paint on the front steps and nicely trimmed shrubs in the yard. The sprucing up is the work of our Buildings and Grounds Committee whose to-do list reaches into next year. The inside of the museum received some attention as well when one of our trustees led a group of volunteers in the first phase of re-vamping a meeting room last spring.

It is important to note that all the volunteers who work in the museum contribute a great deal to the fulfillment of our mission. Whether they help Marnie in the office, assist Barbara in the reference room, or work on special projects with trustees, our volun-

teers help keep the doors open and the museum collections accessible to the public. We can't thank them enough for filling so many behind-the-scenes roles.

We can't thank you enough either. Your membership not only provides ongoing financial support for the museum, it also supports our speaker programs and fundraisers which draw so many people to the museum. Now, with winter edging closer, we turn to planning our annual holiday open house which will take place on December 5, 2015 during the Harbor Lights Festival. We hope you will stop by to say hello and stay to enjoy the food and festivities.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I extend best wishes for a warm and happy holiday season.

*Janet Wilson Reit*

## Joanne Wilde—A Remembrance

by Barbara Rumsey

Nearly two years ago Wilson "Bill" Wilde died. That prompted me to let the membership know all that he and his wife Joanne had done for us over nearly 20 years. I wrote about their longtime support of the society in the fall 2014 newsletter. Their constant encouragement, advice, and behind-the-scenes support helped bring us along to a more secure state. Now Joanne too is gone, taking with her the warmth, plain-spokenness, and generosity that were always parts of her.

We thank the Wilde family for naming the society as a recipient for



memorial gifts, a way to perpetuate her significance for our society. We will miss both her and Bill, and I miss them as personal friends.

## Thank You by Marnie Mitchell

Bill Wilson and Brian McKenna manned the museum on a busy Friday in August so I could spend a long weekend in the Maine mountains with my family.

Joyce Armendaris has been helping with office tasks which has been very welcome at this busy time at the museum. Tom Cornell spent time trimming and pruning to keep the grounds looking beautiful.

Melba Gunnison helped design and transfer information into our new database. She generously comes in whenever we need her expertise despite her busy schedule.

We thank the Garden Club for the lovely window boxes during the summer season and the holiday wreaths during the holiday season.

The core mailing group usually consists of Paul Adams and Lucy Marlowe, Anne Butler, Sue Keene, and Brian McKenna. The mailing parties are always filled with stories and laughter. We'd welcome you to join in the fun!



## 2015 Fundraising Events



Thank you to everyone who attended the society's 2015 fundraising events. We hope you found a special treat. Proceeds from the June yard sale at the Leach cottage, the July 3rd bake sale, and the Cheese

& Treats and Cookbook sale in October totaled over \$2,200.

We also thank our volunteers! Whether you bake, price, or work a shift, these events would not be possible without you. Special thanks to event leaders Susan Leach, Ann Sutter, Sarah Giles, Susan Lloyd, Kay Wilder, volunteer contact Sandy Paxson, and administrator Marnie Mitchell.

## Membership Matters

Presently we have 551 members. We wish to thank all our members for your continued support, vital to the society's day-to-day operation. We are grateful for your loyalty. 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

Alfred Pinkham	Silverdale, Wash.
Duane Dunbar	Boothbay Harbor
Teresa Koster	Boston, Mass.
William Keller &	Wayne, Penn.
Judy Bloomgarden	
Allan & Sarah Strouss	Boothbay

## Books, Maps, Magnets, Note Cards — Great Holiday Gifts!

Members receive a 10% discount.

Visit our website [boothbayhistorical.org](http://boothbayhistorical.org) to view images of additional items for sale, including maps.

