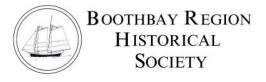
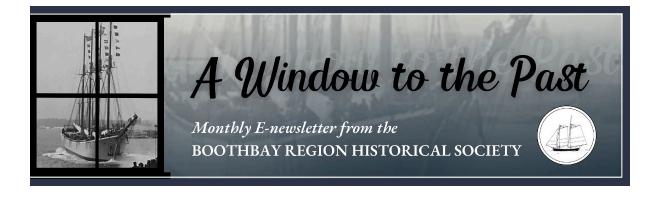
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**MAY 2024** 

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Miriam Reed behind the wheel of a 1928 Ford (Boothbay Region Historical Society Collections EBGI215, Miriam Reed Collection)



We're pleased to announce our **2024** *Summer Speaker Series* has been scheduled. These popular in-person lectures are held at the museum (72 Oak St. Boothbay Harbor, ME) at 4:30pm. This year's lectures are:

- June 27 Downtown Boothbay Harbor 150 Years Ago with Robert Mitchell
- July 11 The History of the Rice Shipyard, 1892-1959 with Jon Dunsford
- August 8 Queen Marie Antoinette & Boothbay Area Links to France and Other Places with Chip Griffin

We'll have more information as we get closer to the dates. <u>Check our website</u> <u>for up-to-date information on events</u>, including how to pre-register for events that are likely to fill up fast!



On a beautifully sunny day last week, the historical society was happy to welcome Boothbay Region Elementary School Third Graders. Seventeen enthusiastic students and two teachers roamed the museum, learning about how a historical society works and the history of the area. After being introduced to the kinds of resources the historical society has and how documents, photos, and items can be used to learn about the past, students found exhibit items that caught their interest. These items were used to start discussions and raise questions about history and how we preserve it for the future. Finally, the group broke into smaller teams to carry out a scavenger hunt. When asked what their favorite item was, answers ranged from swords to

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ice shoes, creepy dolls (a particular favorite) to historical medical kits. The group was full of engaged learners, and we hope we might have planted a few seeds that will blossom into future historians!



## Pageant – *The Progress of Women* to commemorate 45th year of the Monday Club and Golden Jubilee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1890-1940

Written by Julia O'Brien-Merrill, Boothbay Historical Trustee Image above: Monday club Members at 72 Oak St, Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay Region Historical Society MUS104 01

I am fascinated by the creativity and perseverance of the women who formed the Boothbay Harbor Monday Club, organized in 1895 and federated in 1897. The overflowing desk drawers of minutes, program booklets, newspaper articles, and scrapbooks are evidence of their determination to make a meaningful impact on their own lives and on their community. An extract from their Constitution states: "The purpose of this Club shall be the mutual improvement of its members through the medium of study, and the discussion and consideration of such matters as may from time to time be determined upon." The History of the Monday Club, 1895-1945, typed on onion skin paper written by Mrs. Julia Tupper Reed on October 1, 1945, gives us a window into the multiple actions that these women had taken as active citizens of the region, with their Club Motto being: "There is only one proof of ability – "Action".

Twenty-five years following her involvement in the passing of the 1920 Nineteenth Amendment giving American women the vote, Elizabeth Freeman Reed reflected on the impact of women on society. She wrote a Pageant for both the Boothbay Harbor's Monday Club's Forty-fifth Year Anniversary and for the commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the General Federation of

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Women's Clubs from1890-1940. Titled The Progress of Women, the pageant was performed at the Congregational Church on April 30, 1940. It depicted the influence that many well-known and some lesser-known American women had exerted in all walks of life since the earliest history of the United States. Anne Hutchinson, Hannah Dustin, Deborah Sampson, Abigail Adams, Mercy Warren, Sacajawea, Lucretia Mott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Hunt Jackson, Louisa M. Alcott, Lillian Nordica, Mrs. H.H. Beach, and Jane Adams are among the thirty-four characters, with Monday Club members in period costumes playing multiple parts.

The opening lines of the prologue in Scene I give a hint of how Elizabeth Reed viewed the issues of women's rights:

Eons Ago

Living in caves, Women to men Were merely slaves. If a woman rebelled, With a heavy thud, Down on her head Came the Cave Man's Club.

Scene II begins in 1635 in Boston in a small Puritan house where Anne Hutchinson and Mrs. Wilson, the wife of a Puritan minister, are knitting while having a robust discussion about a woman's role in society. Scene II continues as different characters appear and carry on with meaningful discussions, together with dancing and singing incorporated into what must have been quite entertaining for the entire audience. The final words in the uplifting Epilogue give us the sense that Elizabeth Reed was showing her sense of ability – "Action".

Our Golden Jubilee is here. We now have reached a new frontier Let's throw off every mental shackle And never fear new tasks to tackle. The dimming past we leave behind We'll try to develop a master-mind For each and all of woman-kind. A place in the world is for those who dare; A woman's place is everywhere. The full script of the pageant is available at the Museum for any thespians willing to take it on!



Today is launch day for the Hannaford Community Bag Program! Starting today and for the entire month of May, when you **purchase a \$2.50 Hannaford Community Bag** at the Hannaford located at 180 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, **\$1 is donated to the Boothbay Region Historical Society.** 

Our goal is to sell **50 bags, equivalent to \$50 raised**. Can you help us meet this ambitious goal? The Hannaford Community Bags are located on displays around the store and at the checkout. For more information about the program, please visit <u>hannaford.2givelocal.com</u>.



Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30, which means it's membership season! This year members gain an additional benefit—one we think you'll love. We're transitioning our collections records including document and photo scans onto a digital database. This easily searchable program will be available on-site to members at no charge at a dedicated research terminal soon. Research your way: browse photos, research family history, view artifacts, and more. And whether you're a renewing member or just joining us this year, we've made it easy to pay your dues with a new <u>Membership page</u>

on our website.

## 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

