



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 31, Issue 1

Spring 2018

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 4:00

The Boothbay Region Historical Society board of trustees cordially invites members of the society and the general public to join them at the museum, 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor, for the 2018 annual meeting.

This year's special program will be presented by Kathy Goldner, the society's new outreach manager. The program will follow a brief business meeting to review society activities during the past year and to elect new trustees and officers. The membership will vote on the following slate submitted by the nominating committee. Being re-nominated to the board for three-year terms are Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder, and Lorraine Hodgdon.

Accepting nominations for new board membership are Charlie Bamberg, Laurie Simmons, and Arthur Webster. Kathy Tibbetts, Jan Reit, Sarah Giles and Kay Evans have accepted nominations for the offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary respectively.

After the business meeting, President Kathy Tibbetts will introduce Kathy Goldner who will present an illustrated talk, *Why We Can't Live without History*. She will discuss "why the knowledge of history is a necessary and essential component of our sense of well-being, and how delving into history can be a life-changing experience." Kathy is involved with multiple historical societies and projects around Maine and will share her enthusiasm and energy with the group.

Members of the audience are invited to stay for refreshments following the program.



2018 Speaker Series

May 10: The Tenders of Southport Bridge

Bridge tenders Dwight and Duane Lewis will share fascinating and unusual stories from their family's three generations tending Maine's historic Southport Bridge. Find out how they tracked down a stolen vessel!



July 26: History of Washburn & Doughty Associates

Today, Washburn & Doughty Associates, Inc. of East Boothbay specializes in the construction of steel and aluminum commercial vessels, but it began with discussions around the kitchen table over a design for a small dragger. Naval architect Bruce Washburn will discuss the evolution of the company which he and Bruce Doughty founded in 1977.



August 23: 1950s Vaudeville Shows Rise Once More!

Revisit the cultural scene of Boothbay Harbor in the 1950s as Ron Richardson describes how his father led his family, and many others, in staging a long series of musicals and vaudeville shows at the Opera House. Share your memories of these musical times.



September 6: History of Quilting Trunk Show

Finally, in September we will learn about quilting styles and traditions from Edgecomb native Wendy Caton Reed. Wendy will present selections from her popular collection of historic quilts from northern New England.



Programs start at 4:30 p.m. Doors will open at 4:10. Final details will be advertised a few weeks in advance on the museum sign board, in the *Boothbay Register*, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

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

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe all the things that went on at the museum this year! Looking back at my first year as president, we enjoyed several different exhibits and celebrated our golden 50th Anniversary with its many events. The very popular "Focus on 50" exhibit will remain in place throughout the museum for an extended period of time, so please stop in to see it if you haven't already done so. If you have seen it, stop in again or bring a friend. We love to

see new faces!

We finished up the year with a festive holiday open house. The museum is always so beautifully decorated. Our trustees and volunteers do a wonderful job — thank you to them all. Over the winter we've been busy too. We've done repairs to several rooms upstairs, patching and painting to give them a facelift, just in time for spring. With more work still to be done, we should be in fine shape for more wonderful events ahead this summer. There will be guest speakers sharing their stories as well as several fundraisers to help support our society and its amazing collections and archives.

Unfortunately, not all our news was good news this year. We were shocked and saddened by the loss of Susan Leach, a devoted trustee, who passed away unexpectedly while on vacation. Susan touched us all, she worked tirelessly on nearly every aspect of the historical society. Her presence at the museum will be greatly missed. She brought a smile to each of us. We will miss her, and our thoughts go out to her husband and family.

Lastly, I would like to invite all of you to our annual meeting on May 15th. Attending members will vote for new trustees and officers. Our guest speaker will be Kathy Goldner, a new addition to our staff. She has joined us as our new outreach manager. So, please mark your calendars to stop by and meet all the new faces.

As always, thank you for your membership and support. We could not carry out our mission of preserving the Boothbay region's history without you.

