



# Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 35, Issue 2

Fall 2022

## Annual Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Our holiday open house is back! As you enjoy the Harbor Lights festivities, please stop by to get warm, chat, and see our latest exhibit. The museum will be decorated with vintage greeting cards, ornaments, and historical photographs. Join us for a variety of treats and beverages, gift shop items on sale, and our popular gift basket raffles.

This event is a favorite with the board of trustees, as it gives us a chance to say thank you in person to members of the community for your support. Whether you are a dues-paying member, donate to the annual fund, stock up at a bake sale, or simply attend a program, we appreciate your confidence in the historical society's ability to preserve and share the rich history of the Boothbay region.



For more information on the open house, please contact us at [brhs@gwi.net](mailto:brhs@gwi.net), 207-633-0820, or visit our website: [www.boothbayhistorical.org](http://www.boothbayhistorical.org).

## Captains and Vessels of the Boothbay Region, 1800 to 1921

Have you seen our special 2022 exhibit exploring the histories of Boothbay's captains and of the vessels built in the region during America's golden age of sail? This exhibit has been so well received, we are holding it over for next year. The historical society has identified and cataloged over 600 vessels built in the Boothbay region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. We are compiling an illustrated exhibit catalog for publication in 2023.



Capt. Reed with Kate,  
Fullerton, and Elizabeth

### Capt. Freeman K. Reed (1841-1889)

Capt. Reed was a widower whose three young children boarded with other families when he went to sea. As the children got older, they sometimes went along as their father delivered New England products as far away as the West Indies, often returning with sugar, lumber, fruits, and possibly rum.

Sadly, in 1887 Capt. Reed was washed overboard during a storm while sailing on the *James S. Lowell*. His body was never found.

Captain Reed's family home is the present location of the historical society. Numerous Reed documents and artifacts are available at the museum for those interested in Reed family history.

### Capt. John Seavey (1851-1925)

The survivors say there are two heroes to whom Capt. Seavey owes his life, for he was one of those who jumped into the sea. He was not a good swimmer and was in trouble when fisherman William Farmer and Spot, the skipper's dog, went overboard. The men testify that the dog rendered assistance in getting him into a boat. Indeed, it was probably because of this that Capt. Beadnell entered the dog on the list of those saved, "Spot Seavey, a spaniel dog."



From Barbara Rumsey,  
*The Sinking of the Natalie B. Nickerson, Part II*

*The historical society is home to many of the diaries, letters, newspapers, shipyard documents, books, photographs, and nautical artifacts that tell the maritime history of Boothbay region seagoing families. Please stop in to learn more about the people and vessels in this exhibit.*

### Message from President Kay Wilder

#### Boothbay Region Historical Society

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Kay Wilder

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##### Secretary

Judy Adamson

##### Treasurer

Sarah Giles

Judy Adamson

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##### Trustee Emerita

Bea Walker

##### Local Historian

Barbara Rumsey

##### Director

Kathy Goldner

##### Office Manager

Jane Johnston

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

#### Mission 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.

Thank you to Great Works Internet for offering free service to non-profit organizations such as BRHS.

#### Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us celebrate the rich history of the Boothbay region. Your donations to our fall appeal, along with membership dues and participation in fundraising events, allow the society to continue serving as a valuable resource for current and future generations. From elementary and high school students to longtime and recent residents, our staff and volunteers help researchers and visitors access the society's various collections of documents, photos, family files, journals, and artifacts. To facilitate access to these collections, while preserving often fragile documents and photographs, we have embarked on a long-term project to scan and digitally archive our collections. Watch for more on this!

Each year, many researchers browse our extensive local family files in hopes of finding that elusive great-grandfather or an original family member who settled in the region. Do you have a gap in your family tree? Let us help. For extensive research, please contact the office before coming in. We'll try to have some resources ready for you.

Finally, we hope you will join us on December 3 for our holiday open house. We've missed having this opportunity to say hello and thank you for your support of local history. Stop by to warm up, have some refreshments, and tell us how we can better serve the community. On behalf of the board of trustees, wishing you a happy and healthy 2023.

*Kay Wilder*

### Message from Director Kathy Goldner

We are thrilled to be back at Boothbay Region Elementary School this fall presenting our Boothbay History education program for the two third-grade classes. We bring objects such as a stereopticon from our teaching collection for the students to handle, have hands-on projects including writing with a quill pen, and in the spring the students will visit our museum for a scavenger hunt. We worked with BRHS STEAM students this year on history projects which were displayed at the high school this spring.

Our gratitude goes to all of you who made our vision of helping a local high school student make college a reality by generously supporting our scholarship program. We look forward to awarding our second scholarship of \$1,000 in 2023.

Lastly a huge thank you to all our members, donors, and volunteers. Without your support we could not stay open year-round, could not help the hundreds of researchers who each year walk through our doors, call us, and email us with their questions, and could not preserve Boothbay's history in our museum.

*Kathy Goldner*



*BRES 3rd grade student studying the Fresnel lens from Ram Island*

*Are you interested in local history? Why not join one of our regular committees? Maintain and create exhibits. Plan fundraising events. Help with website management. Building & Grounds. Publicity. Collections management. Speakers. There's something for everyone! Contact Kathy Goldner for more information: boothbayhistoric@gmail.com.*

**2022 in Review**

In May, we welcomed new trustees Wendy Bellows, Merritt Blakeslee, and Lucy Cressey at the society's annual meeting. Chip Griffin shared stories of Damariscove Island in the 1600s.

