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BOOTHBAY REGION  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2024

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



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*Group of unidentified people enjoying a ride in a hay wagon.  
Undated. (Boothbay Region Historical Society Collections, OE076)*

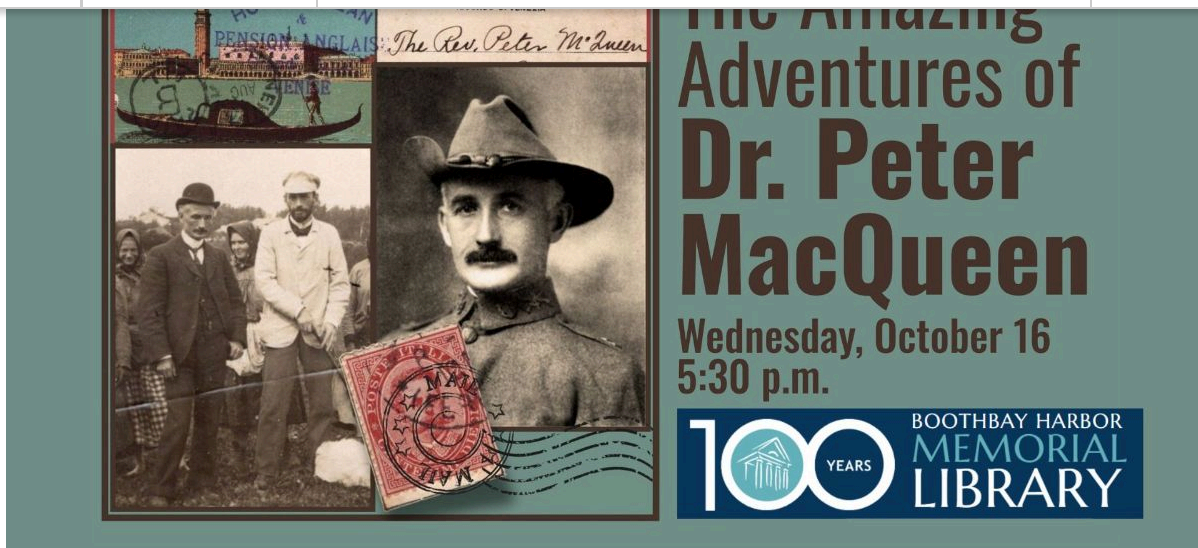


**Annual Cheese and Bake Sale**  
***Tomorrow, October 12, 2024 9am-2pm***

We're holding our **Annual Cheese and Bake Sale** on **Saturday, October 12th** from **9am-2pm** at the museum, **72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor, Maine**. Our generous volunteer bakers will provide a delicious assortment of homemade goodies. And we'll also be offering our popular Maine-produced, 2-year, extra sharp cheddar again this year. Perfect for mac and cheese, sandwiches, snacking, and gifts!

***We hope to see you at the museum!***

*If you pre-ordered cheese, it will be ready for pick up on Friday, October 11 from 10am-2pm or Saturday, October 12 from 9am-2pm at the Historical Society, 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor.*

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### ***The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Peter MacQueen***

*Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30pm*

*at Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library*

On **Wednesday, October 16th at 5:30pm**, Historical Society executive director Aimée Keithan, will give a special talk **at Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library** about [\*The Amazing Adventures\*](#) of notable Boothbay Harbor resident Peter MacQueen (1863-1924).

A pastor, special agent and journalist board a boat... No, this isn't the beginning of a complex math problem, or even a good joke. Instead, it was a typical day in the life of Dr. Peter MacQueen (1863-1924). This renowned traveler and writer traversed over 350,000 miles, visited several dozen countries, worked for two presidents, visited war zones, lived with the Kenyan Taveta people, and even scaled Kilimanjaro. Back in America, people clamored to hear him speak about his adventures and eagerly awaited publication of his latest articles.

