



Boothbay Region Historical Society

Volume 36, Issue 1

Spring 2023

Boothbay Region Historical Society 56th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Society members and the public are invited to the 56th annual meeting of the historical society on Tuesday, May 16, at 4:30 p.m. at 72 Oak St., Boothbay Harbor.

As part of the annual meeting, members will vote on the following slate submitted by the nominating committee. Accepting renomination for renewed three-year terms are Sarah Giles and John Morris. Newly nominated for a three-year term is Lucian Laurie, Jr. Nominated to fill open two-year terms are Julia O'Brien-Merrill and V. Skye Wood. Nominated to the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary are Dana Wilson, Merritt Blakeslee, Sarah Giles, and Wendy Bellows, respectively.

Following the meeting, local ship modeler Jon Dunsford will present the history of two vessels built in Boothbay and recall local shipbuilding in the 1800s. Kathy Goldner will introduce us to region captains

plying their trade during the age of sail. Jon and Kathy will also preview the society's newest exhibit on the iconic schooner *Bowdoin* that will enhance our current exhibit highlighting local captains and vessels from 1800 to 1921. Please join us.



Doors open at 4:10. Sorry, no reserved seating. This program will be available online at a later date.

The museum at 72 Oak Street is open to the public all year on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact the museum at (207) 633-0820, email brhs@gwi.net, or visit our website at www.boothbayhistorical.org. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

Celebrating Bowdoin!



Our exhibit committee has been busy preparing for the anticipated visit this summer of the schooner *Bowdoin*. While *Bowdoin* is currently included in our exhibit of local captains and

vessels built in the Boothbay region from 1800 to 1921, beginning this spring we will highlight this famous vessel with a new exhibit "Celebrating *Bowdoin*."

This new exhibit will be located in the main room at the museum with more stories and photographs about the many voyages and often perilous adventures Captain Donald B. MacMillan and his crews faced on those long voyages North. The history of this vessel, built in East Boothbay in 1921, spans over 100 years and continues today. It began as an educational scientific research vessel traveling to the Arctic to study that little-known area and continues today as the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy, training younger generations of sailors and discoverers.



Captain MacMillan said he liked to come back to the Boothbay region to escape the larger crowds in other ports.

In 1929 *Bowdoin* delivered materials to build the first school at Nane, Labrador, before proceeding beyond the Arctic Circle to the west coast of Baffin Island, about which little was known.

On one trip, the *Bowdoin* and her crew were iced in at Refuge Harbor for 322 days!

These are just a few of the stories and photographs we look forward to sharing with you in our new exhibit. If your family has passed down *Bowdoin* stories over the years, please let us add them to our collection.

Bowdoin to visit Boothbay Harbor

The *Bowdoin* will be at the town dock June 2 to June 6, when she will depart for Labrador. Watch for more event details in the Register and on our Facebook page, website, and e-news.

Boothbay Region Historical Society Board of Trustees

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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.

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.



Our new logo!

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Happy spring! Unlike recent off-seasons, the museum has been a hive of activity this winter. A dedicated corps of volunteers has totaled 8-10 hours a week scanning images of documents, photos, and other items into a new data system that will allow easier access for researchers, while reducing handling of delicate items. Eventually we hope to offer access to the majority of the collections through our website.

While this project looks to the future, it draws from decades of lists and databases created and overseen by local historian Barbara Rumsey. *Thank you, Barbara!*

This year we hope to finally start repairs and painting on the Reed House. We expect the museum to remain open during any major work, but will keep you updated on Facebook and in our monthly e-news.

As a reminder, membership renewal packets were mailed in April. The membership year runs May 1 to April 30. Please call the office if you did not receive your packet. When returning your materials, feel free to include any comments or suggestions on how we could improve our services and programs. Our mission is to serve the region's communities. Your participation is vital to this goal.

We're excited to continue our popular exhibit "Captains and Vessels of the Boothbay Region, 1800 to 1921" and to add a new exhibit on the schooner *Bowdoin* to coincide with the *Bowdoin's* return to Boothbay. We hope you'll enjoy learning more about our local seafaring heritage.

We look forward to welcoming you this summer!

