



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 29, Issue 2

Fall 2016

Harbor Lights Open House Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mark your calendars! The society will host its annual holiday open house on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. While in town for Harbor Lights activities, we invite you to stop by the museum at 72 Oak Street to get warm and enjoy a variety of festive treats.

The museum will be decorated with traditional items from society collections. Local historian, Barbara Rumsey, will be on hand to answer questions. If you haven't been to the museum, this is the perfect time to come in and look around.

This year, we will also be highlighting a new exhibit, "Lost at Sea." See below for more on this exhibit.

Looking for a gift? Be sure to check out the items on our holiday sale table. Choose from a wide variety of books on general local history, fishing, boatbuilding, the ice industry, magnets and commemorative coins, historical maps and photographs, and more. There may even be a few surprises. Purchases of \$15 or more include a free gift bag, while supplies last. The society's open house is open to all. Please join us!



"East Boothbay, Maine"
by Rockwell Livingston

New Exhibit "Lost at Sea" to be Unveiled at the Harbor Lights Open House

The exhibit committee, co-chaired by Judy Dunsford and Kathy Tibbetts, is pleased to open its latest exhibit "Lost at Sea." The exhibit illustrates the challenges of life aboard the vessels sailed by men of the Boothbay region. The exhibit includes a roll, or list, of lives lost before 1900, surviving eyewitness accounts, models of the types of vessels sailed, photos, and artifacts.



The 100-foot *Bertha D. Nickerson* was a typical banks fisherman, a two-masted schooner built by Hodgdon Brothers of East Boothbay in 1909. Many local men in their schooners fished the banks, shallow areas from Massachusetts to the maritime provinces where codfish

were plentiful. Some banks, such as Georges, Jeffreys, Banquereau, Bradley, and Western, became an integral part of this seafaring tradition. A dangerous occupation, many men lost their lives before and still after weather forecasting. The North Atlantic storms were fearful in their intensity. A small close-knit town, no local family was untouched by the tragic loss of their family and friends at sea.

If you have a story about a local seaman lost at sea, please stop by or contact the museum to be sure we have the information. Our volunteers spend numerous hours each year updating our files.



This monument in the Wylie Cemetery in Boothbay memorializes the 13 men of Boothbay lost at sea aboard the *C.G. Matthews* in the hurricane of 1851. The 13 men were all the seamen on board.



Captain (Deacon) Benjamin Blair (1836-1908) had an active seafaring career covering 42 years. He had several notable adventures including being one of three people to survive a hurricane in 1859 on a voyage from Philadelphia to Pernambuco. All other crew members were lost.



Boothbay Region Historical Society

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Barbara Rumsey

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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.



Each time there is a gathering at the museum, I am struck by how much continuity the society contributes to our community. Regardless of the occasion, I hear people exchanging information about their families, their lives, friends and neighbors, and beloved properties in the Boothbay region. It is nice to be reminded that our fundraisers and programs bring people together who share a common history and want to keep it alive.

This year we held our cheese fundraiser at the museum and at the Fall Foliage Festival. Quite a few people sought us out in both locations to express their enthusiasm for the museum, society ac-

Message from President Jan Reit

tivities and our local historian, Barbara Rumsey. Almost everyone bought cheese and lingered over our display of books and other items for sale. We thanked them for their support with a gift certificate, and encouraged them to stop by the museum during the holidays. Big thanks go to my fellow trustees for making a success of all our fundraising and speaker programs this year.

In particular, I'd like to thank speaker committee co-chairs Judy Eastwood and Barbara Wilson, bake sale co-chairs Sarah Giles and Ann Sutter, yard sale chair Susan Leach, and cheese sale chair Kay Wilder for leading the way.

I would also like to thank Margaret Hoffman, Executive Director of the Boothbay Railway Museum, for providing space at the festival for us and other local non-

-profit organizations. Being there gave our trustees an opportunity to welcome visitors to the region, and thank our friends and neighbors for their support.

That the society is held in high regard wherever I go is something we can all feel good about. Whether you are a member, museum staff or volunteer, I congratulate you for your role in maintaining our reputation as a cherished organization. What is cherished most of all is the certainty that our local history resources are close at hand and accessible. With your ongoing membership and interest, we expect they always will be.