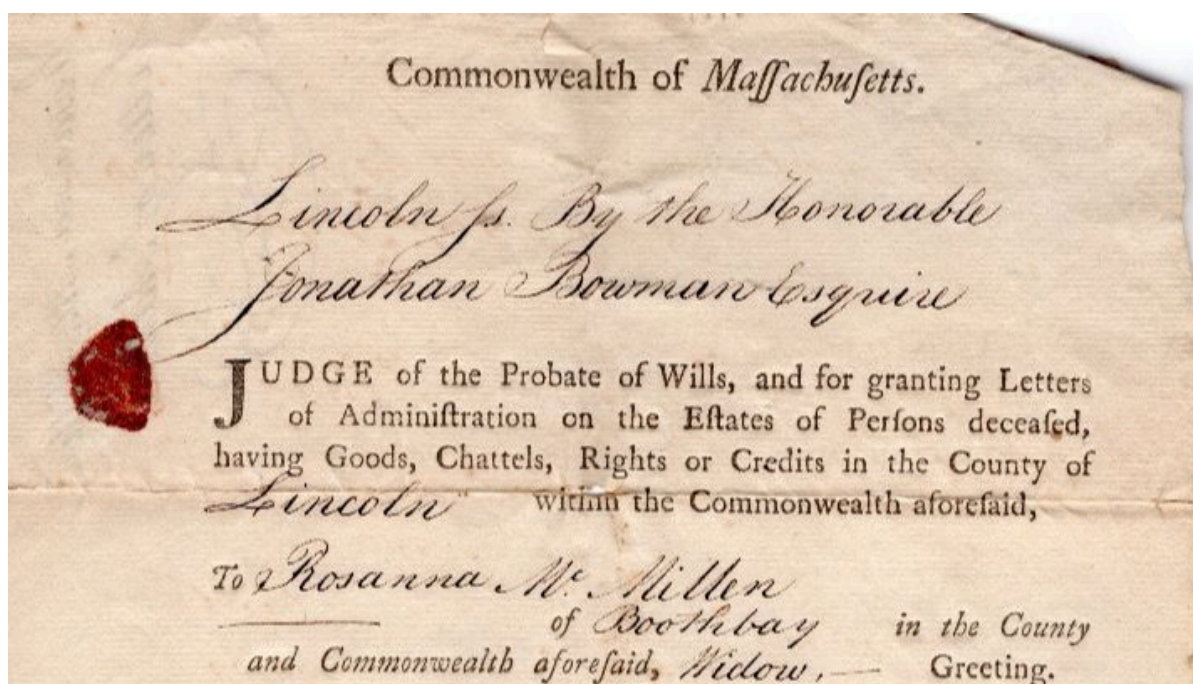
Despite traveling to exotic locales and experiencing often unbelievable danger, it was East Boothbay that called to him when he sought rest and retirement. Here, he became pastor of Boothbay Harbor's Congregational church, spent time with friends at his cottage on Murray Hill, and indulged in the quirky pastime of training crows.

Although his papers are housed at the Boston Public Library, the numerous colored photos that he used in his lectures have never been found. But thanks to a generous donor, Boothbay Region Historical Society has recently acquired one of MacQueen's souvenir postcard albums and a number of original black



Using these extraordinary archival items, Boothbay Region Historical Society executive director Aimee Keithan will recreate some of MacQueen's travels and accomplishments through his own souvenirs and photographs. This richly illustrated presentation will help us once again remember the amazing adventures of one of the area's most fascinating historical figures.

## LEARN MORE



Contrary to the popular belief that few 18th-century women owned property, the Boothbay Region Historical Society's archival collections contain evidence that many women bought, sold, and inherited property – like this 1792 document naming Rosanna McMillen administrator of the estate of her late father, John Orr.

### **Digitization Project Speeds Ahead**

*Written by Merritt Blakeslee, Trustee*

In 2022, the Boothbay Region Historical Society embarked on an ambitious project to produce digital images of all its collections – artifacts, photographs, and documents – with the twin goals of preserving them against loss or deterioration and of making them more accessible to researchers and visitors to

photographed more than 150 artifacts.

As each item is digitized or photographed, it is entered into a CatalogIt, a state-of-the-art collections management database that displays each historic item and all information associated with it. Eventually, the Society will have a dedicated computer terminal for in-house use by researchers. The long-term goal for the digital database installation is to make the Society's collections records available online to the public.

"CatalogIt is specifically designed for small and mid-sized museums, like us," Historical Society Executive Director Aimée Keithan said. "It has an image forward, intuitive interface that researchers will find easy to use once it's ready to share with the public."

Turning to the Society's document collections, earlier this year volunteers using flatbed and high-speed, sheet-feed scanners finished digitizing the History Files, a collection of more than 5,000 documents organized by subject matter into 200 topics.

One of the areas of greatest interest to visitors is the Society's extensive collection of local genealogical information. Since completing the History Files, volunteers have been digitizing the Society's genealogical materials. These include obituaries, descendancy charts, correspondence, news clippings, notes, and secondary materials. The Family History Files are maintained in four separate collections. The Family History Files were compiled by Barbara Rumsey and cover more than 400 individual family names. A second set of Family History Files covering an additional 315 surnames was compiled by Muriel Howard and donated to the Society following her death in the mid-1980s. Additionally, there is a collection of 27 linear feet of 3x5 index cards compiled by Muriel Howard and containing genealogical notes on individuals. Finally, the Society possesses a collection of bound family histories compiled at different times by various authors and covering more than 50 families. Downloadable indexes to the Society's History Files and Family History Files may be found on the Society's website at <https://boothbayhistorical.org/research-at-the-brhs/>.

At present, the Society's dedicated document scanning volunteers have reached the letter M in the Family History Files compiled by Barbara Rumsey. Completing the digitization of the Society's bountiful genealogical files will be an

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*If you are interested in joining this worthy project, please contact the Society's office manager, Jane Johnston, at (207) 633-0820 or [info@boothbayhistorical.org](mailto:info@boothbayhistorical.org).*

I WANT TO HELP DIGITIZE!



*Open all year*

*Thursday through Saturday*

*10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

*Local historian available by chance or appointment*

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