



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 30, Issue 1

Spring 2017

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Please join us for the 2017 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, followed by the election of trustees and officers. Members of the society will vote on the following slate offered by the nominating committee. Returning to the board of trustees are Jim Botti, Sarah Giles, and Susan Lloyd. Accepting nominations for two open three-year terms are Kay Evans and David Benner. Kathy Tibbetts, Jan Reit, Sarah Giles, and Kay Wilder have accepted nominations for the offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively.

Following the business meeting, members of the exhibit committee will read selected stories featured in the *Lost At Sea* exhibit currently on display at the museum. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the program.

Please note: Doors open at 4:10. Please arrive early as seating is limited. We regret we can not reserve seats or allow for standees.



Society officers Judy Eastwood, Jan Reit, and Sarah Giles

WE'RE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!



The historical society is marking 50 years of commitment to our local communities. Beginning with a small group of local residents interested in preserving the region's history, the society has become a highly respected repository for thousands of items that tell the story of life in the Boothbay region. Local historian, Barbara Rumsey, has worked tirelessly for over 31 years to ensure the society continues to fulfill the vision of its founders.

Thank You!

This year, we will present a series of events to thank our members, the society's principle means of support.

Without you, it would not be possible to preserve the many artifacts, documents, and memories that fill the museum's collections, as well as maintain the 1874 Reed House the society calls home.

Special Exhibit

On June 10, a new exhibit celebrating our 50th anniversary will open to highlight museum artifacts chosen by trustees, volunteers, and Barbara for their historical significance, unique qualities, or simply because they amuse us!

We invite you to browse this museum-wide exhibit and tell us which items caught your attention.

Anniversary Party

On Sunday, August 6, please join us between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. to celebrate this milestone. We will be serving ice cream and cake on the museum side lawn—rain or shine.

Wrap-up

We'll wrap up our celebration at this year's holiday open house in December.

Over the next few months, please watch for more information on our website, Facebook page, or in the *Boothbay Register*.

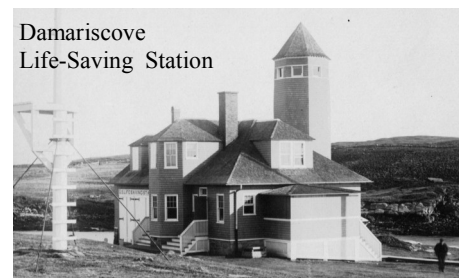
2017 Speaker Series

This year we have another great slate of speakers lined up. These presentations start at 4:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:10 p.m. Come early—seating is limited.

The first presentation on May 18 promises to be a lively discussion led by Chip Griffin. Brian Barter and friends will share their experiences lobstering around Damariscove Island. The island, five miles from Boothbay Harbor, is one of Maine's earliest settlement sites dating back four centuries.

Later in the summer, on August 10, Mike Dekker and Paul Diaute will delve into earlier years on Damariscove with a program on cod fishing in the 17th century.

On September 28, we focus on a broader picture of the Atlantic Ocean. Bill Wilson will present a program based on his many years of research into the *Titanic* disaster.



Damariscove Life-Saving Station

**Boothbay Region
Historical Society***President*
Jan Reit*Vice President*
Kathy Tibbetts*Secretary*
Judy Eastwood*Treasurer*
Sarah Giles*Trustees*
Sally Barter
Jim Botti
Bill Hammond
Lorraine Hodgdon
Susan Leach
Susan Lloyd
Ann Sutter
Kay Wilder
Barbara Wilson*Trustee Emeritus*
Bea Walker*Office Manager*
Jane Johnston*Local Historian*
Barbara Rumsey*Newsletter Committee*
Judy Eastwood
Jane Johnston
Susan Leach
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,



Our front page story tells it all! Celebrations to honor the society's 50th anniversary are shaping up very nicely, thanks to the trustees and local historian Barbara Rumsey who have planned two special anniversary events for this summer. We hope you will join the festivities.

