



## **BRHS News September 2019**

*Researching and preserving our history*

### **From Our Archives**



*At the September 1944 dedication Mrs. Arthur Dodge stands on the left of the first honor roll while Mrs. Roland Burke stands on its right. The seated Boothbay Region Band tunes up.*

## **The Honor Roll at Boothbay Center**

By Barbara Rumsey  
(written in 1995)

Article #51 on the 1944 town meeting warrant proposed an article: "To see if the town will vote to erect a permanent honor roll for the men and women of the town of Boothbay, who are serving in

the present World War II. To select a committee to work in conjunction with the Selectmen [Herbert Pinkham, Philip Bryer, and Lawrence Farmer] and the Civilian Defense Committee of the town of Boothbay and to raise a sum of money to defray expenses and to choose a location for the erection of the said honor roll. Act or transact anything relating thereto." The townspeople raised \$500 at town meeting for its construction.

Evidently, the arrangements went smoothly for the September 15, 1944 paper reported that the selectmen had set the dedication of the honor roll for the next Sunday afternoon. Bradford Redonnett, a Wiscasset lawyer, was to be the speaker; Rev. M. Stetson Lincoln, pastor of the Boothbay Center and Barters Island Baptist Churches, was to give the invocation; and the Boothbay Region Band was to play. "The Flag and wording on the top of the eight-foot-high and fifteen-foot-long honor roll cabinet has been painted by Ernest Leeman while the names were lettered by Samuel Dingley assisted by Peter Granger. The woodwork on the cabinet has been the construction work of George H. Reed."

The following week the paper reported on the unveiling, praising the patriotic speech made by Redonnett, who "spoke very highly of the young people who are paying the price of sacrifice for their country in this present war. He challenged the folks on the home front to do their part." The honor roll was unveiled by Mrs. Arthur Dodge whose son, Dwight Dodge, was the first casualty in the Boothbay region and Mrs. Roland Burke, whose husband was recently reported killed in action in England. Two of the servicemen home on leave stood at attention while the cabinet was unveiled and while the band played the national anthem. Sherburne Stevens led the band concert that opened the program, and first selectman Herbert Pinkham introduced the ceremony. George Lowry of Barters Island and Milton Giles of Giles Hill in North Boothbay were honored at the dedication for both having five sons in the service. All of George's sons served: Donald, Ernest, Lee, Robert, and George; and five of Milton's nine sons served: George E. (Red), Milton, Paul, Lincoln, and Elmer. The names of the 140 men in service from the town of Boothbay were recited.

Six years later, a November gale blew the honor roll down. On May 25, 1951, the paper noted that funds were not available to fix it. "It was originally the intent of the selectmen to have the honor roll repaired in time for Memorial Day. But an inspection by a local carpenter indicated the structure was in much worse condition than had been first believed. Thought has been given to the erection of a permanent brick or stone type honor roll, but there are insufficient funds for such a plan."

Evidently, feeling was aroused in the town to remedy the situation without recourse to town meeting. The November 23, 1951 paper announced that a brick memorial had been erected to replace the temporary wooden memorial that blew down. In explaining how the brick monument came to be, the article mentioned that a town appropriation of \$100, made for repairs to the old memorial, was added to the fund for the new one.

Town manager Preston King said the memorial "was made possible by the efforts of several townspeople who donated time and money." The brick and cement structure was built by Bennie Lewis of East Boothbay who donated his time; the panel of names was lettered by Baxter Rice without charge. Funds to buy the materials came partly from the Boothbay Ladies Aid, who donated \$150. The monument was built at the Lewis home and brought to the Center on a truck

donated by Clarence Townsend. Several other volunteers helped set the heavy structure on its foundation." According to Pie Lewis of East Boothbay, his father Bennie also made the war memorial near the bridge in East Boothbay.

The 1952 town report, covering 1951 events, printed a picture of town manager King standing in front of the present service board, with the caption, "Erected in memory of those who served and those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War II, this permanent service-board will serve as a tribute to their unselfish devotion to their country for years to come. A generous contribution by the Thursday Club and a willingness to render a community service by Mr. Bennie Lewis made the erection of this excellent service memorial possible."

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

## EVENTS

Thursday, October 5, 4:30 pm

### *History of Quilting Trunk Show*



Back by popular request! Wendy Caton Reed will present fifty of her quilts and discuss historic styles of quilting in her popular *History of Quilting Trunk Show*. Wendy grew up on River Road in Edgecomb, Maine and was taught to quilt by her neighbor Arzetta Poole when she was nine years old. She has been quilting ever since and is well known for her original interpretations of traditional designs. Wendy's quilts have been exhibited at the National Quilt Museum and the New England Quilt Museum, and have won awards including the Purchase Award from the American Museum of Folk Art.

**Saturday, October 12**

***Extremely Scrumptious Cheese and Bake Sale  
and Raffle Drawing***



**Grafton Village Cheese Sale 9:00 until we are sold out  
at Fall Foliage Festival, Boothbay Railway Village**

**Grafton Village Cheese and Bake Sale 10:00 – 2:00  
at Boothbay Region Historical Society**

**AND Fire Engine Ride Raffle Drawing!**



**Win a chance for you and up to 7 companions to enjoy a private ride on Charlie Bamberg's beautiful 1957 International Pumper next summer. Your unforgettable**



two-hour tour may be scheduled on a date convenient for both you and Charlie between the end of May and September 10, 2020.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 and may be purchased at the Society's museum or by sending a check and self-addressed stamped envelope to BRHS, PO Box 272, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.

**For more information on upcoming events, please check our website's [Events Calendar](#).**

## CURRENT EXHIBITS



### Ranco Basketmakers

The Boothbay Region Historical Society is currently exhibiting baskets and gift items made by the Ranco family from 1906 to the mid-1900s. From the advent of summer colonies in 1870s coastal Maine, Penobscot Indians seasonally came from the reservation in Old Town to make and sell their baskets to local buyers where there were summer visitors.

Read Barbara Rumsey's article in the Boothbay Register about the exhibit [here](#).  
To check our website for exhibits [click here](#).

## GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH



*Who are they?*

Come visit us and let us help you with your research. Our archives are extensive. For more information, including a list of family names, [click here](#) to check our website's Family Files page.

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*Boothbay Region Historical Society*

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*Come visit! We're open year-round,  
Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.*

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