Susan Leach

Trustee Susan Leach passed away on January 30, 2018. From the time she joined the board in 2013, Susan made an immediate impact by working tirelessly on many of the society's biggest projects. She organized and designed our newsletters, shepherded the reframing of historical maps, worked on exhibits, and took a leading role in planning the society's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Each of the last four summers, Susan and her sister, Sally Sewall, organized highly successful yard sales to benefit the society. Susan was a wonderful ambassador for the historical society. Her generous and energetic spirit will be greatly missed by all who worked with her at the museum.



"Electric smile" "Unflagging optimism" "Kind word for all"
"Energizer bunny" "Easy and fun to work with"

*Sally & Susan
at the 2017 yard sale*

2017 Calendar

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

May 10, 4:30 p.m. Dwight & Duane Lewis speakers
Three generations of tending the Southport Bridge

May 15, 4:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
Business meeting and program with Kathy Goldner

July 26, 4:30 p.m. Bruce Washburn, speaker
The Evolution of Washburn & Doughty Associates

July 18-21 & July 25-28: Silent auction

July 28: Bake sale and close of silent auction

August 23, 4:30 p.m. Ron Richardson, speaker
1950s Vaudeville Shows Rise Once More!

September 6, 4:30 p.m. Wendy Caton Reed, speaker
History of Quilting Trunk Show

October 6, 9:00 a.m. Annual Cheese Sale
Fall Foliage Festival, Railway Village

**December 1, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Annual Holiday
Open House** at the museum

New Outreach Manager for BRHS



Kathy Goldner was hired in January as Boothbay Region Historical Society's first outreach manager. Kathy will reach out to the public and to our members via our website, a monthly digital newsletter, and Facebook. She is also developing educational programs, and working on exhibit ideas, collections management, publicity, and grant writing. Her position is part-time.

Kathy has a B.A. in art history from Boston University and has worked in publicity, community outreach, collections management, and educational programming in museums and galleries in Massachusetts and Maine, including Boothbay Railway Village and Penobscot Marine Museum.

The trustees are pleased to welcome Kathy. She may be reached directly at boothbayhistoric@gmail.com.

Touring the Museum—A Walk Through Time

Our collection of historic artifacts date back to tools created by indigenous peoples a few thousand years ago. When the first permanent settlers arrived in 1730, they lived off the land and sea, often bartering for goods and services. Life in the region remained much the same into the 19th century.



These Indian artifacts, found along the Sheepscot River, may be 500-3000 years old.

As the Industrial Revolution spread from Europe to America in the later 1800s, we see its effects in the development of local industries, such as large-scale fish processing and ice harvesting. Our displays of 19th-century manufactured tools and

home goods, as well as account books, and personal letters attest to this development.



Workers in the ice industry wore spiked boots while cutting large blocks from local ponds

The museum's 19th and early 20th century displays include marine charts, shipbuilding plans, early navigation tools, half-models, and a photo display of local schooners and steamers. Early home and school displays include items of daily life, such as kitchenwares, clothing, spectacles, tintype and daguerreotype photographs, along with early school photos.

As you wander through the mu-

seum, you will find such oddly fascinating items as flowers from Mary Todd Lincoln's White House garden, a homemade telephone, local advertising items, medical instruments, toys, 18th-century china, albums of local postcards, and the homemade anchor shown below.



Homemade killich anchors were common as fishermen made do with items at hand

The museum is open Thursday through Saturday, 10:00-2:00. (207) 633-0820; brhs@gwi.net. For information on events and exhibits follow us on Facebook or visit our website: www.boothbayhistorical.org

Collections by Barbara Rumsey

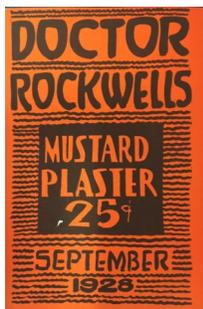
Margaret Tew, Jan Reit, Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder, and Kay Evans have been helping with the nuts and bolts of the core of the society, caring for the artifact and documentary collections by accessioning, cataloging, and labeling artifacts, photos, and documents. Many thanks to all!

