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BOOTHBAY REGION
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

APRIL 2024

Researching and preserving our history, so your stories will not be forgotten.

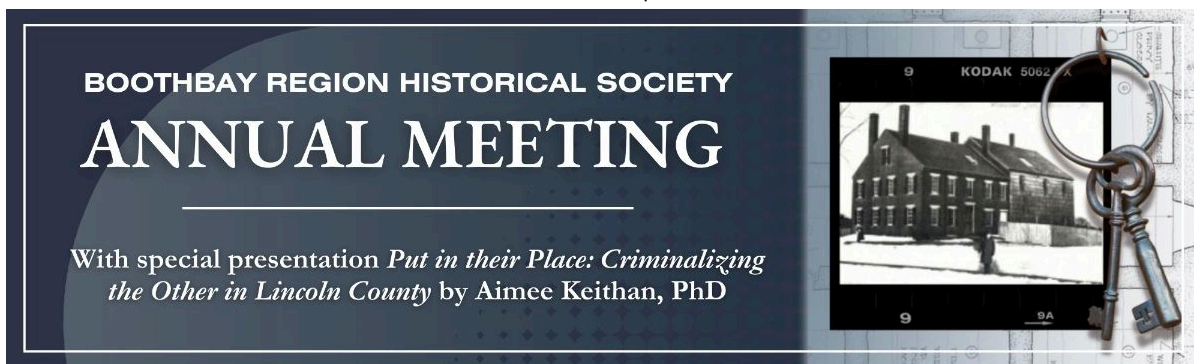


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An unidentified woman on a snowbank, undated.

(Boothbay Region Historical Society Collections EBG1262 Dot Rice Booth Collection)



BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

With special presentation *Put in their Place: Criminalizing the Other in Lincoln County* by Aimee Keithan, PhD

Annual Meeting and Lecture
Tuesday, May 21 at 4:00pm
72 Oak St, Boothbay Harbor, ME

Join us on **May 21st at 4:00pm** for the **Boothbay Region Historical Society Annual Meeting**. After an introduction by outgoing-President Dana Wilson, and a brief bit of business including electing new officers and trustees, Executive Director Aimee Keithan will take the mic at 4:30.

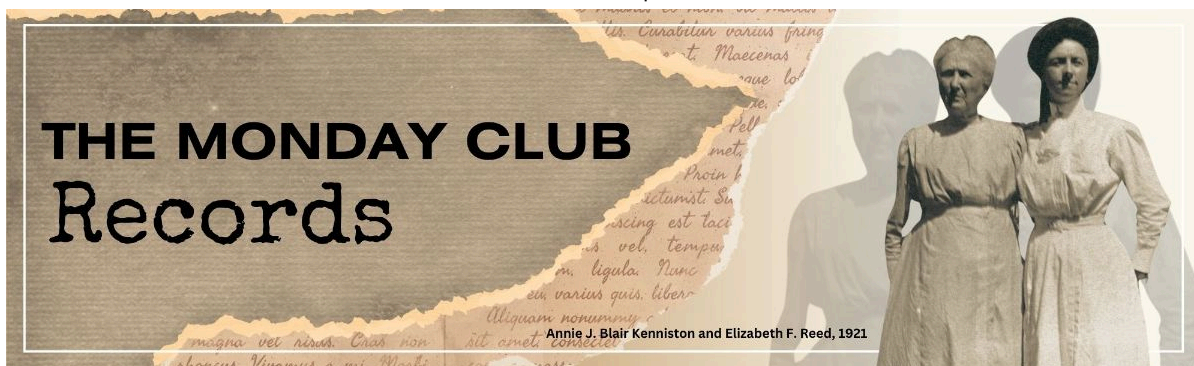
Aimee will combine her experience in buildings archaeology and architectural history to present a generously illustrated talk entitled, ***Put in their Place: Criminalizing the Other in Lincoln County***. Aimee brings past inhabitants of the area to life by examining the spaces they occupied when incarcerated. She probes individual lives of so-called “criminals”, going beyond this negative label and questioning what circumstances led them to a life of crime. Come learn a bit about a hidden part of our area’s past!