### Books

<i>The Boothbay Region, 1906-1960</i> , Harold B. Clifford, 1961 (reprinted 1982)	\$12.95
<i>The Boothbay Playhouse</i> , Jerry Vermilye, 2010, Paper	\$19.00
<i>The Boothbay Playhouse</i> , Jerry Vermilye, 2010, Hardcover	\$28.00
<i>Boothbay Region Historical Sketches, Vol. II</i> , Barbara Rumsey, editor, 1999	\$15.00
<i>Boothbay Region Historical Sketches, Vol. III</i> , Barbara Rumsey, editor, 2006	\$16.00
<i>Boothbay Region Revisited</i> , Boothbay Region Historical Society, 2004	\$20.00
<i>Colonial Boothbay, Mid-1600s to 1775</i> , Barbara Rumsey, 2000	\$16.00
<i>Coming of Age on Damariscove Island</i> , C. Griffin & A. Faulkner, 1981	\$15.00
<i>Family History of the Boothbay Region</i> , Francis B. Greene, 1932	\$25.00
(This 1932 book duplicates genealogies in the last 185 pages of Greene's 1906 book)	
<i>The Hand of the Small Town Builder</i> , Tad Pfeffer, 2014	\$40.00
<i>History of Boothbay, Southport, and Boothbay Harbor, Maine</i> , F. B. Greene	\$60.00
<i>Hodgdon Shipbuilding and Mills, 1816-1916</i> , Barbara Rumsey, 1995	\$15.00
<i>I'm Different, A Biography of Ethelyn P. Giles</i> , Carl R. "Chip" Griffin, 1999	\$14.00
<i>Reminiscences of a Boothbay Shipbuilder</i> , James P. Stevens, 1993	\$10.00
<i>Sawyers Island 1746-1996</i> by Kenneth L. Hanson, 2015	\$25.00
<i>Shipping Days of Old Boothbay</i> , George W. Rice, 1938 (reprinted 1986)	\$45.00
<i>Whalemen and Whaleships of Maine</i> , Kenneth R. Martin, 1975	\$10.00

### Other Items

Historic Canning Labels, frameable wall art, choose lobster, mackerel, or clam	\$10.00
Note Cards, set of six, Alden Stickney's drawing of our building	\$3.50
Boothbay Harbor circa 1910 photo magnet	\$4.50



**Historic Canning Labels**  
three for \$25  
**Lobster, Mackerel, or Clam**

**We are happy to mail your order; just email**  
[brhs@gwi.net](mailto:brhs@gwi.net) or call Marnie  
at 207-633-0820.





## Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Barbara Wilson, Robert Rice, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder, and Margaret Tew have been helping to bring order to the reference room by accessioning and cataloging artifacts, photos, and documents. We missed Judy and Chuck Davidson, summer volunteers for many years. They got to Maine, but for such a short summer visit that they couldn't help out. We did manage to get together for lunch at the museum, and we hope they'll have a traditional summer next year. Many thanks to all!

### Acquisitions

#### Artifacts

Bob Goodspeed: wife Blanche's patch for 1942-1943 Boothbay Center High School girls' basketball team

Wayne Keene: pencils advertising Pierce & Hartung; 1950s models made by Clifton Hartung of clam hod and lobster buoy; tin milk can from Turner Centre Creamery; receipts from Bell's Garage and Pierce & Hartung

Loraine Nickerson: souvenir plate of Boothbay Harbor; key tag for Hotel Fullerton

Grace Calhoun: 1931 checks for the Hayes Amusement Company

Leon Tibbetts family: World War II

ration items: sugar card, tokens

Made here: cassettes of summer talks by John Druce on Spruce Point Inn, Steve Teel and Susan Brackett on the Kenniston Hill Inn, and Bill Peterson on Murray Peterson boat designs

Susan Stewart: scarf for the *Stardust*

#### Manuscripts

Bob Goodspeed: scrapbook of 1950s-1960s Campfire Girls compiled by wife Blanche as troop leader

Ken Hanson: his decades-long research results on "Sawyers Island, 1746-1996"

Chris Hoffman: his master's thesis on baseball and identity in Boothbay Harbor

Chuckie Blaney: binders of postcard views, "Boothbay Harbor by Postcard"