Kay Wilder

Please note: We are once again producing this newsletter in hard copy and digital form, based on members' previous requests. Please contact the office if you wish to update your preference.

2023 New Trustee Nominees



Lucian Laurie, Jr. retired to the region in 2021 following a long career with the US Navy and Marine Corps, and time as a Registered Nurse. Over the previous 31 years, he spent time off and on in the region with his wife, Sarah Roberts Laurie, a Boothbay native. He has a broad, life-long interest in history, including the history of St. Andrews Hospital where his mother-in-law, Ginny Roberts, was a well-known nurse for decades. Lucian gives back to his adopted community as a member of the Boothbay planning board, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Healthy Lincoln County Food Insecurity Program. He currently volunteers with the historical society's digitization project. *Thank you, Lucian!*

Julia O'Brien-Merrill was born in Boston and raised in Maine. She holds BA degrees in History, English, and Education, and retired from teaching English as a Second Language. She is a violinist with the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra and the author of *Charlie and the M.T.A Did He Ever Return?* She enjoys sailing, skiing, writing, and traveling. She and her husband live in Newcastle and Bayville. Julia first came to the Region in 1970 to work at the Ocean Point Inn where she met her husband, David Merrill. David's family has been summering in Bayville since the early rusticators arrived in the 1890s. Julia has also written about Bayville. She is currently working on the society's digitization project. *Thank you, Julia!*



Skye Wood moved to Maine as a teen in 1997. She later attended the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, and earned a BA in Environmental Planning and Policy at the University of Southern Maine. In 2010 she joined the Boothbay Region Land Trust as office manager, becoming development director in 2014. Her current responsibilities include overseeing annual appeals, planned giving and major gifts, grant requests, and major events. She also oversees and assists with marketing and communications, all skills we welcome! Skye and her family live in Woolwich where her non-work time is consumed by her family, school activities, and their active coonhound. *Welcome Skye!*

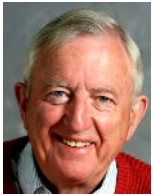
2023 Speakers

Tuesday, May 16 at 4:30 p.m.



As part of the society's annual meeting, local model builder **Jon Dunsford** will share two models of brigs built in Boothbay and summarize the era of local shipbuilding from 1823 to 1855, introduce a new exhibit focusing on the schooner *Bowdoin* and consider questions such as why was this vessel built in Boothbay?

Thursday, June 22 at 4:30 p.m.



Hamilton Meserve is the son of the famous actress Margaret Hamilton and president of the board of the Harbor Theater. He will talk about the history of the theater from its early days to its current non-profit iteration on Townsend Avenue.

Thursday, July 13 at 4:30 p.m.



Always popular brothers **Dwight and Duane Lewis** return to share more wonderful, often hilarious, stories of their family's years tending Maine's historic Southport swing bridge.



September, date TBD

Well-known collector and antiques dealer **Richard Plunkett** will give a short lecture on "What's Hot and What's Not in Antiques." Following this talk, Richard will offer appraisals on items for a \$5.00 donation each. Good chance to ask about that family heirloom. *Thanks, Richard!*

Thursday, September 21 at 4:30 p.m.



Marine biologist **Dottie Yunger** is Education Division Director for the Maine Dept. of Marine Resources. She manages the Maine State Aquarium, adjacent Learning Lab, and Burnt Island. Dottie will talk about the redesign and educational programming across all three facilities, and how DMR resources will be available to a wide range of audiences.

Admission is free. Doors open at 4:00. No reserved seating available. All programs will be filmed and available on our YouTube channel at a later date.

2023 Events

Exhibits: "Boothbay Captains and Vessels from 1800 to 1921" and "Celebrating *Bowdoin*!" will remain up through the fall. The Captains and Vessels catalog will be available this summer.

Saturday, July 1, 9:00 a.m. to sold out! July 4th Bake Sale. Pies, cakes, breads, sweets and savories. Yum!



Sunday, August 20 at 4:30 p.m. . Fundraiser at the Harbor Theater with noted photographers Bob Krist and Ben Williamson.



Saturday, October 7, Cheese & Treats sale. Watch for more information on locations for this popular event in our e-news, website, and on Facebook.

