



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 33, Issue 1

Spring 2020

Boothbay Region Historical Society Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Members of the society and the public are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Boothbay Region Historical Society on Tuesday, May 19, at 4:30 p.m.

This year's special program will be presented by East Boothbay's internationally renowned master sailmaker Nathaniel S. Wilson. The program will follow a brief business meeting to review society activities during the past year and to elect trustees and officers.

The membership will vote on the following slate submitted by the nominating committee. Accepting re-nomination to the board are Jim Botti, Sarah Giles, John Leonard, and Susan Lloyd. Nominated for a three-year term is Judy Adamson. Nominated for the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary are Kay Wilder, Kathy Tibbetts, Sarah Giles, and Debbe Cotter, respectively.

Guest speaker Nathaniel S. Wilson will talk on "The History of Sailmaking." Nat enlisted in the Coast Guard in the late 1960s and began making sails for the Coast Guard fleet. After his stint in the Coast Guard, he went to work for Connecticut's famed Mystic Seaport Museum where he learned the craft of making sails using traditional methods, an experience he enormously enjoyed.

In 1975, at a time when most sail lofts were closing up shop, Wilson moved to Maine and started Nathaniel S. Wilson Sailmaker, as a traditional sail making business in East Boothbay. Using modern materials but with traditional methods, he built a unique business with a worldwide clientele, including the vessels

U.S.S. Constitution, *Pride of Baltimore*, and the U.S. Coast Guard's training ship, *Eagle*.



Update: Based on Maine CDC guidance, the board of trustees will decide on May 5 whether to hold this year's annual meeting. We will reassess in late May for June events. The museum is closed to the public until further notice. General or research inquiries may be emailed or phoned to the office. Please stay well and follow our website or Facebook page for the latest news. For immediate updates, just call or email the office to sign up for our e-news.

Happy Birthday, Maine!

On March 15, 1820, Maine became the 23rd state to join the Union. This was not a simple process. Following the War of 1812, many inhabitants of the District of Maine began to agitate for separation from Massachusetts. In 1816, Massachusetts voted to allow Maine to separate and join the Union, if the majority of Maine voters agreed. However, when it became clear Missouri might enter as a slave state, many Mainers opposed the bill. Following several failed attempts, the majority of voters agreed to support the effort and a state constitution was written.

As Missouri continued to press for admission as a slave state, the petition for Maine statehood bogged down in the U.S. Congress. Southerners complained that adding Maine as a free state would tip the balance of power. The majority of Maine's congressional representatives voted against Missouri, declaring slavery was immoral and should be abolished. Eventually, the Missouri Compromise was signed on March 3, 1820, limiting the spread of slavery to below Missouri's southern border. This unpopular compromise and subsequent amendments eventually led to sectional violence and the Civil War.

The historical society will celebrate this milestone with new exhibits highlighting life along the coast during this era. Who were some of the people living in the region? What landmarks are still here? How has life here progressed over 200 years? We are pleased to be working with local third-grade students to illustrate new timelines for our display rooms.



Burnt Island Lighthouse

In March 1821, as recommended by the Secretary of the Navy, President James Madison authorized three lighthouses to be built in Maine. Boothbay Harbor was chosen as one of the sites due to its ease of access and safe anchorage in storms. That May, the federal government bought Burnt Island from local residents John McClintock and Jacob Auld for \$150. The five-acre island at the entrance to the harbor was deemed the ideal location for this life-saving landmark. The 30-foot high tower was most likely built from island granite. The lighthouse was ready for use within four months. Although the keeper's house has been replaced, the original tower still stands. In 1977, the lighthouse was added to the National Registry of Historic Places. The last lighthouse keeper left when the light was automated in 1988. Today, Burnt Island operates as a living museum, open to the public in summer.

