

## **BRHS News November 2018**

*Researching and preserving our history*

### **From Our Collections**



*This June 1918 photo postcard of the Coast Patrol's barracks in the Lewis Block (Carbone building) looks east. It was then occupied on the street level by R. G. Hodgdon's clothing store and Pierce's furniture store. This photo is one of the few such views that shows the top of the building where the flagman and bugler appeared every morning and sundown during part of World War I to the delight of children like Morrill Colby.*

# The Coast Patrol, 1917 - 1918

By Barbara Rumsey

During World War I a unit of the naval Coast Patrol was stationed here to patrol this section of the coast in civilian "drafted" boats. The barracks for the 100 men of the 4th District Section Base in the 1st Naval District were the upper floors of the Lewis Block, the lower floor of which was occupied by local businesses, including Carbone's store for many decades.

No doubt there were countless local memories of the men stationed here but, as far as I know, they have disappeared with the loss of the generation that then lived in town and witnessed 1917 and 1918 events. However, one gift of memories was sent to the local paper.

## *Morrill Colby*

Lucille Machon's brother, Morrill Colby, gave his childhood recollections of the Coast Patrol to the Register about 30 years ago. "In 1918, after I had passed my fifth birthday and I could go to the store by myself, I would get up early to walk down to the corner of McKown and Commercial streets. I would wait on the curb of Commercial until the flagman and the bugler came to the flat on the roof of the barracks, which was enclosed with a fence and included a flagpole. The flagman raised the flag to the top of the flagpole, while the bugler played the bugle call for raising the colors.

"I would return home then and have breakfast and wait at home until it was time for the sailors to start drilling and marching. I would return to Commercial Street and sit on the stairs of Marr's clothing store [Janson's] at the top of the hill leading down to the Eastern Steamship wharf, where the sailors were doing their drilling. Sometimes I would come back at sundown when the flagman and the bugler lowered the flag."

The accompanying photo is one of the few east-looking close-ups that shows most of the top of the Lewis Block with its flat section where the flag was raised and lowered. I imagine any number of children, like Morrill, were delighted with the young servicemen in town.

## *X Marks the Spot*

The back of the postcard accompanying this article is dated June 8, 1918 and was sent to Mrs. Rose Kneeland of Topsfield, Mass. from C. H. K. He wrote, "This is where I am living. I am well located. Your letter & pkg came tonight. Surprised my card went so quickly. Am wearing the chain & like it first rate. Has rained all day but has cleared off. I may go to work in the office as they need more help. The X is where I am quartered for the present."

In my years in local history, I've met many men who returned for a visit after wartime service brought them here. Many were members of pick-up crews for locally-built minesweepers and coastal transports in World War II or the Korean "police action." Some servicemen came back to stay decades ago. Lucy Marlowe's husband Fred, from Lowell, Massachusetts, met Lucy at Ocean Point during World War II while patrolling the coast in a jeep from the Damariscotta army headquarters of the land-based shore patrol. He came back after the war to marry Lucy and live here until he died.

Many of the 12 or so coast patrol snapshots had last names written on them. From those fragments, Earl Leavitt, adept at navigating military matters, was able to determine that at least six

of the men were Maine natives. Those included the local commander, Arthur Stetson, who was a Bath native.

Bess Reed, one of the ladies who made the men welcome in the recreational center created for them, had a postcard of Arthur Stetson standing outside the barracks. She wrote on the back that he was later a judge in California, so surely they stayed in touch. That makes me wonder if the men who were stationed here in 1917-1918, such as Stetson or Kneeland, came back for visits. Perhaps current summer families are descended from a man who "summered" here 100 years ago in the Coast Patrol.

Peace was declared November 11, 1918 and the servicemen slowly trickled away.



