



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 30, Issue 2

Fall 2017

Harbor Lights Open House Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. *All are welcome!*

The holidays are almost here and we hope you'll add the society's annual community open house to your busy schedule. Each year, the museum is adorned with vintage decorations, traditional greens, historical photos, and holiday cards. Homemade finger foods, a hot mulled beverage, and yummy treats add to the festive atmosphere.

If you haven't seen our *Focus on 50* anniversary exhibit, please come in and check it out. Both floors are open with a total of six exhibit rooms. Shop our holiday sale table for books, maps, stocking stuffers, and more. Create your own gift bag with a purchase of \$20 or more. The society's annual holiday celebration is open to all—we look forward to seeing you.



Focus on 50



Trustees Ann Sutter and
Kay Evans



Ice Boots

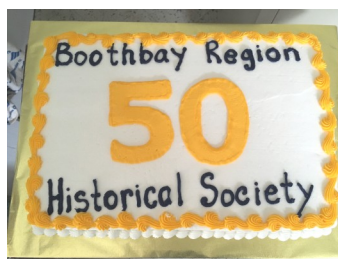
On June 10th we opened our special exhibit highlighting fifty items from our collection to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the BRHS. The exhibit showcases items in our collection that are significant for varying qualities—some are quirky rarities like the bullet taken out of Civil War soldier Alden Winslow's leg or one of a kind, like the homemade telephone. Other artifacts illustrate daily life and businesses in the area such as the boots used in the ice harvesting industry and the local commercial spring bottles.

The artifacts were chosen by trustees, volunteers, and our local historian Barbara Rumsey. We've used the exhibit as an opportunity to briefly sketch conditions and the way of life in the region.

Each artifact is numbered and listed in the exhibit brochure to help you navigate through the exhibit rooms.

50th Celebration

The community celebration on the lawn at the museum to mark our 50th anniversary was very festive—a big white tent, balloons, cake, ice cream, music by Ben Betts on steel drum and guitar and an antique fire engine! Attendees took advantage of the Sunday opening to tour the museum's *Focus on 50* exhibit and enjoy the party atmosphere outdoors.



Partygoers enjoyed delicious 50th anniversary cakes by Nancy Stoddard, along with Round Top Ice Cream sundaes.



A special thank you to Charlie Bamberg for displaying his antique fire engine. It was a great feature on the lawn next to the museum and a popular spot for photos.

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

Greetings,

It's hard to believe the year has flown by so quickly. Looking back, I realize what a wonderful time it is to be involved in the society. Our 50th anniversary is a special occasion that we have celebrated all year with great events and exhibits showcasing the region's rich history and exceptional citizens.

I am grateful to the society's local historian Barbara, and to its members, trustees, donors, and volunteers who make all our programs and affairs possible. They are vital to the society's success. Also, I would like to thank Jane Johnston for her work in the office.

Aside from our usual activities—cheese sales, bake sales, yard sales, numerous open houses, and guest speakers—we have more activities at the museum planned to wind up 2017 and already we are looking forward to 2018. For example, a new shed was purchased this year to aid with storage shortages and plans for painting and repairing a few of the upstairs rooms are on the agenda for the near future. As I'm sure you know, the upkeep of an older building is always ongoing.

Please watch the *Register*, our website, and our Facebook page for announcements of upcoming events, and I hope to see you all December 2 at our holiday open house during the Harbor Lights Festival!

Welcome New Trustees**Kay Evans**

Kay Evans spent her first 30 years in Ohio before moving to Woodstock, N.Y. and later Boothbay. One of her most rewarding jobs was working in a drug and alcohol center, where the teenagers could "break your day, or make your day." Kay made presentations and gave speeches

with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and helped initiate a Victim Impact Panel for Ulster County offenders.

In 2008 Kay moved to Boothbay to help her mother, Dee Dee Kamen, and found a new home. Since moving to Boothbay, Kay has run her own knitting business and worked for the Department of Marine Resources as a bookkeeper. Following in her mother's footsteps, Kay is currently serving as vice-president of the Boothbay Civic Association.

We're glad Kay's interest in community and in Maine history has brought her to the society, where she has been working as a volunteer since the spring of 2016, and now brings her talents to the board of trustees. Thank you, Kay.

