

# Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 29, Issue 1

Spring 2016

## Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Please join us for the 2016 annual meeting at the museum, 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor. The meeting is open to society members and the general public.

A brief business meeting will include a review of society activities over the past year, along with the election of trustees and officers. Returning to the board of trustees are Susan Leach, Jan Reit, Ann Sutter, and Kathy Tibbetts. Accepting invitations for new terms on the board of trustees are Sally Barter (two years), and Bill Hammond (three years.) Jan Reit, Kathy Tibbetts, Sarah Giles, and Judy Eastwood have agreed to be nominated as president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively. The members vote at the annual meeting on the slate offered by the nominating committee.

Following the business meeting, long-time historical society local historian Barbara Rumsey will give a talk on her 30-year pursuit of the Boothbay region's local history. She'll elaborate on the multiple roles involved, the peo-



ple who help, and the steps required to acquire, preserve, and make that history available.

**Please note new policy:** Seating is limited to 38 with no standees. No reservations will be taken. Please arrive early to get a seat. Doors will open at 4:10.

## 5th Annual Yard Sale

July 9, 2016

It's spring cleaning time! We want to remind everyone of our up-and-coming yard sale. Please keep the historical society in mind when you are parting with your "treasures." The only articles that we cannot accept are clothing and large appliances. The proceeds that are raised, with your help, go towards our operating expenses.

Last year we raised close to \$400 and would love to be able to exceed that amount this year. Keep your eyes out for drop off information on the sandwich board in front of the museum later this spring. Pick ups may also be arranged. Your donations and participation make the sale a success and we thank you. Please contact Susan Leach with any questions.

[grayhouse@roadrunner.com](mailto:grayhouse@roadrunner.com)

## 2016 Speaker Series

The Speaker Committee has arranged a schedule of engaging speakers who will entertain and inform you at the museum in May, June, September, and October.

Thursday, May 26, 4:30 p.m.: Bill Keller, a summer resident and the son of Deane Keller, will give a heavily-illustrated talk about his father's World War II mission to protect art and will also talk about how his father's Boothbay experience fueled his work as a portrait painter (Drs. George and Philip Gregory and Nurse Mabel Brackett at St. Andrews; Richard Hallett at the Public Library), watercolorist, and teacher of drawing and painting.

Thursday, June 30, 4:30 p.m.: Chris Hoffman, a resident of Brunswick whose parents live in Boothbay Harbor, stumbled across a photograph of what he later determined was the 1902 Boothbay Harbor baseball team while he was working on a research project at the museum. The photo piqued his in-

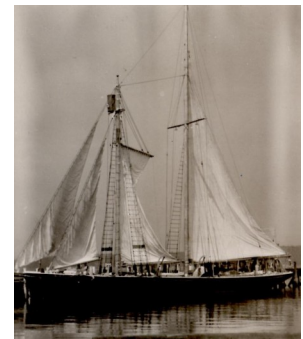
terest, and the story of baseball in the region became the subject of his Master's Thesis at USM entitled *The Struggle for the Supremacy of the Coast: Baseball and Identity in Boothbay Harbor, Maine*. It was a story Chris felt needed to be told, and he'll share some of what he learned in this program.

Thursday, September 22, 4:30 p.m.: In the summer of 1954, the 100-foot schooner, *Blue Dolphin*, sailed from Boothbay Harbor to the northern tip of Labrador on an oceanographic expedition. Young Ronnie Richardson was aboard as the radio operator and will recount some fond memories of adventure, many laughs, and fascinating views into the iceberg life of remote natives.

Thursday, October 13, 4:30 p.m.: Laura Honey will talk about her experiences in the tourism industry during a career at Fisherman's Wharf that spanned more than 50 years. She has

received numerous awards, including being selected for the Hall of Fame for both the Maine Innkeepers Association and the Maine Tourism Association for her outstanding leadership. Another highlight of her career was serving as Grand Marshal of the 2007 Windjammer Days Parade.

More detailed information will appear in the Boothbay Register as each program date nears.