During these past two years, I have met many people who wanted me to know how much they appreciate our society and the high regard they have for Barbara's work. They feel connected to the region's history and wonder what the landscape will look like in a few short years as the pace of change accelerates. Concerns aside, they expressed gratitude for the society's reputation as the region's memory bank, and their hope that we will continue to fill this important role for a long time to come.

As outgoing president, I offer grateful thanks to you, our loyal members, for underwriting almost everything we do. To my fellow trustees, who put on all our exhibits, programs, and fundraisers, I send equally heartfelt thanks and appreciation. I would also like to acknowledge Jane Johnston who works in the museum office and Margaret Tew who assists Barbara in the reference room. While their jobs are quite different, they each bring their very best to helping everyone who visits, volunteers, or works at the museum.

There are not enough words in the dictionary to thank Barbara Rumsey for the countless hours she devotes to the museum every week, while still finding time to pursue her own research and writing. Her thirty plus years of commitment to the society is unmatched, and as our 50th celebrations approach, we should each take a moment to thank her personally for volunteering back in 1985. Thank you, Barbara!

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

Janet Wilson Reit

Judy Dunsford by Barbara Rumsey

I knew Judy Dunsford for almost 20 years. We met and became friends while digging in the dirt in southern Maine enjoying 10 years of prehistoric and historic archaeology digs. Besides Judy's brain power, physical fitness, and her sunny, upbeat take on all things, her knack for drawing made her a versatile asset at all digs.

I quickly saw she'd be a great addition for the Boothbay Region Historical Society and suggested she help; she just laughed and said "sure!" Everything was easy with her and she was always up for everything. For Judy life was a platform for doing—and doing whatever it was with a laugh and a light touch.

The society benefitted from her analysis of the museum's architectural features, her institutional

research projects, cataloging prehistoric tools, and spearheading exhibits. She continued to help despite her 12 years bobbing and weaving to outwit her enemy, cancer, as it stalked her year after year. Her life was often far less than normal, but not bad from her buoyant vantage. Losing her hair was just a chance to play with wigs. She'd joke about all the drugs the "docs," as she called them, had for her in their repertoire—drugs that would stretch the years in front of her out into the distant future.

She had good spells throughout it all and would pop up, ready as ever to mount an exhibit, run down some arcane information, and pitch in with commitments, always with a cheerful, can-do attitude. Being maudlin and cursing her fate—that was not for her. I truly believe bitterness, resentment, pretense, and smallness were states of mind that she'd heard about but had no slot for in her brain or in her life. Though life was a precious thing to her, she was calmly matter of fact about its coming and going. For those around her and for life itself, she was an affirming presence.

2017 Calendar

Mark your calendars and watch our website, Facebook page, and the *Boothbay Register* for details.

May 16, 4:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Business meeting & program

May 18, 4:30 p.m. Chip Griffin & Friends

Stories of lobstering around Damariscove Island

June 10, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. New Exhibit

50th anniversary exhibit highlighting favorite artifacts

July 15, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Yard and Bake Sale

Next to Hawke Motors, Rte. 27, rain or shine

August 6, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Celebration!

50th anniversary party at the museum

August 10, 4:30 p.m. Mike Dekker & Paul Diaute

Discussion 17th century cod fishing off Damariscove

September 28, 4:30 p.m. Bill Wilson

Facts and stories about the sinking of the *Titanic*

October 7 Annual Cheese Sale

Fall Foliage Festival, Railway Village

December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Annual Holiday Open House

Membership Matters

Presently we have 560 members. We wish to thank all our members for your continued support, vital to the society's day-to-day operation. We are so 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 or a family connection to the area. Please let us know.