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

Janet Wilson Reit

New Faces at the Museum



New Trustees

Bill Hammond

Born a Connecticut Yankee, Bill spent his formative years in California, with college and graduate school in the east, before becoming a high school English and history teacher in southwest Florida. He and his wife, Joanne, are now retired "sophomores" among the newly-minted, year-round Mainers. Bill joined the BRHS board last spring with his lifelong friend, Sally Barter, and is looking forward to learning more about the rich history of our re-

gion's beautiful peninsula and islands.

Sally Barter

Sally and Howie Barter returned to Maine in 2002 after 20 years in Conn. For Howie it was a homecoming, for Sally a move to the place she'd come to love. With boundless energy, Sally has devoted herself to numerous community organizations, serving as a trustee for St. Andrews Hospital and the Opera House, and as a deacon at her church. Today, Sally enjoys gardening, boating, and best pal, Eddie the bulldog. However, her true pleasure is her five grandchildren. At the time of his passing, Howie was serving as the society's vice-president. We are pleased Sally has also chosen to support the society's mission.

New Office Manager

Jane Johnston

Jane moved to Boothbay Harbor in 2013 for a retirement adventure after leaving a career in accounting and human resources at several corporations and the non-profit Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park in Canandaigua, N.Y. Museum visitors may recognize Jane from her time in the West Boothbay Harbor Post Office. Their loss, our gain!





In Memoriam by Barbara Rumsey

Duane Dunbar

I first met Duane Dunbar when he walked in the museum to do research for the Railway Village. It took me about a minute to have an inkling he'd be a great volunteer and/or trustee. Another half hour and I was even more impressed with and convinced of his fine qualities, including his selfless willingness to help local non-profits like the library, the Railway Village, and eventually us.

He joined the board in early summer 2015 and was a real asset on the buildings and grounds committee. He started a program of refurbishing all the shutters—very difficult, but it's slightly less so if you have a special power tool to help with sanding the louvers, which he did! His many aptitudes also made him a great choice for the finance committee, which he joined, and he joined an ad hoc committee on amplification for our speaker programs. The board was very sorry when he reluctantly resigned in January 2016 because of health problems. His death on October 1, 2016 was a loss for all who knew him and the whole community.

Brian McKenna

We were fortunate to have the help of volunteer Brian McKenna for many years. Brian enjoyed manning the museum when needed and helping with mailing parties. He, Bill Wilson, and Paul Adams—all veterans from World War II to Vietnam—loved to tell military stories around the table as they stuffed envelopes. In 2013, Brian was instrumental in helping organize a very successful society fundraiser at The Carousel Music Theater. He also enjoyed helping those looking for information on earlier times, and he loved to browse through the files himself to enrich his knowledge of region features. We will miss Brian; our thoughts are with his family.

Update from the Buildings and Grounds Committee

By Bill Hammond

The lawn and gardens of the museum have been beautifully maintained by Brian Barter of Moxie, Inc., with volunteer Tom Cornell taking on special projects. Last spring, Brian and Steve Butler, along with some help from Bill Hammond, cleared out the brush from the area behind the shed and along the fence line. Thanks to the generosity of the Rebuilding Together crew, the north side of the building received much-needed attention in May: scraping, sanding, and painting. The 'Museum Open' sign has been repainted, as have the front steps.

Membership Matters

Presently we have 569 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 their 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 or a family connection to the area. Please let us know.

Encourage someone's interest with a gift membership!

New Members since last newsletter

Chris & Deeze Flower	Boothbay Harbor
Fred & Georgia Beauchemin	Boothbay Harbor
Diane Young Hicks	Bath
Kathleen Loewe	Boothbay
Vic Taylor	Trevett
Libby Levison	Harvard, Mass.
Stephanie Hawke	Boothbay Harbor
Nancy Thayer	Portland
Kimberlee Dow	Wellesley, Mass.
Peter Kendrick	Falmouth
Robert Montgomery	Westport Point, Mass.
Lael Montgomery	Valley Center, Calif.
Merritt & Martha Blakeslee	Boothbay Harbor
Jerry Evans	Windsor, Calif.
Tom Knobloch	Boothbay Harbor
Vanda Yonge	Jacksonville Beach, Fla.
Lisa Arsenault	Boothbay

West Harbor Horse Trough

For years faithful volunteer Tom Cornell has donated time to work on our gardens and shrubs. Early this fall Tom did a great job with a complete cleanup of the bricks around the town's old cast-iron horse trough in our side yard.