Between retired printer Jim Waugh and his daughter Genie O'Connell we have a fine collection of Jim's Region Aires, near-weekly guides that Jim printed from 1958 to 1985. We have so many of them that we are offering extras FREE to visitors, while keeping a couple of copies of each issue. Local people have been delighted to find issues that include pictures of family members, often sending them to people who would enjoy reading what was going on locally at any given time.

Acquisitions

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

Pam Reed: one of Doc Rockwell's Mustard Plaster magazines



Richard McFarland: pharmacy bottles from Harris and Harris & McClearn found in his yard

David Tibbetts: braided marine nylon line made by Boothbay Braids in 1970s or 1980s, D. H. Moody pharmacy bottle found in his yard, stock certificate of Dexter Hodgdon, canvas ditty bag owned by Max Tibbetts decorated with a pin-up girl and "Boothbay Maine USNR"

Anonymous: Porter's Drug Store pill box, Dr. Proctor, mid-1900s; Harris Drug Co. bottles, Oakhurst Dairy cream bottle

Pat Jackson: 1823 and 1832 Adams Bibles

Region Community TV: DVD of Bill Wilson talk on the *Titanic*; DVD of Damariscove lobstermen Brian Barter, Charlie Gould, Dave Norton, and Dean Morrison

Squirrel Island Library: DVD of Indian basket weaving talk

Rob Huntley and Kitty Hartford: 1994 BRHS yearbook

Andrews family: Boothbay Harbor High School 1954 yearbook

Todd Hyson: late 1960s Rocktide plans

Skip and Gail McPhee: collection of Clarence "Bud" Barter's photos

Brenda Bettinson, Cordula Mathias: 1995 book by Peter Felsenthal, *New Growth: Portraits of Six Maine Organic Farms*

Marilyn Groves: 2017 book compiled by the author, *Vital Records of Boothbay & Southport, 1763-1895*

Richard Latter: 1906 Boothbay Harbor grammar school diploma, water district records 1931-1945

Allan McCobb: book, *The McCobb Family, History, and Genealogies, 1600s-1900s*. Published in 2018.

Allan McCobb of Kansas started researching the once-large Boothbay McCobb family 25 years ago, coming to Maine and Boothbay to do so. A distant relative, John McCobb of Washington, joined him in the search within a few years. I ran down deeds and local info on McCobbs going back 270 years, corresponding with and welcoming them each summer. Their exhaustive book about every McCobb who's lived is finally available. So all you local descendants—come in to read about your ancestors, and my congratulations to Allan and John!

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 with one by Bob Jacobson.

Hurricane Carol 1954

Hurricane Edna 1954

The Spread and Consolidation of Schools

High Schools

Hurricane Carol Again, Parts I and II

An East Boothbay Mariner Goes to China, 1877

Managing an East Boothbay

Mariner's Death in China, 1878

Building & Grounds

Jeff Savastano Jr. touched up, repaired, and repainted many rooms in the building, funded by a grant from the Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation. We're delighted that Mike Cook volunteered to help us out and joined the Buildings & Grounds committee. He'll be doing shoveling, yard work, and general all-around handyman work. Many thanks to Jeff, the McEvoy Foundation, and to Mike!

Membership Milestones through 2017-18

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.