FMI see www.keepersofburntislandlight.com
(Source: Elaine Jones)

Boothbay Region
Historical SocietyPresident
Kay WilderVice President
Kathy TibbettsSecretary
Kay EvansTreasurer
Sarah GilesTrustees
Charlie Bamberg
Jim BottiDebbe Cotter
Judy EastwoodKay Evans
George FriantSarah Giles
John LeonardSusan Lloyd
Jan ReitLaurie Simmons
Ann SutterKathy Tibbetts
Kay WilderTrustee Emeritus
Bea WalkerLocal Historian
Barbara RumseyOffice Manager
Claire RittershausOutreach Manager
Kathy GoldnerNewsletter Committee
Debbe Cotter
Judy Eastwood
Kathy Goldner
Jan Reit
Claire Rittershaus
Barbara Rumsey
Kay WilderMISSION
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 Kay Wilder



Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of another fiscal year (May 1-April 30), I would like to thank you, our members and donors, for your continued support for the society's efforts to gather, preserve, and make available thousands of documents, artifacts, recordings, and historic photographs that tell the region's history. This year we are hoping to add a new project: to document and photograph older homes in the area that often undergo radical changes with new owners. We will attempt to gather stories and take photographs for our files. If you know of a building built before 1920 that may have a story to tell, please let us know. In addition to our popular speaker series, this year we will introduce new exhibits related to Maine's bicentennial, including state and local history, timelines illustrated by local schoolchildren, family histories, and more. We're excited to be researching life in the area during the 1800s and hope you will stop by to learn more this summer.

As you will see below, we are also pleased to announce two very special summer fundraisers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime supporter and founding member George McEvoy (*Nellie G II*) and Capt. Harold Burnham (schooner *Ardelle*), BRHS will be taking to the seas this summer. Please join us!

Finally, if you have not yet signed up for our monthly e-news, now is the time. This will be a busy summer, and e-news, along with Facebook and our website, will be the best ways to keep up with what's happening. To receive our e-news, or to receive the full spring and fall newsletter digitally, email your request to Claire in the office: brhs@gwi.net.

Sincerely,

Please check our website often for events and projects impacted by COVID-19.

Welcome Aboard!

On Tuesday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Capt. Harold Burnham is donating a cruise aboard the schooner *Ardelle*. Thank you, Capt. Burnham, for this wonderful opportunity! *Ardelle* carries up to 35 passengers. Tickets are \$20 and open to anyone. Bring your own refreshments. BRHS outreach manager Kathy Goldner will be aboard to share some local history. Invite your friends and climb aboard for a fun trip. Tickets are available through BRHS and on the *Ardelle* at sailing. For more on Capt. Burnham's efforts to refit, build, and support vessels with a significant maritime history, please visit www.schoonerardelle.com.

Schooner *Ardelle*

On August 12, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. BRHS will sail aboard *Nellie G II* for a **members-only** cruise donated by society founding member, George McEvoy. Historical tidbits will be shared throughout the cruise, narrated by BRHS outreach manager Kathy Goldner. Appetizers and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. Space is limited to 20 guests and crew. Check our website for more information. Reservations required.

*Nellie G II*

For tickets or more information, contact Claire at 207-633-0820 or brhs@gwi.net Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or check our website.

2020 Speaker Series



Tuesday, May 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Nathaniel S. Wilson

East Boothbay's internationally renowned master sailmaker will present "*The History of Sailmaking*" at the historical society's annual meeting.



Thursday, June 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Fred Kaplan

As part of a look at life in the 19th century, Fred Kaplan will speak about his acclaimed dual biography "*Lincoln and the Abolitionists: John Quincy Adams, Slavery, and the Civil War.*"



Thursday, October 1 at 4:30 p.m.

Earle Shettleworth

Always popular Maine State Historian Earle Shettleworth will return to BRHS with an illustrated talk on "*Boothbay Harbor's Early 20th Century Post Card Photographers.*"

All programs are open to the public, with no admission fee.
Doors open at 4:15 p.m.