Lester Barter (born 1906) and other children remember drinking out of the trough on their way to ballgames in the rye field by West Harbor Pond. The trough was probably placed at the west end of the dam as soon as piped water crossed it about 1910. Lester, having made his living as a plumber, remembered the trough had another significance besides quenching thirst of man and beast. There was constant concern that the water main, crossing the dam above ground, would freeze in winter so the trough ran all winter to keep the water moving in that main. The 1990 road widening there left no room for it at its time-honored spot. The town wished to place it on town-owned property, and we were delighted to have it in our side yard.



Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Barbara Wilson, Robert Rice, Margaret Tew, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Ken Hanson, Kay Wilder, Kathy Tibbetts, and new volunteer Kay Evans have been helping to bring order to the reference room and artifact collection by accessioning, cataloging, and labelling artifacts, photos, and documents. Many thanks to all!

Multiple people had a role in conserving two small paintings by Anson Cross, who ran an art school on the east side in the first half of the 1900s. Loraine Nickerson donated them; Margaret Tew conceived of cleaning them and carried out the details of having it done; members Brenda Bettinson and Cordula Mathias, who've spent their lives in the art world, kindly donated part of the cost as did the conservator, Bette Caton Pardoe of Alna. Finally Susan Brackett of Harbor Framers offered to reframe them. Again, many thanks to all!

Listed below are additions to the collections given to the society since the last newsletter. For the third time, many thanks to all!

Acquisitions

Artifacts

Wally Reed: 1920s acrobatic toy clown

Made here: recordings of summer talks by Bet Finocchiaro, Bill Keller on artist Deane Keller, Ron Richardson on his *Blue Dolphin* voyage and Laura Honey on her decades in summer hospitality

Heather Brewer: c. 1900 Burnett's vanilla bottle in box

Barry Sherman and brothers: early 1900s school desk from east side school

Gretchen Rittershaus: four paintings by Fred Rockwell, one by Louis Paine

Paula Rowe: three small Louis Paine paintings

Bobby Latter: framed household pic-

tures

Manuscripts

Wayne Keene: notebook listing prices for Pierce & Hartung products c.1920s

Loraine Nickerson: 1983 Karyl Bannister map showing local businesses; 1931 Frank Allen art school catalog; list of vessels built in Maine for WWII, 1941-45

Tom Perkins: 1944 checkbook register of Fannie Orne Perkins

Ron and Pam Riml: 1909 log of steamer *Enterprise*

Bobby Latter: early 1900s Water District records, diploma

Wally Reed: postcard album

John Hodgdon: Clayton Hodgdon documents

Jean Federico: Sidney Baldwin documents

Denny Sullivan: Medicinal spring bottle label

Images

Susan Stewart: local postcards

Strohn Woodard: DVD "Road to Fernaldale" on artists Mitch and Kathleen Billis, two DVDs on mapmaker and artist Ruth Gardner

June Elderkin: photos of the east side

Nickie Winslow: photo of 1951/1952 high school basketball captain Herbert Winslow and co-captain Richard Reed

Kate Carll: local postcards

Published Material

Nancy Dodge Bastow: 11 Boothbay Region High School yearbooks

Susan Clark: her 2016 book, *Past Images of Ocean Point, Maine*

Jonathan Eno: his 2016 book, *Naval Visits to Frenchman's Bay*

Lael Montgomery: her 2016 book, *Our Montgomerys of East Boothbay*

Bobby Latter: 1896 book, *Souvenir*

Handbook of Boothbay Harbor, 1888 History of the Grand Army of the Republic

Bettye Barter: late 1800s Bibles and religious books

Loraine Nickerson: Boothbay Region Directory 1937-1939

Articles

Below are articles listed that have appeared in the column, *Out of Our Past*, in the *Boothbay Register* since the last newsletter. Listed are ten by Barbara Rumsey and two by Jean Huskins Chenoweth.