New Members since last newsletter

Carolyn Van Horn	Manchester
Robert and Maria Dash	Stockton, Calif.
Bill and Sarah Wilde	Walpole
John Tristan	Boothbay Harbor
Susan Agaman	Boothbay Harbor
Taylor Wilde	West Boothbay Harbor
Heather and Todd Savage	Boothbay Harbor
Maynard Brewer	Southport
Glenn and Ann Bradley	Coventry, Conn.
Kay Evans	Boothbay
Diane Reed	Boothbay Harbor
Dr. Laurie Patton	Middlebury, Vt.
Thomas Wedekind	East Boothbay
Melba Gunnison	Boothbay Harbor
Lisa and Roger Matthews	Austin, Texas

Lost at Sea Exhibit



George G. Emerson

Come experience the incredible stories of local men and young boys who gave their lives for a life at sea during the 19th century.

Learn about the perils of dory fishing on the Banks off the Canadian Maritimes or being struck by a hurricane in the West Indies. Another story relates the fate of a captain whose crew mutinied.

Discover how lives lost at sea touched so many families in the Boothbay area. Often times, they had more than one family member who never returned home. Read the list of men who were lost, and also a list of young boys who worked on the vessels, some as young as eight or nine years old. George G. Emerson, for example, was 14 when he went on his first voyage in 1859. In

letters to his mother and sister, he described his homesickness and longing to be home celebrating special events such as the 4th of July with them. Having lost a brother already to the sea, he was reluctant to go at all, but did. Then, having sailed around the world, he succumbed to the same fate in 1865. His mother, fearing the worst, waited for word to arrive, and finally got the news she had been dreading.

Just as George Emerson's mother mourned, Nicholas T. Knight knew that same feeling. He had lost several sons. Then one night in 1839 he had a dream that yet another son had been lost in the Maritimes. He awoke the next morning so fearful that he told a neighbor his nightmare, which turned out to be real. For many years the location of the tragedy was unknown. Then, some 20 years later a fisherman visited the area where Knight's son was known to have fished. He heard a story from a local who saw

the wreck. John Knight had been 17 years old at his 1839 death.

An 1851 story describes 13 Boothbay men who anxiously awaited the launching of the new vessel, *G. W. Reed*. They had plans to go fishing in the Bay of St. Lawrence. However, while at the launching they saw how she rolled, an unlucky sign, and all agreed they would not be comfortable taking her so far from home. So they signed up to take the *C. G. Matthews* instead. While there fishing, a hurricane arose that later became known as the "storm of the century." Vessels fishing the entire length of the east coast felt its wrath. Later, families found out that the *C. G. Matthews* was lost with all hands. The *G. W. Reed* came back to the harbor safe and sound. A monument now stands at the Wylie Cemetery in Boothbay, erected in their honor.

Exhibit continues through Fall 2017.

Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Barbara Wilson, Margaret Tew, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder, Kathy Tibbetts, and Kay Evans have been helping to bring order to the reference room and artifact collection by accessioning, cataloging, and labelling artifacts, photos, and documents. A new helper, Diane Dorbin, has also been on the job. Many thanks to all! The efforts of many enable us to help researchers.

For instance, in the week from January 6 to January 13 the below 22+ inquiries came in, some from visitors, some from researchers by email—I've been in touch with many researchers for 25-30 years. The norm for each inquiry is about 8-10 emails, three phone calls, and footwork to run down details. They require time to locate helpful items and often to duplicate photos and make photocopies. Some take inordinate time, 40-50 emails, 15 phone calls, etc over weeks and months. Then the upshot needs to be written and filed appropriately; it's how the information gained or supplied becomes available. Most inquiries I handle at home since that is where I write responses, and they usually require knowledge and material in my home computer beyond museum documents and pics. Our holdings have greatly expanded with these active collecting habits.

Inquiries

East Boothbay store
granite quarries
a Beath carriage
Hodgdon shipyard 1915 Astor boat
society founding
Kimballtown ice pond

Oak Point history
Boothbay Register digitization
Holbrook family history
bowling alley sign
Linekin Bay Camp
E. Boothbay School Street house
Boothbay's founding
houses at Hospital Point
Chenoweth articles
Maine Maritime Museum inquiries
DeWolfe family
Nickerson family
Nickerson lifesaving medal
Reed artifacts
Tinker Tavern
Paul Adams/Lucy Marlowe interview

Acquisitions

Below are acquisitions since the last newsletter. Thanks to all donors!