2020 Events

May 1 to December 31 Exhibits at the museum depicting life in the region during the 1800s.

Tuesday, May 19, 4:30 p.m. Annual Meeting Open to all. A recap of society business and voting for new trustees will be followed by speaker Nathaniel S. Wilson, sailmaker.

Tuesday, June 23, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Schooner *Ardelle* fundraising cruise. \$20/pp. Open to all. Limit 35 people.

Thursday, June 18, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fisheries collection of photos at Opera House. (See page 4)

Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m. to sold out. Bake Sale!

August 10 to 16, Lincoln County Pilgrimage Trail
Visit www.lincolncounty2020.com for details.

Date TBD *Nellie G II* members-only fundraising cruise. \$75/pp. Reservations required.

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Annual Cheese Sale at the Boothbay Railway Village; cheese and bake sale at BRHS museum 9:00 a.m. to sold out!

Family Feature by Kathy Tibbetts

In honor of the Bicentennial, we are looking at a member of the 1820 Boothbay Board of Selectmen. The Board consisted of Daniel Rose, Samuel Giles, Jacob Auld, and John McClintock (1776-1861) who is the focus of this article.

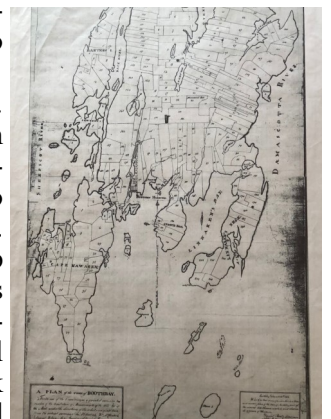
John was active in many aspects of town government. His first term as a selectman was in 1809 for one year. He was elected again in 1820 and repeated as a selectman off and on for many years, ending in 1832. Later, he served one year as Treasurer for Boothbay in 1856.

John also served on other committees and in other capacities. Francis Byron Greene reports in his book, *History of Boothbay, Southport and Boothbay Harbor*, "The first real action of Boothbay, after the declaration of war, June 18, 1812, was on July 7. At a special meeting on that date, the warrant contained only one article, which follows: 'to take into consideration the alarming and defenseless situation of the town's inhabitants against the enemy, or any plundering parties which may invade the town upon the seacoast harbors, or any other part thereof, or take such measures thereon that the town may think proper.' Under this article the first vote was to petition the President for protection against the enemy, and that Joshua Loring, Edmund Wilson, Jacob Auld, John McClintock and Nicholas T. Knight be a committee to draft

petitions." That petition was drafted, adopted and forwarded on to the President.

John was by trade a surveyor. He and Daniel Rose were given the task of mapping the entire region, with only three months to accomplish this monumental task. The result was the 1815 Map which is commonly referred to as the Daniel Rose map and considered by some to be the best of all early maps. In 1821, McClintock and Jacob Auld sold Burnt Island to the federal government for \$150, as a site for a new light-house.

John McClintock was every bit as successful in his private life as he was in his political and business life. He was married to Catherine (Burns) until her death in 1822. They raised a large family of sixteen children. Their son John was a very successful businessman, who owned and operated a fleet of banks fishing vessels. Obviously, he taught his children well.



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 labelling artifacts, photos, and documents. Many thanks to all!

Acquisitions

Below are acquisitions since the last newsletter. Artifact donations help to tell the region's story. We are grateful to all our donors who help build our collections.

Chad McArthur: S. Nickerson & Sons account book from 1903. They had a huge fish business on the east side of Boothbay Harbor.

Diane Reed: two round baskets assumed to have been made in the region by the Ranco family. They were sold to Diane's mother.

The First: vintage Paymaster checkwrit-

er machine used at the First National Bank of Damariscotta in Boothbay Harbor in the 1980s to 2019.

Brenda Blackman: 1930s books: *A Pictorial History of World War II*.