For more articles by Barbara Rumsey check our website  
[www.boothbayhistorical.org/out-of-our-past](http://www.boothbayhistorical.org/out-of-our-past)



*Raymond Pennoyer (1891-1959)*

New display at BRHS  
**100th Anniversary of Armistice Day**

Armistice Day, renamed Veterans Day after World War II ended, was November 11, 1918. To mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Raymond Pennoyer's World War I army uniform and documents about Harriet Delamere's years nursing the wounded in France will be on exhibit at BRHS as of Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Did a member of your family serve in the armed forces or as a nurse during this conflict? Please share your stories.



We are open year-round,  
Thursdays through Saturdays,  
10 am to 2 pm.

Boothbay Region Historical Society,  
72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor.

For more information go to [www.boothbayhistorical.org](http://www.boothbayhistorical.org).



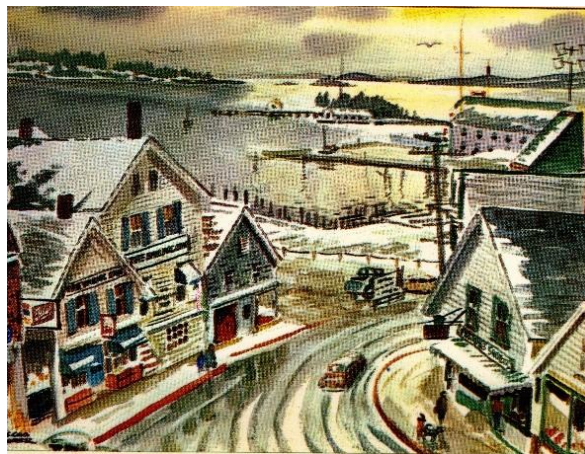
# Annual Harbor Lights Open House

Saturday, December 1, from 10 am to 2 pm

*All are welcome!*

Stop by the museum to warm up between Harbor Lights Festival activities and browse two full floors of displays highlighting life in the Boothbay region. Vintage decorations, historic photographs and postcards, and sounds of the season will help set the holiday mood, along with hot mulled drinks, our signature teas, and an array of holiday finger foods and desserts. Check out the holiday sale table and take a chance on specially themed gift baskets. Local historian Barbara Rumsey will be on hand to chat and answer research questions.

During this year's holiday open house, the society will also present its latest exhibit featuring uniforms worn by community members as they participated in local activities: Harry Pinkham's community band uniform, Olive McKay Wright's nursing school cape from St. Andrews Hospital in the 1930s, and an early Knights of Pythias uniform worn by Charles Thomas Orne of West Boothbay Harbor. This exhibit will be on display until next spring.





*Pressed flowers from the White House garden picked by Boothbay, Maine resident Charles McCobb in 1861 will be one of the artifacts discussed in class.*

## Adult Education Classes

This November, Boothbay Region Adult and Community Education offers two classes on Boothbay and Maine history taught by Boothbay Region Historical Society Outreach manager Kathy Goldner. ***Looking at History Through Our Collections, November 14, 4 pm to 6 pm*** will look at artifacts from the BRHS collection as a way to connect to the fascinating stories of Boothbay's history and to the broader history of Maine.

***Growing Up in Maine in the 1800s, November 28, 4 pm to 6 pm,*** will look at the lives of children in the nineteenth century through their own words, and illuminate the duties, responsibilities, school work, and farm work which children in Maine accomplished with skill, joy, and pride.

**Boothbay Region Adult and Community Education classes are given at Boothbay Region High School, 236 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, Maine.** Registration fee is \$10. For more information and to register for a class go to [www.boothbayae.maineadulted.org](http://www.boothbayae.maineadulted.org).

Kathy Goldner is the Outreach Manager at Boothbay Region Historical Society. Her passion is bringing history to life. Kathy has worked at Penobscot Marine Museum, Boothbay Railway Village, taught Shakespeare for Belfast Adult Education, and developed a popular literature and history enrichment program for Waldo County public schools.