Sally Leach Sewall: sign for Hodgdon Bros. Plant 2 Parking
Anonymous: *Down East and Up Along* by Edwin Grover, 1936
Carolyn Van Horn: Collection of 11 publications by her locally born grandmother, Alberta Van Horn Shute, about Augusta and the surrounding area, as well as her East Boothbay memoir, *Or Ever The Silver Cord*
Jim Stevens family: brick from brickyard on the property; Jim Hunt's *The Four-Masters of Boothbay Harbor*
Penny Bergeson: souvenir china pitcher of the Hotel Menawarmet on Atlantic Ave., postcards
Barbara Bricker: write-up on Linekin Bay Camp
Jack Rice: ticket from the Strand Movie Theatre found in a wall

Richard Tappan: his 2016 book, *Final Curtain—The DeWolfe Family in Theatre, Music, and Film*

Wally Reed: Boothbay memorabilia, photos, documents

Bill Logan: 1891 Eastern Steamboat schedule

East Boothbay Church: homemade color-by-number views of shipyards and church with color code chart; Ethel Fowler 1930s pen-and-ink cards

Diane Reed: Boothbay Harbor High School yearbooks: 1936, 1937, 1938, 1942, 1943

Alice Larkin Larrabee: slides, clippings

Anne Sabo Warner: her memoir of working at Linekin Bay Camp in the 1950s

Roy Lewis: small Bibles owned by Dave Dash and Sidney Jones

D.M.R.: reprint of 1929 *Fishing Grounds of the Gulf of Maine*

Articles

Below are articles that have appeared in the column, *Out of Our Past*, in the Boothbay Register since the last newsletter. Six were by Barbara Rumsey and three were by Jean Huskins Chenoweth. Additionally Barbara's piece on the elevated sidewalk appeared elsewhere in the paper.

West Boothbay Harbor, 1940s and 1950s, Parts III to V, by Jean Chenoweth
The Elevated Sidewalk on Oak Street
In Peril on the Seas in the 1800s
Perkins Stove and Quick Pix Photo Shop
Mystery Photo 1938, Parts I and II
A Mid-1900s East Boothbay Store
Civilian Service in World War II, Part I

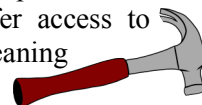
Building and Grounds by Bill Hammond

Things have been quiet around the museum this winter—no major problems and some improvements. Two glass tops on our display cases have been replaced and we have an electrician lined up to address some minor wiring issues in the kitchen. Hint: the microwave is currently

in the office. Doug Fowle donated his time and talent to put together storage shelves that now hold part of our textile collection.

Finally, we will soon be adding a new storage shed behind the building to store some of our ever-growing collection.

The shed was purchased with a generous grant from the Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation. Trustee Bill Hammond will install a new set of steps outside the back door for easier, safer access to the sheds. Spring cleaning will be next!



Membership Milestones through 2016-17

Each spring we recognize milestone anniversaries for current members who have helped sustain the society for twenty years or more. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the preservation of region history.

Charter Members 1968

Robert Barter
George McEvoy
James Waugh

Members for 40-49 years

J Edward Knight Insurance
Jean Chenoweth
Robert Rice
Ronald and Jane Spofford
Earl Walker
Bea Walker

Members for 30-39 years

Joseph and Brenda Blake
Alan and Judy Burgess
Royall and Eleanor Dodge
John Druce
James Farrin
Chester and Alice Fossett
Marjanne Gmelin-Foster
Carl and Denise Griffin
Richard and Shirley Hesse
Anita Howe
William Logan
Beverly Rawson-Dibble
John Alley Robbins
Barbara Rumsey

