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BOOTHBAY REGION
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

JUNE 2024

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

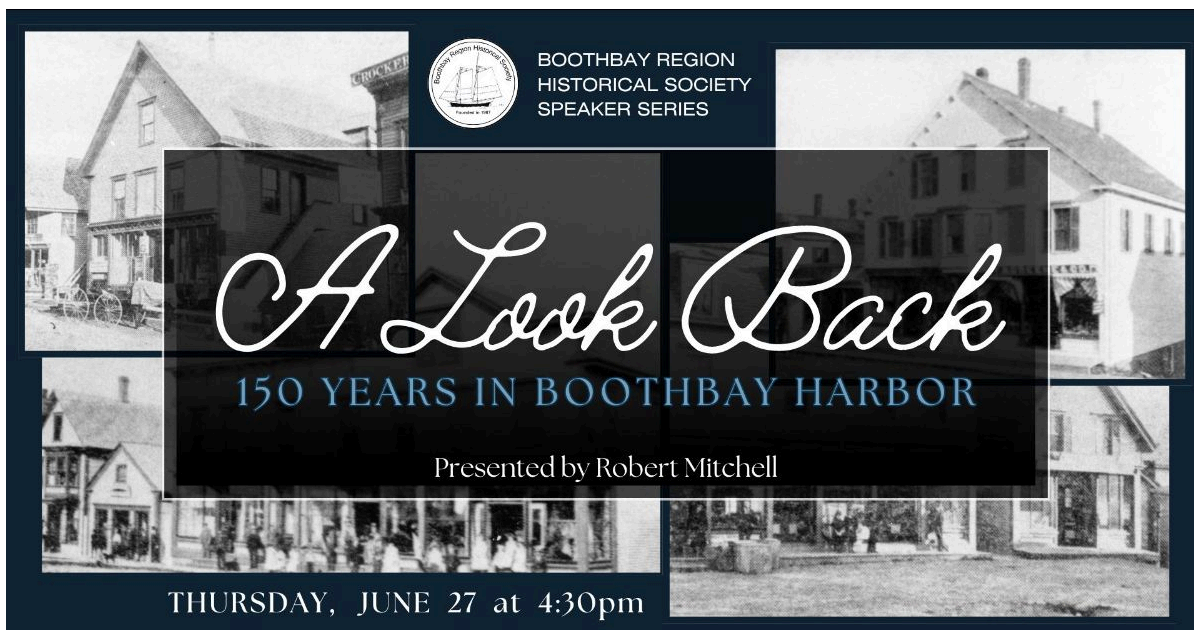


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A bathing beauty enjoying summer on Squirrel Island, early 20th century.

(Boothbay Region Historical Society Collections SQI085 31)



Summer Speaker Series

A Look Back: 150 Years in Boothbay Harbor

Presented by Robert Mitchell

Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:30pm

72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor, ME

In the first talk of our 2024 Summer Speaker Series, Robert Mitchell will discuss Boothbay Harbor from 1874 to today in, *A Look Back: 150 Years in Boothbay Harbor*. Using historic photos of the area from his own collections and Boothbay Region Historical Society, Robert will make the past of our vibrant community come alive. Discussing buildings, businesses, and events of times gone by, he'll reveal what has changed but also what has stayed the same and continues to define the town we love.

This talk compliments our 2024 exhibit, opening this summer, celebrating the birth of Elizabeth Freeman Reed (1874-1953) and the construction of her childhood home at 72 Oak Street, where our museum is now housed. Robert's talk will put the house's construction and Elizabeth's birth into context with local history. The exhibit builds on this, adding regional, national, and global context to help connect the Boothbay region to the wider world.

This event is free. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Space is limited. [Pre-registration is required.](#)

REGISTER HERE



Time is running out to purchase a ticket for our **Sail Away Fundraiser—entries close in one week on World Ocean Day, June 8, 2024 at 2:00pm!**

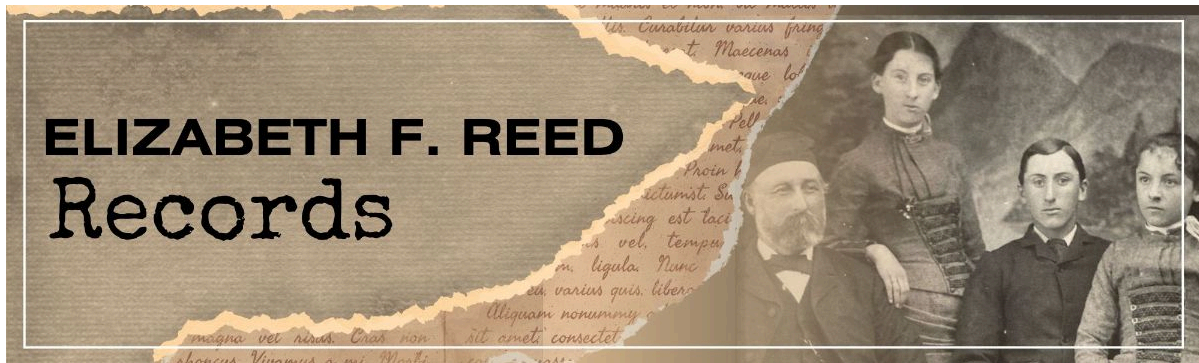
Thanks to the generosity of [Canvas + Pine Sailing Expeditions](#), we're raffling off a two-hour private sailing charter for six during 2024 Windjammer Days week, June 25 to June 28, 2024—a \$400 value. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is a curated private sail aboard the Pilot Cutter Hesper. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the windjammers, this exclusive experience promises an unforgettable journey aboard a vessel revered for its elegance and seafaring prowess.