*Blue Dolphin* 1954



## Boothbay Region Historical Society

*President*  
Jan Reit

*Vice President*  
Barbara Wilson

*Secretary*  
Judy Eastwood

*Treasurer*  
Sarah Giles

*Trustees*  
Jim Botti  
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*  
Marnie Mitchell, Editor  
Judy Eastwood  
Jan Reit  
Barbara Rumsey  
Kay Wilder

### 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 Jan Reit

Dear Friends,

There is so much to look forward to at this time of year, beginning with our annual meeting on May 17. I really hope you'll be there to meet new and returning trustees and to enjoy a special presentation by local historian, Barbara Rumsey. Note, also, that the first two of four shoulder-season speaker programs will be held in May and June. Early in July we'll be raising funds in front of the museum at our Fourth of July bake sale. One week later we'll be doing the same thing at our summer yard sale, but in another location.

If you can't attend an event, I encourage you to visit the museum some other time. I'm sure you'll enjoy our current exhibit, "Toys of Long Ago," featuring delightful objects from our collection of artifacts. Take a few minutes to study the framed maps and photographs hanging in various locations upstairs and down or ask to browse our family files. You never know what you'll discover.

We always consider what we hope our members will appreciate as we plan our activities throughout the year. It is one of the quieter ways we express our gratitude for your faithful support. This spring we decided to bring our thanks to the fore by highlighting the milestone anniversaries of our longest standing members in this issue. We are proud of those who renew year after year, and we hope our newest members will join their ranks over time.

Lastly, I want to congratulate Barbara Rumsey for being awarded a Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation grant that will support her plan to improve the storage and retrieval of our large photograph collection. Barbara and her team are currently working on the first phase of this important project.

On behalf of the board of trustees, thank you again for your membership and ongoing financial support.

*Janet Wilson Reit*

## Map Room Updates by Susan Leach

It all started with the 1772 Sproule map. A high resolution copy of this beautiful, detailed, colored map of the region was purchased from the British Museum in the Fall of 2014 to replace the 1931 black and white version we'd exhibited for more than thirty years. It was shrink wrapped for protection, but the beauty of the map just begged a better presentation. So as you start with one, the others by comparison need help, too! In all, six maps have been professionally framed. That number includes two new maps to the room – two bright blue US Coast Survey topo maps from the mid-1800s.

Other improvements to the room include: better lighting, wall cabinet interiors painted to enhance the displays of the Fullerton china collection, the souvenir china collection moved from room 1, and the enhancement of the displays in the large floor cabinets.

The newly framed maps are:

- 1751 North Map
- 1772 Sproule Map
- 1795 Map
- 1815 Rose Map
- 1864 US Coast Survey Eastern Shore of Sheepscot River
- 1865 US Coast Survey Linekin's Neck

Many thanks to the following for help with this project: Boothbay Harbor Framers, Larry Dibble, Judy Dunsford, Brian McKenna, Marnie Mitchell, Barbara Rumsey, Margaret Tew, Kathy Tibbetts, Tim Utley.



1865 Map



## 2016 CALENDAR

Watch our website and summer e-news for updates.

**May 17, 4:30 p.m.**

The society's annual meeting, including election of trustees and a presentation by Barbara Rumsey

**May 26, 4:30 p.m.**

Bill Keller: Deane Keller, Portrait Painter and World War II Monuments Man.

**June 30, 4:30 p.m.**

Chris Hoffman: Baseball in the Region.

**July 2, 9:00 a.m.**

Bake Sale at the Museum. 72 Oak Street.

**July 9, 9:00 a.m.**

5th Annual Yard Sale at Hawke Motors

**September 22, 4:30 p.m.**

Ron Richardson: *Blue Dolphin*

**October 8**

Cheese Sale at Fall Foliage Festival, Railway Village

**October 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Laura Honey: Tourism in the Region

**December 3, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Holiday Open House

## Membership Matters

Presently we have over 550 members. We wish to thank all our members for their continued support, which is vital to the society's day-to-day operation. We are grateful for your loyalty. Member 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

John P. Holmes

Bill & Joanne Hammond

Linda Letsch

David & Deanne Tibbetts

Judy DeGraw

Ben Murray

Larni Bernard

Scott & Lauretta Davis

Geoffrey Smith

Yarmouth, Me.