Laura Bennett: clippings on Silverlea, Gilman place at Green Landing

#### Images

Betty Goulette: pre-1913 framed color postcards of Boothbay Harbor

Richard Lippincott: region postcards

Evelyn Snowman: small photo album from McCobb-Larrabee-Marson family

Susan Stewart: region postcards

Laura Bennett: photos of the Gilman place, Silverlea

#### Published Material

Loraine Nickerson: 1920s Boothbay Register, 1891 Industrial Journal

Bob Goodspeed: Boothbay Harbor High School 1944 yearbook

Thelma Kelley: 1920s? Appalachee Camps pamphlet

Wayne Keene: 1975 Appalachee pamphlet

Julie Merrill: 1998 Bayville brochure

Carey Swope: the elegant *Historical Atlas of Maine*, 2015

Evelyn Snowman: penmanship booklet of Clara Larrabee

Susan Stewart: mid-1900s tourist brochures

#### Articles

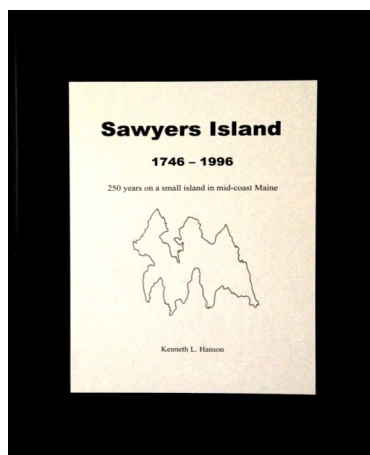
Below are articles by Barbara Rumsey that have appeared in the column *Out of Our Past* in the *Boothbay Register* since the last newsletter.

- William McCobb, Blacksmith, Parts I to IV
- The Coast Patrol, Parts I and II
- Bishop Grain Mill
- Struggling With Change in the 1920s, Parts I to III
- The Upper Pogie Factory at Linekin, Parts I and II

## Sawyers Island History

Long-time historical society volunteer Ken Hanson has been compiling the history of Sawyers Island since 1988. That long project, based on primary and secondary sources, has resulted in a book, and it is available to those interested. It covers the land, people, and houses, with descriptions of how people earned their income, the schools, the community association, and island aspects. The information Ken provides about historic lifestyles applies as well to all of Boothbay.

The book is divided into eight time periods from 1746 to 1996, and also in-



cludes separate sections on particular topics such as the Elton Lewis store, Indians, and the association hall. The 400-page (210+ both sides) hardcover book includes charts, maps, tables, footnotes, an index, and sources. It is available for \$25 plus tax. Shipping is extra. Congratulations to Ken for the wonderful job he did and the years he devoted to it.

Subsidiary material by Ken on the more than 2,000 people who have been associated with Sawyers Island is available at the historical society.



## Ronnie Spofford—An Appreciation by Barbara Rumsey

Ronnie Spofford was on our board for eleven years from 2004 to 2015. It still wasn't long enough when he told me this spring that he wanted to step down. He'd said that before, but I would talk him around. I and we valued him very highly and didn't want to let him go. He could be counted on at meetings to be a grounded, humorous, and kind voice expressing simple common sense, something that can easily be forgotten in meetings.

He was always the head cheese organizer for our Columbus weekend sale and



always present at open houses to welcome visitors. Having worked at more things in Boothbay than any man I know, I counted on his knowledge of conditions in the last 80 years. But most of all, he is thought by me and countless others to be the nicest guy in town. Who wouldn't want that on their board? It's a no-brainer!

However, health problems that he couldn't shake added a new firm tone to his voice this spring when he said again he wanted to step down. So we regretfully let him go.

Ronnie, we wish you were with us!

## 2015 Summer Speaker Series by Judy Eastwood

Full to overflowing audiences reflected the broad appeal of our four programs this summer.

Local hotelier John Druce kicked off the season in June by regaling those in attendance with stories of his and his wife Charlotte's 35 years of ownership of the landmark Spruce Point Inn, a vacation destination in the region since the 1890s. Charlotte's father, Raymond Harold, purchased the inn in 1957 and entrusted its management to Charlotte and John. Druce charmed, captivated, and amused his listeners with his seemingly encyclopedic recollections of staff, crew, and visitors at the inn, all of whom came to life in the funny and touching stories he told.