Rose Marie Kreppein: Hilda Stover's (later Hume) 1924 diploma from the Boothbay grammar school.

John Durand: 2020 book by him, *Peter MacQueen the Fighting Parson*.

Jill Baker: Bible owned by her great grandfather Benjamin Baker of East Boothbay.

Russie Lane: 2019 book by him concerning Burleigh Hill camp, *Snow Angels on the Moon*.

Pat McKee: color art print from 1917 Harper's Weekly of landing at current Pier 1. (see photo)

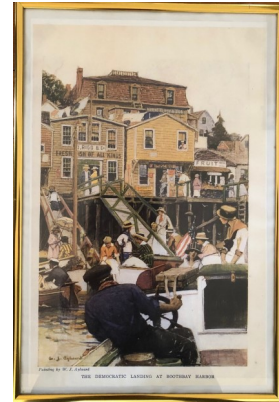
Harry Pinkham: four military uniforms he wore—1) Civil Air Patrol, Maine Wing; 2) USAF Auxiliary Patrol, Maine Wing; 3) US Army 169th (and

5th) Regiment; 4) US Air Force Reserve. Post office department hat he wore.

Rotary: Ginny Hodgdon Roberts memorabilia, region printed documents.

Paul Adams: 1930s scrapbook of clippings on events, many local.

Nancy Conley: five Acute Care memory albums from St. Andrews.



Pier One by artist W. J. Aylward, as depicted in Harper's Weekly in 1917.

"The Democratic Landing at Boothbay Harbor," is on display at the museum.

Third Grade to Illustrate Timelines

In celebration of Maine's Bicentennial, we've asked the third-grade students at Boothbay Region Elementary School to illustrate timelines relating to certain aspects of Boothbay history. These



will be displayed in our museum exhibit rooms. If schools remain closed this year, we will move this project to next spring. This exciting collaboration is part of our Third Grade Boothbay Region History Program, developed by Outreach Manager Kathy Goldner. This program introduces students to Boothbay region history through primary source materials and artifacts from the BRHS collection. For more information on our education programs, visit our website and click on "Education."

BRHS Digital Collaboration



BRHS is working with the Boothbay Region Maritime Foundation and Penobscot Marine Museum to create a Boothbay Region Fisheries Collection of digitized photographs to be available on the Penobscot Marine Museum website. BRMF is coordinating this effort with a number of other organizations and interested people donating photographs that tell the story of fishing in the region.

On Thursday, June 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. BRMF will unveil an exhibit of selected photos at a reception at the Opera House in Boothbay Harbor. All are welcome.

For more information on this project, visit www.boothbayregionmaritimefoundation.org.

Building & Grounds

Earlier this winter, Tony Barnes worked on our unheated storage room (the small bumpout on the northwest corner of the building.) He stripped leaky shingles, reroofed with proper underlayment, and stabilized a wall and table. He also improved shed doors that had begun to stick and sag. Alex Jackimovicz rewired an overhead light fixture, fixed one of its sockets, and checked an outside outlet. The outlet will be fixed this spring. Ben Waters has been doing a variety of small handyman jobs around the museum, as well as some of the shoveling. *Thanks, guys!*

Membership Milestones through 2019-20

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

Members for 40+ years

J Edward Knight
Insurance

Jean Chenoweth
Robert Rice
Bea Walker

Members for 30-39

years

William Allison
Joseph Barbeau
Miles & Sharon Barter
Sally Barter
Karen Bartholomew
Hugh & Nancy Beath
Thomas Bissell
Joseph & Brenda Blake
Alan & Judy Burgess
Laird Cleaver
John & Joan Cocchiarella
Royall & Eleanor Dodge
John Druce
Reid Ervin
James Farrin
Chester Fossett
Marjanne Gmelin-Foster
Carl Griffin
Richard & Shirley Hesse
Anthony Heyl
Earl Leavitt
Bill Logan
Frank & Nora Luke
Allan McCobb
Anthony & Christine Patton
William Prince
Beverly Rawson-Dibble

