



# BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2021

Dear Fellow Member,

We recognize this past year has been an unusual time and hope all is well with you and your family. In accordance with state guidelines for COVID-19, the museum has maintained limited access for up to five people since March 2020. As with other non-profits, business and travel restrictions have taken a toll on the society's ability to hold fundraisers to support daily operations, let alone begin new projects. When CDC guidelines allow, we look forward to once again welcoming our loyal volunteers and friends, and new visitors. As in the fall, we are keeping costs down by combining this enhanced renewal letter with a minimal spring newsletter.

Throughout the pandemic, museum staff members have kept busy maintaining our collections of local history documents, artifacts, photographs, and more. We hope to share more history during 2021 through exhibits, speakers, articles, and other special gatherings. Office manager, Claire Rittershaus remains on hand to answer general questions and help with research. As always, Barbara Rumsey continues to oversee BRHS collections and research efforts.

Kathy Goldner, our director of outreach programs and daily operations, has completed work on a wonderful new website that increases viewer interactivity and simplifies online purchases, donations, and membership renewals. A new "Members Only" section will be available shortly. Kathy continues to post historic photographs from our collections on Facebook, and to compose our monthly e-news with articles by Barbara Rumsey, historic recipes from our cookbook collection, historic photographs, and other society news. Please call or email the office, or go to our website to sign up for the e-news.

On behalf of the board of trustees, thank you for your commitment to the society's many endeavors. Your membership is always important, but this year your continued assistance is especially appreciated. Member dues support our staff, help maintain the museum at the Reed House, and enable us to fulfill our mission "*to promote interest in the history of the Boothbay region and to preserve the region's history.*" Please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed renewal card, along with this year's dues. We hope to see you soon.

Best wishes,

*Kay Wilder*

Kay Wilder, President

Members receive a 10% discount on museum purchases, access to the "Members Only" section of the BRHS website, and regular BRHS newsletters and updates. Museum admission and regular events are always free.

**2021 Annual Meeting.** Due to changing Covid-19 guidelines, and the time required to notify members about the meeting, the board of trustees has decided to hold a short, closed meeting again this year. We will review finances and vote on the new slate of trustees, as nominated below. Minutes of this meeting will be available upon request by June 1. Thank you for your patience.

Nominees for new three-year terms: Ruth Alley and Dana Wilson. Nominated for returning three-year terms: Charlie Bamberg, Judy Eastwood, Kay Wilder. Officers: Kay Wilder, president, Kathy Tibbetts, vice-president, Debbe Cotter, secretary, Sarah Giles, treasurer.



Ruth Dodge Alley

Ruth grew up in Boothbay and attended local schools. She and her husband Dave raised their two children, Susan and Christopher, in East Boothbay where they have resided for 55 years. Ruth and David both trace their local family roots to the time of the American Revolution!

After college Ruth worked at Fuller Shipbuilding in East Boothbay until it closed. Later she worked in the Special Education Department at Boothbay Region Elementary school, first as an Ed Tech, then as the Administrative Assistant. She ran a Girl Scout Troop out of her home, taught Sunday School, worked with the Boosters Club, and served on the board of the St. Andrews Hospital Auxiliary.

Ruth also contributes delicious treats for BRHS bake sales!



Dana Turpie Wilson

Dana recently moved back to East Boothbay from Nobleboro with her husband Eben and two daughters, Elise (8) and Lettie (6). She spent summers on Ocean Point as a child. Eben (nephew of BRHS trustee, Jan Reit and son of sailmaker Nat Wilson) grew up just three doors down from their new home. Together they have lovingly renovated two 100+ year-old homes, carefully honoring their history.

Dana has managed the fundraising office at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences for seven years and has 16 years working in nonprofit development. She received a BA from Colby College and previously volunteered for the Nobleboro Historical Society and Damariscotta Mills Fish Ladder Restoration Project. She also served as a board member of the Rising Tide Community Market.

Dana says she looks forward to serving BRHS!

## 2021 Speakers

This year continues to be a challenge for all of us in so many ways. As an organization, one challenge we faced was how to present our annual speaker series. Last year, of course, everything was simply cancelled. But over the year Zoom has come into our lives, as a way to “be” with family and friends, and as a way to attend lectures, talks, and workshops from all over the world while sitting on the couch in our living room. For 2021, we are hoping to present our speakers using hybrid programs. Depending on how many people will be allowed in the museum, we will try to offer our programs to inhouse audiences, as well as by Zoom. Each of our speakers has indicated they are comfortable with this option.

Although this technology is new to us, we are excited to open our speaker series via Zoom to attendees who cannot join us in person. Eventually, recorded Zoom sessions will be available on our website in a Members Only section. Please follow our website, Facebook page, and monthly e-news for links to sign up for Zoom access as we get closer to program dates. We look forward to hearing your feedback about this new addition.

The enclosed calendar lists dates and speakers currently planned for this season.