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Holiday Open House. As always, we'll be decorated for the holidays and welcoming the community for a warm, casual gathering. This is our chance to say thank you for your support throughout the year.



Mark Your Calendar!

Thank you to the Harbor Theater for offering to host a night of entertainment on August 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to benefit the historical society.

Please join us as noted local and National Geographic photographer **Bob Krist** and *Downeast* magazine photographer **Ben Williamson** present Bob's documentary film showing the people and places that make Maine special. This collection is part of the Great Courses series called "Off the Beaten Path."

Refreshments will be provided by Eventide Specialties. Bob and Ben will have prints and books available for sale as added benefits for the museum. *Thank you Bob and Ben!*

Watch for more ticketing information as we get closer.



Collections

Each year, the society receives donations of artifacts, photos, and documents that help tell the region's story. We greatly appreciate every donation. If you drop off items, please be sure to include your name and address and to tell us a bit about your donation.

Thank you!

Acquisitions

Julia O'Brien-Merrill: Book. *Who's Who in Bayville, Maine in 2021*

Diane Campbell Saunders: Early sketch of Pier 1 with Linekin ferry.

Mary Huntington: 1/7 tin pie server made in the 1960s.

David Butterworth: Annual Report of the Attorney General of the State of Maine, 1911-1912.

Tim Eddy: Book, *Pools Landing, Tales of an Early New England Family*, by Tim Eddy.

Abby Dunlop & Parla Lavery:

Broken Dr. True's Elixer bottle found on Damariscove.

Dick Rubinger: Nursing diplomas and certificates for Marjorie Gregory.

Larry Brown: Early school slate boards.

Ruth & David Alley: Yearbook, The Oriole 1929. Harbor Grammar School.

Elizabeth Danes: 1896 Souvenir booklet of Boothbay Harbor & vicinity.

Kevin L. Barter: WWII Ration book issued to Nellie E. Snow and James Barter.

Ruth Van Sciver, Anne Hutchinson: Vintage photos of Isle of Springs

Articles

The Wrecked Schooner Mary Weaver in Mill Cove

A moment in 1910s Boothbay Harbor by Carbone's Store

A King's Grant, Parts I, II

The Court of General Sessions

The Strand in 1948

Early Presidential Yachts in Maine

Presidential Yacht Mayflower in Boothbay

Matilda Hatchard of Ocean Point

The Honor Roll at Boothbay Center

The 1910 Roller Coaster in East Boothbay

Christmas 1904, Parts I, II by Evelyn Hodgdon

Boothbay Region Dumps, Parts I, II, III



Our tool collection includes artifacts from a variety of local industries from farming and sailmaking to ice harvesting.

Digitizing Project

This project is making steady progress toward our ambitious long-range goal of scanning the museum's collections of documents, photographs, and artifacts in digital form. Three volunteers, headed by Jon Dunsford, are currently scanning the society's extensive photo and postcard collections. Another group of volunteers are hard at work scanning our history files. Once these tasks are completed, they will move on to the family files, account book boxes, document boxes, and artifacts. We are currently applying for special collections management software to enhance availability of these digital records.

We need your help!

Our scanners commit to a two-hour slot per week. We currently have room for a few more volunteers. Should you wish to join our elite band of brothers and sisters, unsung heroes, please contact Merritt Blakeslee: 703-869-3573, mrb@blakeslee-law.com.

Did you know the museum houses over 15,000 photographic images, 4,500+ history and family files, oral histories, diaries, account books, maps, and more? Please help us preserve these items for the future.

Thank you!

Thank you to long-time member **Jeff Brown** for sprucing up the museum's hanging sign and adding our hours and contact information on the building. Especially helpful when our standing signs get blown over!

Thank you to **Rebuilding Together** for answering the call once again by helping with a series of building issues. This spring, the gang will begin work on some exterior fixups.

Thank you to **Merritt Blakeslee, Jon Dunsford, John Morris, Rob Michael, and Lael Montgomery** for donations of seed money and equipment that helped launch the digitizing project, and to **Sally Kent** for donating a set of file drawers. Over the next year we will seek funding to upgrade equipment and software.

As always, thank you to our members, donors, and volunteers. While the board of trustees may set the society's direction, little would happen without your ongoing support.