Founding Members -

1967-68

Robert Barter
George McEvoy
James Waugh

Members for 40+ years

J Edward Knight Insurance
Jean Chenoweth
Robert Rice
Earl Walker
Bea Walker

Members for 30-39 years

Kitty Anagnost
Karen Bartholomew
Joseph Blake
Alan & Judy Burgess
Laird Cleaver
Royall & Eleanor Dodge
John Druce
James Farrin
Chester & Alice Fossett
Marjanne Gmelin-Foster
Carl Griffin
Richard & Shirley Hesse
William Logan
William Prince
Beverly Rawson-Dibble
John Alley Robbins
Barbara Rumsey
Brian Schutrumpf
Susan & Paul Strong

Members for 20-29 years

John & Nancy Abbott
Bruce Allen
William Allison
William & Jillian Allison
Caroline Andrews
Joseph Barbeau
Sally Barter
Miles & Sharon Barter
Marion Bates
Hugh & Nancy Beath
Brenda Bettinson &
Cordula Mathias
C. D. Binning
Thomas Bissell
Neil & Sheila Blake
Marti Booth & Larry
Brown
Steve Branch
Jeff & Celeste Brown
Mary Lee Brown
Melinda Browne
Barbara Bush
Robert Cerra
Philip & Laura Chapman
John Cocchiarella
George & Susan Craig
Janna Day
Zibette Dean
Elinor Downs
Reid & Harriet Ervin

Robert & Alberta Foster
John & Sarah Giles
Elbridge & June Giles
Sarah Giles
Dennis & Martha Gleason
Robert Goodspeed
Monica Halas & Robert
O'Connor
Halcyon Foundation
Daniel & Susan Haney
Kenneth & Nancy Hanson
Kitty Hartford
Anne Hayden
Frank & Marty Helman
Anthony Heyl
James Hunt
Wayne Keene
Knickerbocker Group
Joan Krause
Earl Leavitt
Dabney Lewis
Christina Linscott
Sandra Lowery
Frank & Nora Luke
Robert & Sally Maroon
Gail Marzluff
Allan McCobb
John McCobb
Francis Carroll McKown
Faith Meyer
William & Joan Murphy

Rupert Neily
Loraine Nickerson
Lynne & Fran Nicoletta
Ronald Orchard
Henry & Nylene Page
Anthony & Christine
Patton
Palmer Payne
Rick & Peggy Powis
David & Ilene Rapkin
Neal & Jean Reny
Richard Rubinger
Roger Severance
Robert Shepard
Evelyn Sherman
Addison Smith
Richard Spofford
John & Anna Marie Thron
Bruce Tindal
Mark Voight
Jutta & Ingo Walter
Lowell & Cindi Watson
Alicia Wiatrowski
Sarah Wolcott
Strohn Woodard
Connie Wright
Barbara Zarpentine
Margie Zeitman



*Royall & Eleanor Barter Dodge
members since 1982*

Membership: We currently have 584 members. Your support is vital to the mission of the society.

Thank you!

New members since the fall newsletter

Brian & Vanessa Brown	Boothbay
Sarah Fahnley	Boothbay
Hilary Bartlett	Boothbay Harbor
Betsy & John Zolper	Vienna, VA
Merry Auld Tea Co.	Boothbay
Ira & Constance Machon	Charleston, SC
Lucinda Witt	Boothbay Harbor



**Flowers from
Mary Todd
Lincoln's
White House
Garden sent
from Charles
McCobb to
Elizabeth
Blair
1861**



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@gwi.net
Web: boothbayhistorical.org
Follow us on Facebook**

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



Silent Auction & Bake Sale at the museum

Mark your calendar!
Auction items will be available
for bidding at the museum

**July 18-21 & July 25-28
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Winning bids will be
announced at our annual
bake sale on Saturday,
July 28. Watch for details
on our website, Facebook
page, and in the *Boothbay
Register*.



Give the Gift of Membership

A gift membership may lead someone to discover his or her family history, learn about their house or the 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 _____

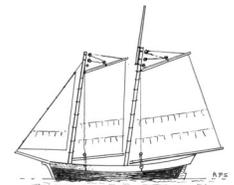
Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Choose Your Membership Level

- Individual \$ 15.00
- Family \$ 25.00
- Contributing \$ 50.00
- Supporting \$100.00
- 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.

Did you know ...?

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