In July, Bill Peterson, a naval architect and retired naval captain, spoke on marine design, especially as it relates to Maine people and their vessels. He is working on a book on the topic, with a focus on the relationship among vessel

designers, builders, and owners. His talk consisted of details from two future book chapters: one profiling a Boothbay builder and a couple of unique boats done for area clients and another about a Boothbay boat that was restored after a tragic wreck during Hurricane Carol.

The August program was a presentation about the history of Kenniston Hill Inn, which was built by David Kenniston in 1797 and established as an inn by 1798. Steve Teel talked about his grandfather Howard Teel's purchase of the property in 1927 and recalled several generations of the Teel family living in the house. Howard Teel also operated the golf course for many years until the property was sold in 1956.

Susan Brackett, owner of Boothbay Harbor Framers, joined Teel at the podium to discuss the effort that began in 2014 to save the house from demolition. She personally initiated a small grassroots effort which grew into a commu-

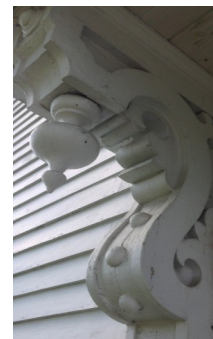
nity-wide effort involving hundreds of people and raised more than \$90,000. In late November 2014, a solution emerged, literally a day or two ahead of the scheduled demolition. The house was moved across the road where it will eventually be modified to serve as a facility for the Elder Care Network.

The final speaker in the summer series, appearing in September, was Jim Hunt, a Southport resident and maritime historian. Hunt, a past president and board member of the historical society, profiled life in Boothbay Harbor during World War II with both his words and his slides. He focused on the building of rescue tugs, minesweepers, coastal transports, and subchasers at the Reed and Sample yards in Boothbay Harbor and the Hodgdon Brothers-Goudy & Stevens and Rice yards in East Boothbay.

## Building and Grounds by Jim Botti

Lots of little jobs have been accomplished recently. Duane Dunbar has been painting the building's shutters. The front steps were primed and painted by yours truly. Also I, Susan Leach, and Larry Dibble leveled some of the growth shading the building and our shed too much. Another work party will be organized before winter to cut the high growth west behind the building, a task that's done every five years. We hope to start with some necessary painting on the building next year.

On a continuing basis, Brian Barter mows the lawn, Matt Eldridge very generously shoveled as a volunteer the last half of last winter, and Tom Cornell's days of volunteer work for us are a godsend. See Marnie's thanks to him. And thanks so much to all who've helped!





**Holiday Open House  
& Raffle Drawing  
Dec. 5, 2015  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Open Year Round  
Hours of Operation:**  
Thursday through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Local historian Barbara Rumsey  
is available for  
research questions on Saturdays  
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
or by appointment**  
Phone: (207) 633-0820  
Email: brhs@gwi.net  
Web: boothbayhistorical.org



BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## YMCA Camp Visit

**By Marnie Mitchell**

In August we welcomed Boothbay Region YMCA Camp Knickerbocker. Several students along with their counselors visited the museum as part of the Y's Adventure Camp entitled "Canoe through History." Campers visit historic forts and sites along the waterways of Maine.

The campers were given our updated "Find the Artifact" guide. The updated guide was designed using the results of BRES students who visited the museum in the past year and voted on their favorite artifacts.

1811 Ram Island Light  
Fresnel Lens  
From the museum's "Find an  
Artifact" Guide.



*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 \_\_\_\_\_

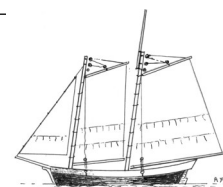
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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               | \$ 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership (over \$ 100) | \$ _____  |



Please send checks payable to:

**Boothbay Region Historical Society**

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

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