Members for 20-29 years

John and Nancy Abbott
Bruce Allen
William Allison
Kitty Anagnost
Caroline Andrews
Joseph Barbeau
Sally Barter
Miles and Sharon Barter
Karen Bartholomew
Marion Bates
Hugh and Nancy Beath
Brenda Bettinson and Cordula Mathias
C. D. Binning
Thomas Bissell
Neil and Sheila Blake
Steve Branch
Jeff and Celeste Brown
Mary Lee Brown
Melinda Browne
Barbara Bush
Robert Cerra
Philip and Laura Chapman
Laird Cleaver
John Cocchiarella
Janna Day
Zibette Dean

Elinor Downs
Reid and Harriet Ervin
Robert and Alberta Foster
Elbridge and June Giles
Sarah Giles
Dennis and Martha Gleason
Robert Goodspeed
Monica Halas and Robert O'Connor
Daniel and Susan Haney
Kenneth and Nancy Hanson
Kitty Hartford
Anne Hayden
Frank and Marty Helman
Anthony Heyl
James Hunt
Wayne Keene
Knickerbocker Group
Joan Krause
Earl Leavitt
Dabney Lewis
Sandra Lowery
Frank and Nora Luke
Robert and Sally Maroon
Gail Marzluff
Allan McCobb
John McCobb
Francis Carroll McKown

Faith Meyer
William and Joan Murphy
Rupert Neily
Lynne and Fran Nicoletta
Ronald Orchard
Henry and Nylene Page
Anthony and Christine Patton
Palmer Payne
David and Ilene Rapkin
Neal and Jean Reny
Richard Rubinger
Brian Schutrumpf
Roger Severance
Robert Shepard
Evelyn Sherman
Addison Smith
Richard Spofford
Susan and Paul Strong
Thomas and Sheila Thomson
John and Anna Marie Thron
Bruce Tindal
Mark Voight
Jutta and Ingo Walter
Lowell and Cindi Watson
Alicia Wiatrowski
Strohn Woodard
Connie Wright
Barbara Zarpentine

6th Annual Boothbay Region Historical Society Yard Sale now including our July Bake Sale!



Our Yard & Bake Sale will be held Saturday, July 15, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., rain or shine, at the red building just south of Hawke Motors at 201 Townsend Avenue in Boothbay Harbor.

Susan Leach and Ann Sutter are joining forces to have a combination yard and bake sale this summer. Don't worry—we are not accepting used baked goods! There will be fresh, home-baked goodies and a variety of household bargains. We are pleased and grateful to be able to use the Hawke Motors site again this year which allows us to have a convenient drop off location and to hold the sale rain or shine.

We have raised thousands of dollars through our yard and bake sales thanks to your donations. Please think of us again as you are doing your spring cleaning. For yard sale items—the only items we cannot accept are clothing, large appliances and basically anything we cannot lift. The building will be open for drop-offs earlier in July. Keep your eye on our website, Facebook page and the *Boothbay Register* for details.

Susan Leach is the contact for the yard sale at grayhouse@roadrunner.com. For baked goods, our bake sale chairperson, Ann Sutter, notes that the most popular items at the sale are pies—especially

fruit. We also sell plenty of cookies, cakes, breads, muffins, cupcakes, etc. Please contact Ann at 446-5114, if you would like to bake for the sale or have any questions.

This event is a real "two-fer" for shoppers—build up your energy by enjoying some baked goods and then apply it to buying treats for your summer guests and searching through all our treasures for bargains! All proceeds from the sale will be used to support the society's programs and collections. Whether donating or shopping, we greatly appreciate and value your support—thank you!



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@ghi.net

Web: boothbayhistorical.org



BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Stay up-to-date with society news and activities.

- ◆ General society news
- ◆ Upcoming events
- ◆ Exhibits & Collections
- ◆ Historical stories & photos

Did you know ...?

You can receive full color electronic versions of our newsletters, as well as e-news updates, simply by contacting the office.

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 _____

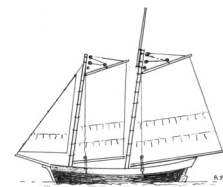
Address _____

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.