The program is open to the public, but only Members are eligible to vote.

Sign up now—space is limited.

This is a FREE event, but pre-registration is required.

REGISTER HERE



The Boothbay Harbor Monday Club

Written by Julia O'Brien-Merrill, Boothbay Historical Trustee

Image above: Annie J. Blair Kenniston and Elizabeth F. Reed, Boothbay Region Historical Society

BHGI349

The desk in the corner of Room One at 72 Oak Street is proving to hold some precious primary sources surrounding the Boothbay Harbor Monday Club, which was organized in 1895, Federated in 1899, and Incorporated in 1946. Several people with whom I have discussed the Monday Club have wondered if the club was a group of women sitting around having tea and partaking in small talk.

Julia Tupper Reed wrote a paper titled, *History of the Monday Club 1895-1945*, in which she gives a detailed accounting of the who, the what, the where, the why, and the how of the Club. "On an afternoon in October 1895, five ladies met and discussed the feasibility of forming a literary club that would be of mutual improvement to its members, as well as an afternoon of social enjoyment." One of the ladies remarked that, "Monday afternoon would be a good time to meet as that was wash day, and everyone felt like getting out in the afternoon."

One of the founding members of The Monday Club was Annie Blair Kenniston (Mrs. George B.) who was elected as the first president from 1895-1897 and held a second term as president in 1902-1903. She had also been a member of another literary club in Boothbay Harbor. "The Kentowis Circle" was organized in 1886 with a prescribed course of study and connected with the National Chautauqua Society. Other founding members, Mrs. Nellie Tupper and Mrs. Grace Hussey were members of the "Onaway Circle". I just discovered the beautifully written minutes from these clubs from 1886-1894 at the back of a notebook of early programs. I can't wait to start reading them to see what we can discover about the minds of these nineteenth-century women.

According to Julia Tupper Reed's History, Mrs. Mary Maddocks is credited with giving the club its motto – "There is only one proof of ability – Action". The year that Miss Elizabeth Freeman Reed was the club's president, the 1942-1943 Program shows a broad stroke of "action" in its listing of contributions: Lincoln Home for the Aged, Educational Loan Fund, Prize Essay Contests, Regional Social Service Committee, Red Cross, Opportunity Farm, Town and Country Church Committee, United China Relief Incorporated, Tonsillectomies and Cod Liver Oil for School Children, Defense Bond, Maine Division Cancer Control, and the Society for Crippled Children.

From what I am discovering, the Monday Club was much more complicated and sophisticated than tea and crumpets. Once the contents get sorted and catalogued in a collection, they will provide information to those folks curious about these fascinating women. If anyone has information to share about a relative who was involved in The Monday Club, please [reach out to us](#).



With more than 50 people registering, it's fair to say that our first online-only program was a success! On Wednesday, March 20th an enthusiastic group of history lovers gathered online to enjoy a virtual program by author Anne Gass. Celebrating Women's History Month, *Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine's Fight for Woman Suffrage* explored the experience of women fighting for suffrage through the lens of Anne's great-grandmother. Many women of the Boothbay region were active in this fight, and Whitehouse herself had connections to the area. We're pleased to say that the full program is now available [on Youtube](#). Subscribe to our channel to get notified when we upload new videos!



Spring brings new growth, warmer days, and... membership season! Whether you're a returning member (thank you!) or new to us, this is the time to contribute your membership dues. We have a variety of membership levels for you to choose from, which can be viewed [online](#). Membership dues can be paid on our website--simply make a donation in the correct amount and include your membership level in the Note section--or by mailing a check to: Boothbay Region Historical Society, P.O. Box 272, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538. Signing up or renewing now entitles you to a full year of membership benefits through April 2025. We would love to have you as part of our community!

JOIN OR RENEW NOW



Open all year

Thursday through Saturday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local historian available by chance or appointment

ADMISSION IS FREE