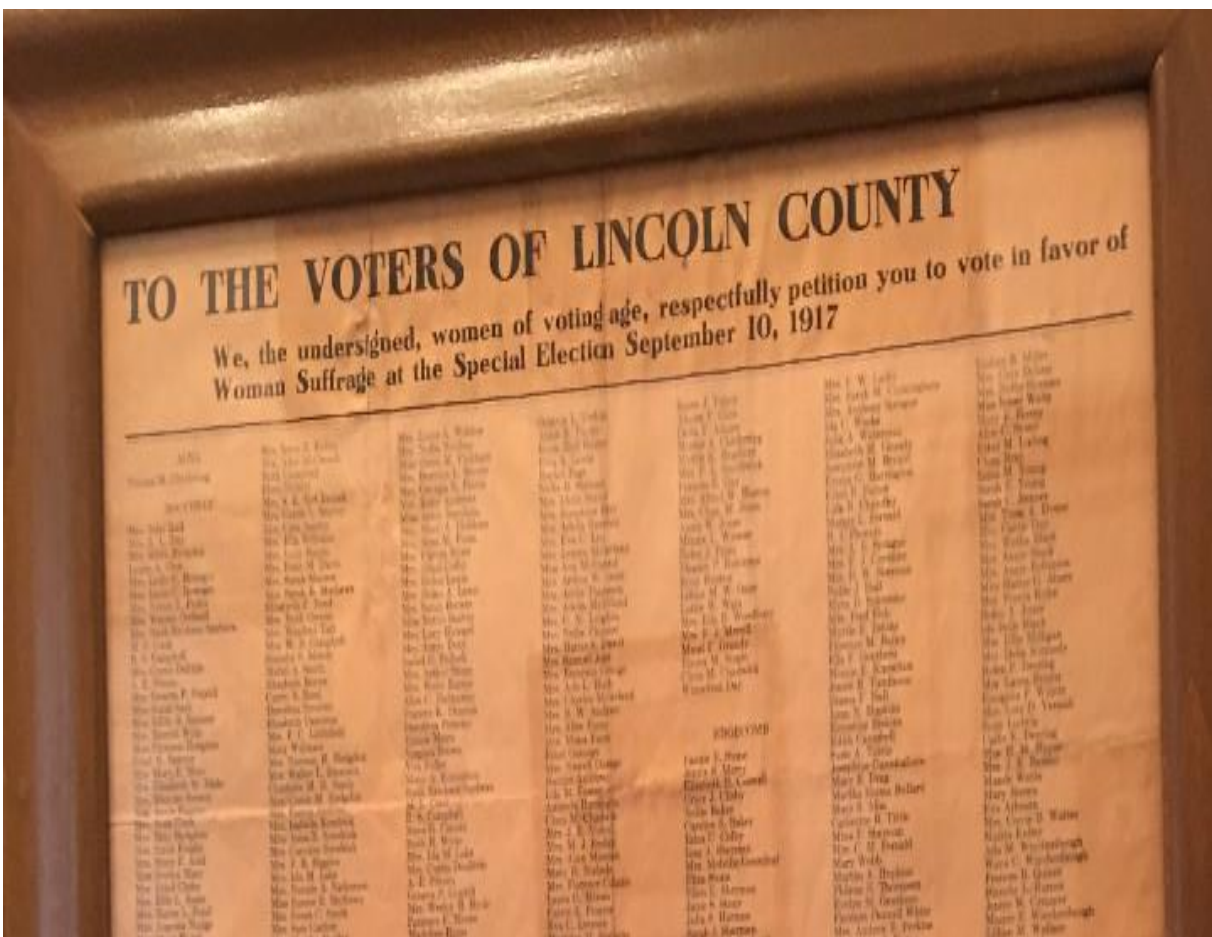
# Members' Corner

We welcome our new BRHS members  
**Harold Burnham and Mary Kay Taylor, Essex, Massachusetts**

Thank you!

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

Not a member yet? [Click here](#) to join. We now accept credit cards.





**Come visit us**

**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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