



Reed Bros Shipyard. L-R standing Grace Reed, Rodney Reed, Roland Pinkham, Herman Pinkham, William Reed, Lewis, Ira Lewis. From left, kneeling, Lewis Johnson. Rest are unknown.

A Window to the Past

Boothbay Region Historical Society News

July 2022

Researching and preserving our history

Your stories will not be forgotten

From Our Archives



Robert Rice's and Jonathan Eno's vessel identities of part of the North Atlantic Squadron, left to right: Indiana, two stacks and one mast, 350 feet long and launched in 1893; Brooklyn, three tall stacks and two masts stacks, 402 feet long and launched 1895; Texas, background largely obscured, 308 feet long and launched 1892; New York, three stacks, 384 feet long and launched 1891; and Massachusetts, of the Indiana class, 350 feet long and launched in 1893. Robert Rice provided the legend on the image.

Battleships in Boothbay, Part II

By Barbara Rumsey, 2015

As explained in the last article, in spring 2013 Robert Rice and I started working on identifying a photo of five battleships said to have dropped anchor in Boothbay Harbor. We wanted their names, the date (we suspected 1900 aughts or teens), and their location.

Bar Harbor Navy vessel researcher Jonathan Eno came up with vessel names from their features and his knowledge of which traveled together. They are shown in the caption. The *Brooklyn* with its stacks and masts was the variable that was Jonathan's deciding factor.

Robert blew up each vessel to confirm his earlier vessel choices, which had differed from Jonathan's. The careful checking by Robert confirmed Jonathan's choices. Jonathan emailed that probably "the date would be 1897, 1899 or 1900. Outside of those dates, those ships were not together in this neck of the woods (Bar Harbor by way

Robert also printed particulars on all the vessels for our growing file of information. To name the vessels was great progress, but where, when, and why remained. When I had no luck finding mention of a visit, Robert started going through our incomplete Register collection (nearly all are missing from 1889 to 1910) with his hunches of where to look.

Once he sets on a goal, he follows it to the end. I told him the Lewiston paper, now online, often reported on Boothbay activities long ago since so many Squirrel Islanders were from there, including the editor. No luck for him in either source.

Jonathan Eno contacted Kevin Johnson of Penobscot Marine Museum who consulted maritime historian Maynard Bray. Meanwhile, I contacted Nathan Lipfert at Maine Maritime Museum and Earle Shettleworth of Maine Historic Preservation Commission who had sent the identical image to Jonathan.

They all provided leads but most related to localities away from Boothbay. Jonathan kept narrowing the focus with his research into Bar Harbor naval ship visits and he closed in definitely on 1899. Only two Register issues survive from that year, January and April.

I started looking at the local chart with a straight edge and pencil. One oddity of the photo is that in our area rife with islands, none are visible in the shot. Also the scale of the two land masses bracketing the battleships didn't seem appropriate for a view from the region headlands — either too big or too small. Robert and I've spent most of our decades here and are familiar with the probable size of land and islands in customary views. I drew all kinds of lines south and kept striking out — if the shot was Boothbay. Robert and I talked often about the shot, trying to make sense of it. We now knew the ships' identities and had a limited date range, but the location remained stubborn. Jonathan suggested exactly what Robert recommended, paying the National Archives to review the deck logs of one of the vessels in key timeframes — those records looked like the only way to prove they'd been in Boothbay.

Jonathan knew when those five ships were in Bar Harbor (Aug. 6-13, 1899) so Robert could cycle back or forward from there. It could be a long, expensive process since requests had to be very closely defined.

We slowed way down from the comparatively fast progress so far. Robert said he'd write the archives eventually, but the sequester was going on and it was likely that a

Robert emailed, "I decided to spend some time convincing myself that it was off Squirrel Island by starting out at "three trees" on Ocean Point. Right off I knew it was not taken from anywhere at the point. So I went to Spruce Point with the same result, as well as Mill Cove and Capitol Island. That view was close but did not pick up any land which appears to the right of the photo.

"Next day I went by boat to Squirrel Island and centered myself halfway between the island and Southport/Newagen, turned around and headed in a straight line north toward the harbor. I ran right into Burnt Island and just off the shore, I turned around and there was the view. I have no doubt that the photo was taken from the south shore of Burnt Island by someone standing at the shore's edge."

This is a good example of Robert's stick-to-itiveness — a great service to the society for many years.

We finally had a location that matched the arms of land on left and right and no sizeable islands in the line of sight. But we wanted to confirm in print that the shot was taken here.

Next time: Was there confirming documentation of the battleships being here in 1899?