David Benner

David Benner calls himself "a local boy" who has been married to his wonderful wife, Emma for over 40 years. He served as a full-time police officer for 14 years with the Boothbay Harbor Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department before making a

career change. David currently oversees Buildings and Grounds, Transportation, and Safety for region school systems including Boothbay Harbor/Boothbay, Southport, Edgecomb, and Georgetown.

David has been an active member of the Boothbay Harbor Fire Dept for 30 years, and the Boothbay EMS for 28 years. He also served as Emergency Management Director and Assistant Director for 10 years.

We are very pleased David has chosen to bring his experience and skills to the board, where he serves on the Building & Grounds committee. With an old building, there is always something that needs attention. Welcome, David.

2017 in Review

Speaker Series

Videos of our speakers are available for download on your computer at www.brctv.org. Click on Historical Speakers Series in the Categories sidebar. Many thanks to filmmaker and Channel 7 Station Manager Cody Mitchell for his long hours of volunteer training, equipment setup, editing, broadcasting, and archiving these videos.

In May, Brian Barter, Charlie Gould, Dave Norton and Dean Morrison shared lively stories of their times living on and lobstering around Damariscove Island. Damariscove historian Chip Griffin helped lead the discussion, often adding helpful context on the history of the island.

We continued the Damariscove connection in August, with Maine historians and re-enactors Mike Dekker and Paul Diaute. Dressed in period garb and sharing artifacts from the period, these men brought back to vivid life the incredibly hard and dangerous work of 17th-century cod fishermen. Had it not been for this lucrative fishery in our Maine waters, John

Smith's Jamestown colony and the Pilgrim settlement might have failed from starvation.

We closed our speaker series in September with retired Coast Guard Commander and naval researcher Bill Wilson presenting an illustrated talk on the life history of R.M.S.

Titanic and her passengers and crew. Bill exploded popular myths about the ship's construction and catastrophic demise and brought the victims and survivors back to life.

Thank you for your attendance and your donations in support of these popular programs. Our 2018 planning is underway. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information this winter.



Mike Dekker & Paul Diaute



Outgoing president Jan Reit passes the gavel to incoming president Kathy Tibbetts

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting took place on May 16, 2017. Following presentation of the society's annual reports, new trustees and officers were elected by the membership. New trustees Kay Evans and David Benner were elected for three-year terms, as were returning trustees Jim Botti, Sarah Giles, and Susan Lloyd. Elected as officers were Kathy Tibbetts, president; Jan Reit, vice president; Kay Wilder, secretary; and Sarah Giles, treasurer. Trustees continuing their terms are Sally Barter, Judy Eastwood, Bill Hammond, Lorraine Hodgdon, Susan Leach, and Ann Sutter.

Following the business meeting, exhibit committee members Barbara Wilson, Kathy Tibbetts, and Susan Leach presented readings from the *Lost at Sea* exhibit. Refreshments and casual conversation followed.

2017 Yard and Bake Sale a Success



Chair Susan Leach & sister Sally Sewall price treasures

The fifth annual Yard and Bake Sale was held July 15th at Hawke Motors. Many, many thanks for all the donations of merchandise and baked goods, all the volunteers and of course the shoppers! We had a great turnout and raised more than \$1,700, exceeding last year's total.

Ann Sutter and her volunteers commandeered the bake sale tent full of goodies. As usual, the pies went early.

This year the baked goods were sheltered by a wonderful tent donated by Barney Brown of Thunderledge Woodwrights. Many thanks. We also appreciate the use of the prime venue and the support of Stephanie Hawke and the folks at Hawke Motors. The location at the red building next to Hawke Motors allowed us to hold the yard sale rain or shine. Luckily this year it was 100% shine. Next year's sale is already in the works . . . so please keep us in mind.

Cheese & Treats

The weather was perfect for our annual cheese sale at the Fall Foliage Festival and at the museum. In addition to two kinds of cheeses, visitors purchased books, gift bags, magnets, and vintage postcards.

At the museum, Susan Lloyd and husband Tom Frields once again manned a table filled with cheese and baked treats. Susan says, "More!" for next year.

Thanks to all who helped us raise over \$1,500 through this important fundraiser. All proceeds support the society's mission. See you in 2018.



Trustee Kay Evans hands out tasty cheese samples

Wishlist: We're looking for a microcassette recorder to use for personal interviews around town. If you have one to donate, please contact the office at 207-633-0820 or at brhs@gwi.net.