Over the summer, Jon Johansen spoke about modern boatbuilding in Maine, Alan Fisher examined the early years of Sprucewold, and Jon Dunsford presented the history of early Boothbay shipyards. Our 2022 speakers wrapped up with Susan Kimball Clark sharing images of Ocean Point. Thank you to our presenters and guests for another successful speaker series.

Fundraising events this year included a July bake sale, photo raffles, a members-only cruise aboard the *Nellie G II*, and our annual cheese and treats event in October. Thank you to all who supported these efforts!

*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!* Throughout the year, our volunteers greet visitors, assist researchers, organize files, and step in where needed.

*Please consider becoming a volunteer.*

### **We Need Your Help As We Enter the Digital Age**

For over 40 years, the society's ever-growing collections have been carefully cataloged by local historian Barbara Rumsey and her dedicated volunteers. Each document, photograph, artifact, account book, diary, and more has been carefully entered into databases and lists, given a unique identifying number, and carefully stored within the museum. While this system has worked well, there are limitations. Without a combined master database, accessing information on a subject requires multiple searches.

In an effort to centralize access to our collections and also protect fragile paper items from over-handling, we are undertaking a multi-year project to create a master searchable index and database of the museum's holdings, including images of documents, thumbnail photos, images and descriptions of artifacts, and more. Eventually, we hope to make this information available to online researchers.

This is a huge undertaking that will require help from many people. If you would like to be part of this exciting project, we are looking for volunteers to learn how to scan a variety of items into the system.

Please contact Kathy Goldner at  
boothbayhistoric@gmail.com to volunteer

**Holiday Gift Ideas**

*Members receive a 10% discount*

**Maps**

1815 Boothbay map with key to owners	\$6.00
1885 Boothbay Harbor	\$5.00
1948 Boothbay region with house sites	\$12.00

**Our most popular books**

<i>Family History of the Boothbay Region</i> , Greene	\$25.00
<i>Colonial Boothbay, mid-1600s to 1775</i> , Rumsey	\$16.00
<i>Boothbay Region Historical Sketches</i> , Rumsey	
<i>Vol. II</i>	\$15.00, <i>Vol. III</i>
<i>Hodgdon Shipbuilding and Mills</i> , Rumsey	\$15.00
<i>Shipping Days of Old Boothbay</i> , Rice	\$45.00

Reprints of historical photographs \$8.00-\$12.00  
(Please allow at least two weeks for processing.)

Don't forget gift certificates and gift memberships!

*For more ideas, please visit the museum or our  
online store at [www.boothbayhistorical.org](http://www.boothbayhistorical.org).*

### **Family Research Group Community Collaboration**

Over the past few years, Lucy Cressey has devoted her time and talents to leading genealogy classes at the Community Center. Now a historical society trustee, Lucy is expanding her efforts. At her suggestion, the society, the Community Center, and Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library will team up to share resources.

Lucy will offer field trips to the museum and the library for participants in her classes at the community center. Library director Joanna Breen will help with accessing library sources, including several online genealogy sites that are free through the library.

The historical society houses local history files, family histories, photographs, and stories, plus cemetery information, video and audio interviews, and newspaper clippings. Volunteers will help researchers access these often one-of-a-kind resources.

Watch the Register, as well as each organization's Facebook page for more information as this program takes shape.

**As a reminder**, anyone researching local family history on their own is encouraged to visit the museum or contact the office with inquiries.

We'll help you dig into our files!



## Open All Year

Hours of Operation:  
Thursday through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free,  
donations are appreciated

Phone: (207) 633-0820  
Email: brhs@zwi.net  
www.boothbayhistorical.org  
Follow us on Facebook

Please call or email to make an  
appointment if requesting  
extensive research assistance.

## Call for Volunteers!

The historical society has a number  
of openings for volunteers. For more  
information, please contact Jane in  
the office.

**Office:** We're always looking for  
people to occasionally cover 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 profes-  
sionals to bother with. Garden help  
also appreciated.

**Mailings:** Our mailing team meets  
whenever we have a bulk mailing,  
usually 4 times each year. Casual and  
fun!

**Bakers:** We love our bakers! 1-2  
bake sales a year, plus occasional  
special events.

*Thank You!*

## Give the Gift of Membership (New members only)

A gift membership may lead the recipient to:

- \* Discover deep family roots in the region
- \* Find early photos and stories of their home or ancestors
- \* Dive into the region's rich history

Members also receive:

- \* A 10% discount on books, maps, and other gift shop items
- \* Semi-annual newsletters, plus our monthly e-news updates
- \* Invitations to members-only events

*As a holiday special, gift memberships purchased by  
December 24, 2022 will extend until April 30, 2024*



# Happy Holidays!

### 2022 Holiday Gift For New Members Membership expires April 30, 2024

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gifted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for sharing the rich  
history of the Boothbay region!*

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dory              | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pinky             | \$35.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sloop             | \$50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schooner          | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brig (over \$100) | \$ _____ |

Please send this form with your check payable to:  
**Boothbay Region Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 272, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0272

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