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

SPEAKER SERIES

Sprucewold: The Early Years



Sprucewold Lodge

Thursday, July 21, 4:30 pm **Alan Fisher**

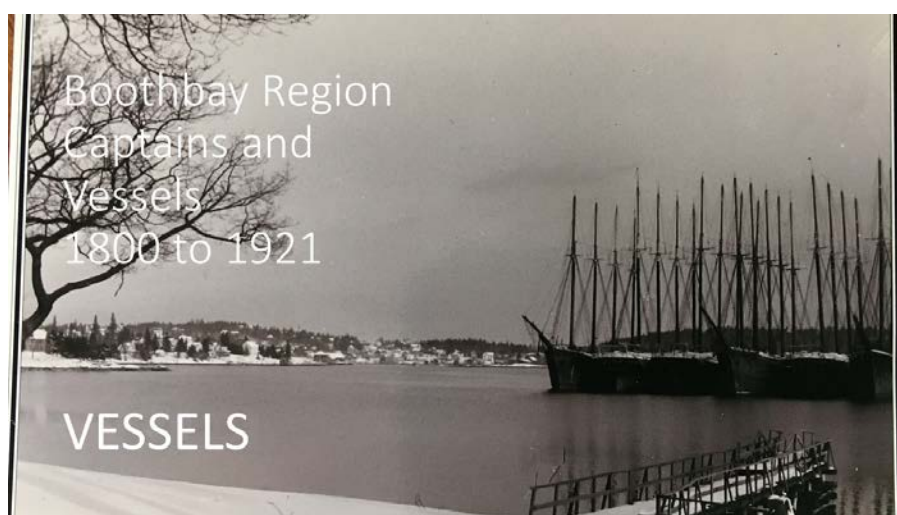
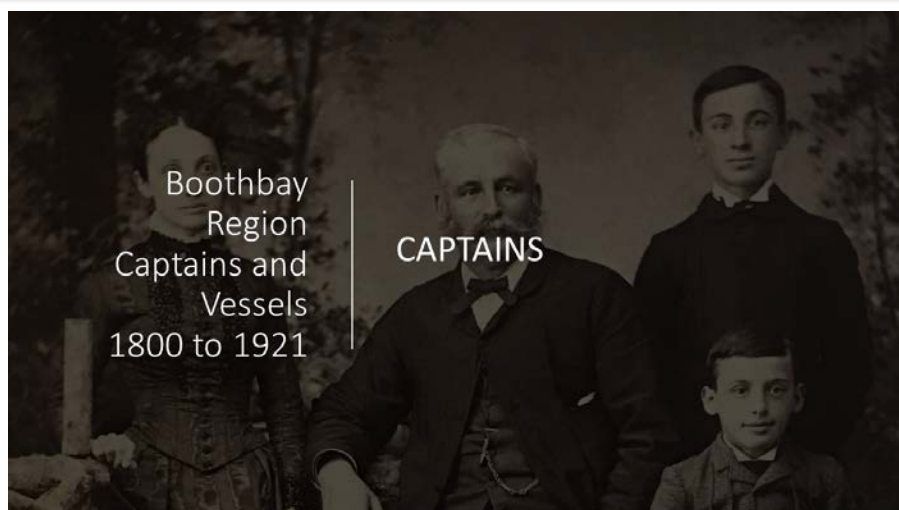
On Thursday, July 21, 4:30 pm, at Boothbay Region Historical Society, historian and long-time Sprucewold resident will present "Sprucewold: The Early Years." Early in the 20th century, four local Boothbay Harbor businessmen began creating a summer colony in Boothbay Harbor aimed at the new American middle class. Building on the presence of several large summer hotels and the founding of three important summer art schools in the region, they cleared the woods in the northern two-thirds of Spruce Point, and used the trees to build dozens of log cabins and one very large log hotel. Focusing on the period up to the end of World War II, this talk will examine the processes the four businessmen used, and the population they attracted, both short term in the hotel and longer term in the cabins, to establish the Sprucewold colony.



Alan Fisher taught Russian and Ottoman history at Michigan State University. He and his wife Carol have been spending summers in their Sprucewold log cabin since 1971.

Admission is free. Currently all talks will be offered both in-person and on Zoom. To request a Zoom link please email us at brhszoom@gmail.com. Doors open at 4:15. In-house seating is limited and if offered will be on a first-come, first seated basis.

Call us at 207-633-0820, or email brhs@zwi.net for the latest information.



This model of the *Ada Cliff* built by Jon Dunsford is currently on loan to us for this

*Come to the Boothbay Region Historical Society to see this exhibit,
and come again on August 25 at 4:30 to hear Jon's talk!*

This wonderful exhibit runs April 7 through December 31, 2022

Boothbay Region Historical Society
is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.

See you soon!

Let's celebrate our cultural heritage together

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[Boothbay Region Historical Society](#)
72 Oak Street
Post Office Box 272
Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538
207.633.0820

*We're open year-round,
weather permitting
Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.*

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