Purchase tickets:

- By clicking on the [button](#) below
- In person at 72 Oak St. Boothbay Harbor, Thursday-Saturday, 10am-2pm
- By phone at (207) 633.0820
- By mailing a check to (*checks must be received by June 8, 2024*):
Boothbay Region Historical Society
P.O. Box 272
Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538

***Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100.
All proceeds benefit our 2024 annual fund.***

PURCHASE TICKETS



Elizabeth Reed's Magnanimous Gift

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

Image above: Freeman Reed with his children. Elizabeth Reed is at the far right.

Looking back one hundred and fifty years to 1874, the birth of Elizabeth Freeman Reed stands out as a significant event in the history of the region and of the current home of the Boothbay Region Historical Society. The opening lines of the Dedication Address of the Monday Club, written and delivered on February 22, 1960, by Mrs. George F. Carlisle read, "This afternoon we are commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Monday Club, paying tribute to Miss Elizabeth Freeman Reed and dedicating this attractive home she bequeathed to the Monday Club."

Captain Freeman Kennedy Reed (1841-1889) and Elizabeth Fisher Blair (1840-1874) married in 1867. When they moved into their newly built Oak Street home in 1874 they already had two young children, Fullerton Paul (1870-1949) and Kate Leslie (1872-1927). Elizabeth Freeman Reed was born on December 12, 1874. Tragically, her mother died two weeks later, leaving the captain with three young children. When their father was at sea, friends and relatives cared for the three Reed children, who attended local schools and on occasion accompanied their father on his schooner, the *James S. Lowell*.

After Elizabeth, also known as Bess, graduated from Lincoln Academy and entered Mount Holyoke College in 1892. Her extensive life accomplishments in Boston, New York, and Boothbay Harbor are described in detail in the four-page Dedication Address. In the 1940s when Bess Reed was most active in the

Monday Club, as Vice President in 1942-43 and President in 1943-44, members did not want to deplete their treasury to purchase land for a club house. Bess made plans at a meeting with several members to offer the Monday Club the Oak Street home in which she had spent so much of her life. Bess died on January 30, 1953, with the first meeting of the Monday Club convening in their new club house on December 6, 1954.

The dedication continues, "In memory of Miss Elizabeth Freeman Reed and her magnanimous gift of remembrance to the Monday Club, we dedicate the house with love, affection and appreciation. We are grateful for the confidence she has placed in us. Pleasant memories of her friendship, comradeship, and leadership still abide with us." The benediction reads: (Note that I have added [s] to better reflect the members of the Monday Club.)

"May everyone who comes within this house be stronger.
Richer, better, happier, the longer [s]he remain,
Counting life more worth living,
Friendship more worth the giving,
Then again, remembering, gladly how [s]he dwelt here,
When [s]he parts, may [s]he leave sweet thoughts behind [her]him,
Memories that e'er will bind [her]him,
In our hearts.
Amen:"

As folks view our upcoming exhibit depicting various aspects of life circa 1874 in the Boothbay Region, may we each show our own gratitude for the Historical Society's use of the building where the remarkable Elizabeth Freeman Reed was born one hundred and fifty years ago.



We may be just a small historical society, but we accomplish a lot! And this is largely thanks to a fantastic corps of volunteers. With the summer season upon

us, now is the time to get involved. We have a variety of interesting and fun **volunteer positions open** right now and we'd love to chat with you about them. Here are just a few of the opportunities we have open.

- If you enjoy working with computers and looking through historic documents, you might enjoy **digitizing** or working with our new **collection management system**.
- If you're an outgoing person who likes meeting people and talking about the history of our area, we would love to train you to be a **greeter**—the first face visitors see!
- If you like to spend time on home improvement, diy, old buildings, or small carpentry projects, we always have fun **building projects** that need doing in our lovely 1874 building.

Please reach out with any questions or to chat about your interest in volunteering by [emailing Executive Director Aimee Keithan](#).



Do you know the difference between **membership dues** and **donations**? It's a surprisingly tricky question!

Membership Dues

- Set amount
- Due Annually (5/1)
- Includes benefits ([see our Membership page](#))
- Not tax deductible
- *A continuous, reliable source of income for the historical society*

Donations

- Any amount
- Submitted when you decide

- Added to our [Annual Fund](#)
- Tax deductible
- *Use for vital operational income and enables important projects*

If you're a member, you'll receive a reminder from us to submit your dues before May 1. (If you need to renew for 2024-2025, [click here](#)). If you're a past donor we may reach out in the spring to invite you to consider the benefits of membership.

In the autumn, we appeal to all our wonderful supporters, asking you to consider a donation to enable us to continue to do our important work. Many people choose to be members as well as contribute to the Annual Fund through a separate donation. We hope this makes it a little easier for you to decide just where you want your hard-earned dollars to go. We never take your support for granted and remain grateful for all you give!

BECOME A MEMBER

DONATE



Thank you to the [Boothbay Region Garden Club](#) for our beautiful summer window boxes—we're looking forward to watching them bloom!



Open all year

Thursday through Saturday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local historian available by chance or appointment

ADMISSION IS FREE