In Memoriam By Barbara Rumsey

Ronnie Spofford, (1929-2017) a historical society trustee from 2004 to 2015 and about the nicest guy in town, died at 87 in May. He was a lifelong resident of Barters Island, leaving for spells now and then when a job beckoned, but always returning. Being local often meant doing 12 things, and he did his share, mostly here: on the *Nellie G*, in the family service station, in the army,

in the photography business, with Trailways, running a motel, cooking in restaurants, doing bus tours, and being a school bus driver. The only thing I think he didn't do was work in a shipyard!

Though he travelled widely throughout his life, he was truly a local guy, pulling his weight for the good of his community of family, friends, co-workers, and fellow members of many organizations. As I wrote in 2015, we valued him highly at the society: he always showed up at events to be a friendly presence for visitors, he took charge of one of our annual fundraisers, and he could be counted on at meetings to be a grounded, humorous, and kind voice with one goal—simple common sense.



2014 talk on Barters Island

Membership Matters

Presently we have 587 members. We wish to thank all our members for your continued support, vital to the society's day-to-day operation. 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

Lisa and James Gray
David and Heather Vigil

Donald DeLeo

Nancy Root

Jennifer Bartlett

Constance Saindon

Richard and Laurie Simmons

Dee and Sal DeCarlo

George Doran

John and Susan Morris

Robert W. Burgess

Sarah Wentworth

Keith Lord

Helen Hamilton Paulson Trust

In memory of Helen Paulson

George and Rita-Ann Hofmann

Anne Burt

Joseph and Brenda Sullivan

Wesley Jordan

Deborah Anne Cotter

James and Sandra Barry

Andover, Mass.

Birmingham, Mich.

East Boothbay

Concord, N.H.

Tampa, Fla.

East Boothbay

Boothbay

Lyndhurst, N.J.

Stratham, N.H.

Boothbay

Sarasota, Fla.

Boothbay

West Covina, Calif.

Elkins Park, Penn.

Gansevoort, N.Y.

Port Lauace, Texas

Camden, S.C.

Alexandria, Vermont

Boothbay Harbor

Randolph, Vermont

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS**Maps:**

1856 Boothbay.....\$1.00

1885 Boothbay Harbor.....\$5.00

1948 Boothbay Region with house sites.....\$12.00

Our most popular books:

The Boothbay Region, 1906-1960; Clifford.....\$12.95

Boothbay Region Historical Sketches II; Rumsey.....\$15.00

Boothbay Region Historical Sketches III; Rumsey.....\$16.00

Colonial Boothbay, mid-1600s-1775; Rumsey.....\$16.00

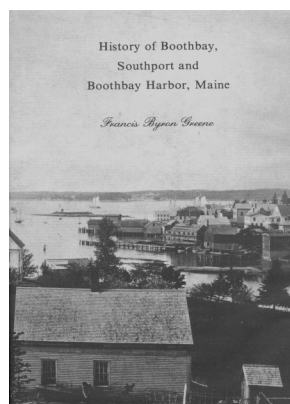
Family History of the Boothbay Region; Greene.....\$25.00

Hodgdon Shipbuilding and Mills; Rumsey.....\$15.00

Shipping Days of Old Boothbay; Rice.....\$45.00

Shop our gift area for more books & maps, BRHS magnets, commemorative coins, vintage postcards, notepaper, historical photographs, and more.

Members receive a 10% discount (excluding aprons)



Holiday Special!
20% off—\$48.00
(originally \$60.00)

History of Boothbay, Southport, and Boothbay Harbor
The complete version by
Francis B. Greene



*The BRHS logo apron, with pockets, is the perfect gift for a chef, crafter, or gardener. Choose navy, red, tan or dark green. **\$25.00** Call to order or stop by the museum.*

Collections by Barbara Rumsey

Ken Hanson, Margaret Tew, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder, 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. Many thanks to all!

To highlight one effort, Ken has laboriously cataloged much of our Jim and Donna Waugh collections. Jim, one of our founding members, was a printer at McKown Point who's now retired to Nevada. Ken listed Jim's Region Aires, free pictorial pocket-sized guides for local people and tourists from 1958 to 1985. Jim included goings-on, businesses profiles, and short human interest stories.

