



Boothbay Region Historical Society

BRHS News October 2018

Researching and preserving our history

From Our Collections



Barter's Island School c.1898 with teacher Stephen Pinkham on the left

Barters Island School

by Barbara Rumsey

Many may remember Betty Pinkham, who was born in 1912, died in 1999, and worked for many years at Logan's Village Store. In 1992 she gave me this photo of the Barters Island school as it appeared in the late 1890s when her father Stephen Pinkham taught there—she suspected 1898. Stephen, on the far right, was a Barters Islander born in 1878 and with an unusual future. He went on to Bowdoin College at a time when few local people went through high school and a rare few obtained advanced schooling, then to Western Electric, and finally he rose high in Remington Rand until his premature death in 1936.

The schoolhouse was built in 1892 by carpenters Paul and George Giles, replacing an older, smaller one built in 1825. I don't think I ever knew what happened to the old school; usually they were sold and often moved elsewhere. This lower island school in school district #13 covered all grades including, for a while, a two-year high school. The Barters Island school district was created in 1817, before which the island was part of the Back River school district. A district #13 division came in 1837, when school district #11 was formed on the upper part of the island. I've written quite a bit about the upper island school. District numbers were abolished by state decree in 1892, but the old familiar numbers hung on.

In 1992 I talked to Floyd Pinkham, who lived on the upper west side of the island. Among other topics, he helped me identify a few features in this photo. He told me the barn on the left was John Dunton's and near the property owned by Joel Lewis in 1992. Floyd also said that the ledges above the barn and to the right were traditionally called "Stover's Ledges." I decided to confirm Stephen Pinkham's teaching years at school #13 by consulting Boothbay town reports. They are a wonderful source of information about the pre-modern era since they list every person or entity paid by the town. (Pre-modern is before the 1950s by my personal quirky standard—the introduction of town managers seems to have brought with it a more antiseptic and business-school flavor to town affairs and accounts). Between 1895 and 1914 Stephen was paid to teach at the lower Barters Island school only in 1896 and 1898, which matched Betty's statement. Probably the horse and carriage belong to the photographer. You know how tall many island Lewises have been and are? Maybe the tall barefoot boys on the right are Lewises.

For more articles by Barbara Rumsey check our website
www.boothbayhistorical.org/out-of-our-past

Save the date



Annual Harbor Lights Open House

Saturday, December 1, from 10 am to 2 pm

You won't want to miss our annual community open house! Our beautiful museum, the 1874 home of Elizabeth F. Reed, will be decked out for the holidays with lovely vintage decorations, traditional greens, historical photos, and vintage holiday cards. Delicious homemade holiday foods, hot mulled beverages, and yummy treats will be served.



BRHS Adult Education Classes

LOOKING AT HISTORY THROUGH OUR COLLECTIONS

Wednesday, October 17, 6 pm to 8 pm

The Boothbay region is one of the earliest regions of Maine to be settled by Europeans. Discover the exciting history of the area through fascinating objects in the Boothbay Region Historical Society collection. Presented by BRHS outreach manager Kathy Goldner. **This is a Boothbay Region Adult & Community Education class, held**

at Boothbay Region High School, 236 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, Maine from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, October 17. Class fee is \$10.

For more information and to register online click [here](#).

GROWING UP IN MAINE IN THE 1800s

Wednesday, November 28, 6pm to 8 pm

We will look at the lives of children in the nineteenth century through their own words, and discover the duties, responsibilities, school work, and farm work which children in Maine accomplished with skill, joy, and pride. Presented by BRHS outreach manager Kathy Goldner. **This is a Boothbay Region Adult & Community Education class, held at Boothbay Region High School, 236 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, Maine from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, November 28. Class fee is \$10.**

For more information and to register online click [here](#).

Or check our BRHS website [Events Page](#).

BRHS Education News



Last spring third graders at BRES wrote with a quill pen on hand-made paper as part of our hands-on history program.

We are excited to be back this fall at Boothbay Region Elementary School presenting Boothbay region history in the third grade classrooms. Our first classroom visit will be in November, and we will keep you posted.

Cheese glorious cheese is still on sale at BRHS!

Stop by, see the museum, and buy some delicious cheese.
10 am to 2 pm, Wednesday through Saturday, while supply lasts.



Membership News

Thank you to our new members
whose support helps us preserve our cultural heritage:

Ross and Trina Ragan, Boothbay, Maine

Not a member of BRHS yet? Did you know that memberships start at \$15?

Your membership helps us in our mission to promote interest in the history of
the Boothbay region and to preserve the region's history.

[Click here](#) to join. We now accept credit cards.



*So what on earth are these? They are flowers from The White House garden of Mary Todd Lincoln, picked by Boothbay, Maine resident Charles McCobb in 1861. He sent them to his Boothbay sweetheart Elizabeth Blair. Charles McCobb was killed at the battle of Gettysburg.
From our collections*



Come visit!

**Boothbay Region Historical Society is open all year,
Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

Celebrate our cultural heritage

[Follow us on Facebook](#)
[or click here for our website.](#)

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