Please share news of the society with friends and family and encourage them to come browse the museum and volunteer.

Membership Matters

2023-2024 renewal packets were recently mailed to our active members. This year, we have added a few more gifts as our way of saying thank you. We are indebted to our members for their annual support of the society's mission. We currently have 236 member households. Please contact the office with questions about your membership. This spring we would like to recognize the following members who have joined since May 1, 2022.

Bellows, Wendy & Alan	Boothbay, Me.
Gill, Brendan	Chelmsford, Mass.
Kent, Sally	Boothbay, Me.
Lachmann, Norbert	Warwick, R.I.
Lewis, Timothy	Boothbay Harbor, Me.
Meadows, Teresa	Williamston, S.C.
Moroney, Thomas	Boothbay, Me.
Peters, Eleanor & Jeff	Greene, Me.
Stedt, David & Sarah	Hopkinton, Me.
Wold, Melanie	Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Special Offering!



Rajput Hunt by Dahlov Ipcar
Signed print edition 17/50, created 1996
Valued at \$1,000

Dahlov Ipcar was a beloved Maine artist and author. Thanks to a generous donor, the society is pleased to offer for sale this wonderful 21" x 26" (framed) Ipcar print, officially valued in 2023 by the Dahlov Ipcar Arts Collection, LLC at \$1,000. Perfect for an Ipcar devotee. Please call the office for information on how to view or purchase this print and support the society!

We're looking for summer volunteers!

Can you spare a few hours a month to help at the museum? Summers are very busy and having extra people on hand to greet visitors, help researchers, do some gardening, or simply help with filing can make a big difference. Office manager Jane Johnston will be here, as well as regular collections volunteers.

Please contact Jane for more information:
207-633-0820; brhs@gwi.net



Jon Dunsford and Liz Ullrich scanning documents and photographs

BOOTHBAY REGION
CAPTAINS AND VESSELS
1800 to 1921
Exhibit Catalog



Boothbay Region Historical Society
Kathy Tibbetts, Editor

New Exhibit Catalog!

We're excited to offer a new book inspired by our popular exhibit "Captains and Vessels of the Boothbay Region 1800-1921." Sailors working aboard local fishing schooners in northern waters often battled wintry storms or summer hurricanes. Crews sailing on a brig to ports around the world often faced malaria, yellow fever, and other hazards. In the West Indies, they bought and sold goods such as northern lumber or ice for tropical fruits and rubber. The life of a sailor was often a life of hardship for those on the sea, as well as for those family members left at home, waiting for news of a loved one. In many cases, crews were made up of multiple members of one family.

Using photographs, letters, excerpts from diaries, and newspaper clippings, the current exhibit paints a picture of life at sea and at home in Boothbay in the 1800s. Our new book is filled with additional text and photos, as well as in-depth details about vessels built in the region. If you are interested in local maritime history, this will be a worthy addition to your collection. The exhibit catalog will be available soon in the museum gift shop and on our website.



Boothbay Region Historical Society
P. O. Box 272, 72 Oak Street
Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538

Open Year Round
Thursday through Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

207-633-0820
brhs@gwi.net
www.boothbayhistorical.org
Follow us on Facebook

Researchers:

For best results, please contact the office before arriving. We will forward your requests to our research assistants.

Note: Email and phone messages are checked Wednesday-Saturday

Please advise us of address, phone, or email changes

Boothbay Region Historical Society Membership Form

Memberships run May 1 to April 30

Name(s): _____

Primary address: _____

Town : _____ State ____ ZIP: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Email: _____

Our memberships are counted by households, whether you are single, a couple, or a family. Simply choose your most comfortable level.

Thank you for your support!

For information on volunteering at the museum contact
Kathy Goldner: boothbayhistoric@gmail.com

Please choose your member level

All active members receive a 10% discount on purchases, a society decal, and our newsletters.

_____ \$30 Pinky

_____ \$50 Sloop includes 1 digital photo

_____ \$100 Schooner includes 1 hour research assistance and 1 digital photo

_____ \$150 or more Brig includes 2 hours research assistance and 1 digital photo.

Please make checks payable to:

Boothbay Region Historical Society
P. O. Box 272, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538