Both Jim and his daughter Genie O'Connell brought us Region Aires over a period of years. Genie also brought in Jim's printing job orders for pamphlets, menus, price lists, etc. from 1960 to 1985, approximately 230 each year. They provide a snapshot of existing businesses in any year. Ken completely listed and cataloged them too. All our volunteers' efforts enable us to do a respectable job of cataloging which helps future researchers.

Acquisitions

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

Gail McPhee: written short region histories by Clarence "Bud" Barter; book *In Old Boothbay* by Charlotte Beath Brown

Tom Blake: Boothbay Harbor High School yearbooks: 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950

Marnie Savastano: cassette of interview she did with Paul Adams and Lucy Marlowe

Nora Brewer: audiocassette of interview she did with Bob Goodspeed

Richard Lippincott: Methodist Hymnal

Susan Stewart: various mid-1900s publications on Maine history

Wayne Keene: jar of sea glass collected at Ocean Point by his mother Evelyn Keene

Squirrel Island Historical Society: Claire Newbury book, *Squirrel Island Families, 2013*

Squirrel Island Library: collection of local photographs

Ronnie Spofford family: textbook *English Activities*; book *Cap'n Ed* by Violet Smith; book *Up Here in Maine* by Gerald Lewis; book *Looking Backward* by Luther Maddocks

Walter Reed Jr.: *The Maine Register*, 1822

Liz Colton: Framed cross-stitch image of The Smiling Cow; Maine photograph book, *Along the Maine Coast*

Mike Wright: paperweight scene of Boothbay Harbor panorama

Pat Jackson: family maps and plans

Geoff Smith: packing box pieces painted with Dr. Stevens address

Audiocassettes from speakers: Chris Hoffman on non-school baseball in the

region; Mike Dekker and Paul Diaute speaking on 1600s codfishing from Damariscove; Ron Richardson speaking about his experiences aboard the *Blue Dolphin*

Articles

Below are articles that have appeared in the column, *Out of Our Past*, in the Boothbay Register since the last newsletter. Seven were by Barbara Rumsey (one with help from Sam Stevens) and three were by Anne Sabo Warner.

Civilian Help During World War II, Part II

Deep Depression Years in E. Boothbay
East Boothbay Memorial Day and Hope (Sam Stevens)

50 Years of Artifacts

Pemaquid Messenger 1889

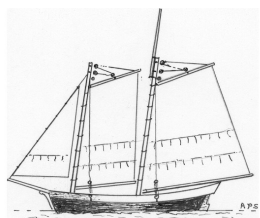
A Summer Job at Linekin Bay Camp, Parts I to III, by Anne Warner

50 Years of Local History

Hurricane Carol, 1954

High School Yearbooks

Thanks to many donors, over the years we've built up a fairly good collection of high school yearbooks. We would be delighted if any readers would like to part with theirs to help complete the collection. Our missing years: 1951, 1954, 1978, 1994, 1995, 2000, and 2011 through 2017.



Have You Been Upstairs?

We recently learned some people were unaware the museum's second floor holds a treasure trove of local history. While the first floor offers artifacts ranging from prehistoric arrowheads to historical maps, upstairs exhibits depict daily life at home, school, and around town. The industry room highlights businesses that have come and gone through the years. Local fishing is the focus in one room and the Dash room is filled with maritime instruments, charts, logbooks, photos, and boatbuilding plans. We hope you'll stop by to browse the entire museum. For more information on our permanent exhibits, visit the society's website:

www.boothbayhistorical.org. To donate items related to local history, please contact the office.

Building & Grounds

Tony Barnes delivered a second shed in late May. He also stained both sheds and built a solid set of steps that now exit the cold room.

Jeff Savastano repaired and repainted the signboards out front; and Corey Wells did some weeding, shrub trimming, and weedwacking to spruce up before the August party. Brian Barter continues to take care of the lawn mowing. Thanks to all four.





BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 272, 72 Oak Street
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0272

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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

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



Free! Stocking Stuffers

The Region Aire was published monthly by Jim Waugh from 1958 to 1985. The calendar entries, ads, photos and stories give a wonderful glimpse into region goings-on.

We have hundreds of complimentary copies for you to pick from here at the museum. Choose a souvenir to remember times in the region or to mark a special occasion such as an anniversary or birthday.

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 _____

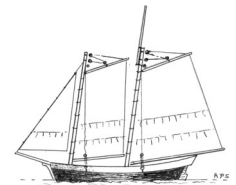
Address _____

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.