Boothbay

Boothbay Harbor

Boothbay Harbor

East Boothbay

Portland, Me.

North Grafton, Mass.

Shirley Mills, Me.

Gorham, Me.

BRHS is coming to Facebook!

We're building a page for announcements, events, etc. Follow us at **Boothbay Region Historical Society**. Our official site includes a color photo of the museum.

## Toys of Long Ago Exhibit

We are featuring toys of long ago in a case in our front room. This exhibit includes a puzzle donated by Sally and Susan Leach, colorful building blocks donated by Jean Chenoweth, an apple game with roulette inside donated by Barbara Gray, a doll with a porcelain head and fabric body donated by Diane Campbell Saunders, and various other interesting toys and games, including a WWI soldier, a pencil box, games, and trinkets all given to us by local people.

Bring the little ones and stop by the museum at 72 Oak Street.



Toys of Long Ago

## 2015 Raffle Winner

Our 2015 annual raffle winner was chosen at the December Holiday Open House. Bev Blamey of Colorado and Boothbay Harbor was the lucky winner when her name was drawn during the festivities. The raffle included the Earle Barlow print, "View from the Footbridge" and the book *Sketches II* by Barbara Rumsey.



2015 raffle winner  
Bev Blamey





## 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. Kay and Barbara have started checking that the database and files on artifacts conforms with their locations. Jan and Judy are working on cataloging maps. Kathy Tibbetts has been checking that labels for artifacts aren't missing or don't look careworn. She's also been working on the prehistoric display case in Room 2. Cathy Orne has started volunteering to check on and improve the order in the family files. Many thanks to all!

## Acquisitions

### Artifacts

Wayne Keene: butter molds from the Hartung house on Atlantic Avenue  
Eric Marden: trunnel from the circa 1830 Levi Reed house, Meadow Cove  
Barbara Rumsey: pieces of pine tar from Little River ledge

Ronnie Spofford: circa 1910 iron/wood child's school desk, perhaps from Barter's Island school

Yarmouth Historical Society: leather bag once property of Francis Greene

Anonymous: commemorative ceramic wedding plate for Dave and Marion Dash, 1952

### Manuscripts

George McEvoy: 1963 Ram Island Light Station spec

Ronnie Spofford: Collection of three-ring binders containing clippings, minutes, and photos on island doings and the Barter's Island community hall

Ken Hanson: collection of his research on Sawyers Island history, 1764-1996, including five binders on the families

Mark Voight: 1932 Doc Rockwell calendar; 1907, 1908 Boothbay Harbor postcards with tiny attached images.

Tom Cornell: 1950s souvenir folder of Boothbay Harbor views

Merritt Grover: 1910s calendar advertising "Howard the Tailor"

### Images

Purchased: DVD "Closing the Circle," on the Damariscotta Mills alewife run  
John Holmes: *Coaster I*, built by Goudy & Stevens, photo and documents

### Published Material

Rudy Jordan: *The Bayville Beat*, a compilation of Peter Jordan's columns, 2002-2011

Purchased: *So Long, Scout* by Gerald Lewis, 1988

Julie Merrill: *Bayville, Our Second Century*, 1998, reprint 2015

Congregational Church: *Lively Stones*, a church history by multiple authors, 2015



Dash Anniversary Plate

## Photo Negative Project

As mentioned in the mid-winter e-news, 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.

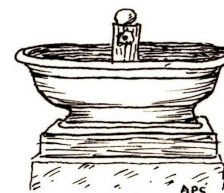
Thanks to the McEvoy Foundation's generous grant, we will free up precious space for and ease retrieval of our many thousands of photos.



Long-time volunteer Robert Rice donates his time and expertise to work on the negative project. Here he consults with archival helper Margaret Tew about which negatives merit immediate scanning.