John Alley Robbins
Barbara Rumsey
Brian Schuttrumpf
Susan & Paul Strong

Members for 20-29

years
Bruce Allen
Caroline Andrews
Dave Andrews
John & Laura Arsenault
James & Eloise Barter
Marion Bates
David & Emma Benner
Cordula Mathias & Brenda Bettinson
C. D. Binning
Neil & Sheila Blake
Calvin & Karen Bowie
Butch Brewer
Jeff & Celeste Brown
Mary Lee Brown
Marti Booth & Larry Brown
Melinda Browne
Anne & Bill Butler
Calvin & Ginger Carr
Mary Joyce Cerra
Philip & Laura Chapman
Richard & Janice Colby
Torrey Cooke
George & Susan Craig
Endicott Davison
Janna Day
Zibette Dean
Elinor Downs
Alan & Carol Fisher
Robert & Alberta Foster
Dana Fuller
Sarah Giles
John & Sarah Giles

Dennis & Martha Gleason
Dorothy Gregory
Monica Halas & Robert O'Connor
Halcyon Foundation
Daniel & Susan Haney
Kenneth & Nancy Hanson
Kitty Hartford
Anne Hayden
Helen Hamilton Paulsen Trust
Frank Helman & Martha Peak
Laura Honey
Holly Hornor
Ann Hunt
Allen & Sally Johnson
Linda Jones
Wayne Keene
Knickerbocker Group
Joan Krause
Mike Leonard
Christina Linscott
Sandra Lowery
Sewall & Betty Jeanne Maddocks
Shirley Marden
Robert & Sally Maroon
Gail Marzluff
Andrew & Penny Matthews
John McCobb
Corinne McIntyre
Frances Carroll McKown
Debbie Mullen
William Murphy
Rupert Neily
Loraine Nickerson
Lynne & Fran Nicoletta

Ronald Orchard
Henry & Nylene Page
Lynnette Page
Tom Perkins
Michael & Penelope Pollard
Pottle Realty Group
David & Ilene Rapkin
Robert & Susan Reece
Neal & Jean Reny
Gail Richter
Peter & Mary Ripley
Stephen & Christine Rubicam
Richard Rubinger
Jane Hurd & Roger Severance
Sally Sewall
Eugenia Shepard
Evelyn Sherman
Patricia Smith
Phillips & Holly Smith
Richard Spofford
John & Anna Marie Thron
Bruce Tindal
John & Muffie Van Voorhis
Jutta & Ingo Walter
Lowell & Cindi Watson
Paul Whitehead
Alicia Wiatrowski
Philip Wilde
Kay Wilder
Andrew Twaddle & Sarah Wolcott
Strohn Woodard
Barbara Zarpentine
Margie Zeitman

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

Thank you!

New members since the fall newsletter

Debra McMann
Alexander Mulholland

Concord, N. H.
East Boothbay

Wallace Richard Potvin
Adria Sibilly

Brunswick, Me.
Hanover, Md.



1901 Maine State Flag

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

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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
www.boothbayhistorical.org

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

Volunteers Welcome!

The historical society has a number of openings for willing workers. For more information, please contact Claire in the office.

Office: We are always looking for people to occasionally work in the office, help with easy tasks, or act as greeters.

Building & Grounds: Do you like to work on small handyman projects? We often need touch-up painting and fixups that are too small for professionals to bother with. Garden help is also appreciated.

Mailings: Our mailing team meets whenever we have a bulk mailing, usually four times each year. Casual and fun!

Bakers: We love our bakers and helpers! Please sign up to bake or help out at one or two bake sales and special events per year.

Thank you!

Give the Gift of Membership

A gift membership may lead to the discovery of family history, to the beginnings of a home or the street they live on, or simply to 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

BRHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.