

An E-Update from the Boothbay Region Historical Society Winter 2016



2016 CALENDAR

Watch our website and spring newsletter for updates

May 17, 4:00 pm Annual Meeting, speaker to be announced.

May 12, 4:30 pm: Bill Keller will talk about his father who was a local portrait painter and one of the Monument's Men.

June 30, 4:30 pm: Chris Hoffman will speak on the history of baseball in the region.

July 2, 10 am-2 pm: Annual Fourth of July bake sale and mini raffles.



Toys of Long Ago exhibit

We are featuring some of our period toys. Included are puzzles, picture books, dolls, blocks, games and trinkets. Bring the little ones in to have a look!



A circa 1900 3-D fold-out
Valentine card donated by
Jolly Arsenault.
Happy Valentine's Day!

The Roller Coaster

By Barbara Rumsey

About 1910 Freeman Murray of East Boothbay built the roller coaster pictured in the accompanying photo. Freeman, a boatbuilder, had a large boatshop behind or west of his three-chimneyed house, seen here. The staging on the extreme left side of the photo probably marks the corner of the shop. Freeman's house is still located just north of the corner store in East Boothbay, and the west side of the store (and its barn) is also apparent in the photo.



Dot Rice Booth, born in 1905, remembered that parts of Freeman's big shop contained other devices the children played with, such as a cable they could ride the length of the shop (perhaps a

chain hoist?) and a bowl-shaped contraption the kids would climb on and ride like a circular teeter-totter—it sounds like a wobbly but sure avenue to motion sickness! Freeman must have known what delighted children. When Goudy & Stevens was a young shipyard about 1922, it rented Freeman's shop until the Adams yard (now Hodgdon Yachts) became their site in the summer of 1924.

Freeman, born in 1848, built small craft in town; his most famous boat was the 30-foot sloop *Yolande*, built in 1886. I believe David Farnham had her lines and a model of her. Locally, Freeman also worked at the Atlantic Coast yard in the Harbor. His skills in demand, he built in Illinois, on the west coast, and in Florida during World War I.

"Myra" (identity unknown) sent the photo postcard on August 25, 1910 to Charles Capen of Murray Hill. She wrote, "We sampled Mr. Murray's roller coaster at East Boothbay and just then the photographer [Frank McDougall] from Boothbay Harbor came along and took our pictures. It was lots of fun." Charles Capen's great-granddaughter, Sarah Jones Giles, my old friend and the historical society treasurer, provided the photo.

The Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation has provided funds for a project involving our photo collection's negatives. In this era of scanning photos to create images, negatives have become superfluous for copying purposes. If we already have the associated photo, the negative is taking up valuable space in the photo drawers. If we have no associated prints, the grant allows us to convert negatives to positive scans, create prints, and to enhance the image descriptions in the process. The grant will fund purchases of needed materials as well as a paid archival helper. That person will recatalog and rehouse the negatives in small fireproof cabinets in another readily accessible part of the building. Thanks to the McEvoy Foundation's generous grant, we will free up precious space for and ease retrieval of our many thousands of photos.



Long-time volunteer Robert Rice donates his time and expertise to work on the negative project. Here he helps to decide which negatives merit immediate scanning.