Lighthouse on Negro Island? Parts I-IV
That Red Dragon Gift Shop, Parts I and II

The Dodge Mill on Adams Pond, Parts I and II

Thirty Years of Local History, Parts I and II

West Boothbay Harbor, 1940s and 1950s, Parts I and II by Jean Chenoweth



This postcard image, new to us, was donated by Susan Stewart. It looks north to the By-Way from the passenger boat landing about 1930. The date is bracketed by the 1928 construction of the bowling alley building and the first *Nellie G.*'s leaving town in 1932 after 30 years on her route, mostly to Squirrel Island. The *Nellie G. II* took over for the next 37 years.



Society Events

Annual Meeting: Chief among the items of business transacted at the annual meeting in May was the election of trustees and officers. Sally Barter was elected for a two-year term. Bill Hammond was elected for a three-year term, as were returning trustees Susan Leach, Jan Reit, Ann Sutter, and Kathy Tibbetts. Elected as officers were Jan Reit, president; Kathy Tibbetts, vice-president; Judy Eastwood, secretary; and Sarah Giles, treasurer. Following the business meeting, local historian Barbara Rumsey gave a talk about her 30-year pursuit and stewardship of the region's history.

Speakers: In 2016, our varied programs began with Bill Keller giving an illustrated talk featuring his father, Deane Keller, and his World War II mission to protect art and his life as a painter and teacher.

The subject was baseball as Chris Hoffman shared the results of his research into the history of local baseball that stemmed from finding a 1902 photograph of a local team.

Ron Richardson shared his 1954 experience as a 15-year-old ham radio operator aboard the 100-foot schooner, *Blue Dolphin*, on its three-month oceanographic expedition to the northern tip of Labrador.

Finally, Laura Honey described her experiences as an award-winning participant in the tourism industry during her career at Fisherman's Wharf that spanned more than 50 years.

Fundraising Events: Our annual Fourth of July bake sale was again a hit. Thanks to our loyal bakers and shoppers the sale earned \$600.

Despite the weather, our July yard sale was a great success, earning over \$1,000. This is a credit to all who donated items, our crew of volunteers,

and especially to Stephanie Hawke and Hawke Motors for furnishing us with such a perfect location—with parking! See you in 2017.



Cheese for Sale!

Our cheese sale returned to the Fall Foliage Fair this year. Many thanks to the fair's organizers for allowing a number of non-profits to gather in the comfort of the old town hall. Eighty-five pounds of aged cheddar cheese were hand-cut and wrapped by society volunteers, with some doing double-duty at the fair. For this event, we sold out and netted over \$500.

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

Members receive a 10% discount.

Visit our website 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>History of Boothbay, Southport, and Boothbay Harbor, Maine</i> , F. B. Greene	\$60.00
<i>The Hand of the Small Town Builder</i> , Tad Pfeffer, 2014	\$40.00
<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

Maps

1856 Boothbay	\$1.00
1885 Boothbay Harbor	\$5.00
1948 Boothbay Region with Housesites, Rockwell	\$12.00



1885 Map of Boothbay Harbor

F. B. Greene's *History of Boothbay, Southport, and Boothbay Harbor, Maine*

Now 20% off!
\$48.00

Holiday Open House
Dec. 3, 2016
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 chance.
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.

Annual Dues Mailing

Each May we send renewal notices to all members and, in some cases, follow up with a reminder in late summer. This year it came to our attention that a significant number of members never received their initial dues notice. After a bit of sleuthing, we were able to identify and fix the problem. We apologize for any inconvenience to affected members.



Please let us know if you would like to receive the color version of our newsletters and our e-news updates 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 a newsletter or e-news update quarterly and a 10% discount on gift shop items. Memberships run May 1-April 30.

Name _____

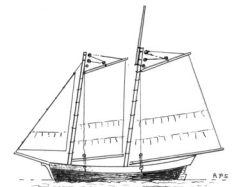
Address _____

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.