## Building and Grounds

The museum has been quiet on the building and grounds front. Jim Botti continued to work away on levelling the growth on the west and north sides, as we'd started last early fall. But given the warm winter and bare ground, we finally decided to hire our lawn mower, Brian Barter, to do it all in one fell swoop with his power tools and dump truck. He brought with him Steve Butler and Bill Hammond to clear it all. Now we're set for about five years, our normal clearing schedule.



West Harbor Horse Trough in our Yard



## Membership Milestones\*\*

Beginning this year, each spring newsletter will recognize milestone anniversaries for current members who have helped sustain the society for over twenty years. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the preservation of region history.

### Founding Members-1968

M. Robert Barter  
George McEvoy  
James Waugh

### Members for 40 to 49 years

Jean Chenoweth  
J. Edward Knight Insurance  
Ron Spofford  
Robert Rice  
Bea Walker

### Members for 30 to 39 years

Royall & Eleanor Dodge  
John & Charlotte Druce  
Joseph & Brenda Blake  
Alan & Judy Burgess  
Chip Griffin  
Anita Howe  
Beverly Townsend Dibble  
Chet & Alice Fossett  
John Alley Robbins, Jr.

### Members for 20 to 29 years

Marjanne Gmelin-Foster  
Richard & Shirley Hesse  
William Logan  
Barbara Rumsey  
James Farrin  
Candice Prince  
Kitty Anagnost  
William Barter  
Karen Bartholemew  
Laird Cleaver

Brian Schuttrumpf  
Paul & Susan Strong  
William Allison  
Miles & Sharon Barter  
Hugh Beath  
Reid Ervin  
Anthony Heyl  
Earl Leavitt  
Dabney Lewis  
Frank & Nora Luke  
Allan McCobb  
John & Joan Cocchiarella  
Joseph Barbeau  
Sally Barter  
Thomas Bissell  
Tony & Chris Patton  
Connie Wright  
Brenda Bettinson & Cordula Mathias  
Jeff & Celeste Brown  
Zibette Dean  
Kitty Hartford  
James & Ann Hunt  
Betty Prescott  
Dick Rubinger  
Barbara Bush  
Elbridge & June Giles  
Robert O'Connor & Monica Halas  
Janna Day  
Charles & Betty Lombard  
Sandra Lowery  
Evelyn Sherman  
Bruce Tindal

Ingo & Jutta Walter  
Strohn Woodard  
Dennis & Martha Gleason  
Ken & Nancy Hanson  
Knickerbocker Group  
Capt. Carroll McKown  
Bruce Allen  
Philip Chapman  
John Chesebro  
Elinor Downs  
Stella Clifford Gray  
Jane Hurd & Roger Severance  
Gail Marzluff  
John McCobb  
Fran & Lynn Nicoletta  
Ronald Orchard  
Palmer Payne  
Neal & Jean Reny  
Mark Voight  
Cindy Watson  
Melinda Browne  
Robert & Eugenia Shepard  
Caroline Andrews  
Neil & Sheila Blake  
Sarah Giles  
Faith Meyer  
Rupert Neily  
Frank Helman & Martha Peak

\*\*Members through 2015

## Can you identify these long-time members?

1953 East Boothbay School Photos



L: Philip Chapman, C: Sarah Giles, R: Frank Luke

## Open Year Round

### Hours of Operation:

Thursday through Saturday  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Phone: (207) 633-0820  
Email: brhs@zwi.net



*Happy Spring!*



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.*

## Cheese Sale New/Old Venue!



Ron Spofford and John McKown 2006

This year we will be back at the Boothbay Rail-  
way Village selling our cheddar cheese on  
October 8 during the Fall Foliage Festival.  
We'll be set up inside the Town Hall, close to  
the entrance, along with other local non-profits.  
You may still pre-order cheese for pickup at the  
museum if you can't attend the festival. More  
information will appear in the *Boothbay Regis-  
ter* in August.

*Please let us know if you would prefer to receive  
our 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 \_\_\_\_\_

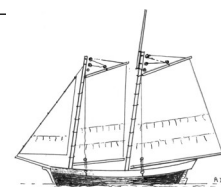
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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