



SUMMER RAFFLE!

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Capt. Craig Collins & Crew for a
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Drawing June 20, 2025

See our website for details

2025 Annual Meeting

On May 13, 2025, President Lucian Laurie convened the Society's annual meeting. He welcomed guests and reviewed society activities over the past year. Trustee Ruth Alley then presented the slate of nominees for 2025-2026. For new three-year terms: Pat Brunell and Liz Ullrich. For President, Kay Wilder; for Vice-President, Merritt Blakeslee; for Treasurer, Lucian Laurie; for Secretary, Wendy Bellows. Members voted to accept the full slate.

Following the business meeting, local Coast Guard Auxiliary member Dave Eastwood highlighted some history of the US Coast Guard, especially the benefits of having the service located in the Boothbay region since the World War I era. We apologize that due to technical difficulties, this program was not available on Zoom. Dave will be back later in the year!

Jon Dunsford introduced our new USCG exhibit highlighting Coast Guard vessels either built in the region or serving specific functions, such as lightships. This exhibit opens June 19.



*Dave Eastwood
presents stories of
the US Coast Guard*

New Faces at the Historical Society

Pat Brunell

New trustee Pat Brunell spent most of her life in northern NJ where she worked as a Reference Librarian in several public libraries. She and her husband Duane and their two young daughters moved to Boothbay Harbor in 2000 when Duane took a job with the Maine DOT. Pat worked as Head Librarian at the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library from 2002-2008. Pat was an early volunteer with our digitization project, seeing it as a great opportunity to get involved with a significant long-term project. She is now working on the Register Project.



Connie Hartley Outreach & Development Manager

Connie is from the Central Maine area. She is a former Executive Director of a small nonprofit in Brunswick, and Volunteer Program Manager with a museum on the mid coast. Connie has a strong passion for nonprofit organizations. While living in Australia she served as president of the Rotary club and implemented several initiatives supporting nonprofits. Connie enjoys spending time near the ocean and writing poetry. Talk to Connie about volunteering!

Liz Ullrich

New trustee Liz Ullrich grew up in Wooster, Ohio, graduating from Wittenberg University, and eventually moving to New Hampshire. She retired in East Boothbay in 2021. She has three children and two grandchildren who love visiting Maine. Liz holds a master's degree in education and library science, and is passionate about libraries, museums, genealogy, and antiquarian books. Liz has been a weekly scanning volunteer for over 18 months and is also helping with exhibits and research.





President's Message

Dear Friends,

This year's theme for the society is "moving forward." The society is steadily moving forward with new exhibits, new and returning speakers, new events and fundraisers, and more. Our new trustees bring fresh ideas and a deep appreciation of history and volunteering.

We've moved forward by welcoming Connie Hartley as our new Outreach and Development Manager. Connie has hit the ground running with fresh energy and new ideas.

We're welcoming new volunteers to help with research, exhibits, collections care, digitization, building and grounds care, and more. We're moving forward with plans to explore how to better use the spaces within the Reed House, while also assessing new ways to protect our collections from damage due to exposure to sunlight, extreme temperatures, and humidity.

As we move forward with new projects, we're also reaching outward by collaborating with other area organizations.

Thank you to all who support our mission to preserve and share the region's history by becoming a member or making a donation.

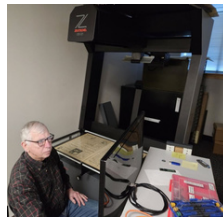
Kay Wilder

*You keep us
moving forward!*

Boothbay Register Project Update *Volunteers needed!*



1879 edition of the Boothbay Register



Trustee Merritt Blakeslee at the large-format scanner

We're pleased to announce the effort to digitize all known editions of the Boothbay Register is well underway. Thanks to a grant from the Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation, the Historical Society and the Register are pooling their collections to capture all available issues beginning with the first editions in 1876. The Maine State Library is generously putting at our disposal a state-of-the-art, large-format scanner located at their library in Augusta. Historical Society volunteers have been traveling to the library to work on this landmark project. The library has also loaned us a special book scanner to help digitize more items in-house.

***Imagine having digital access to 150 years
of the Boothbay Register!***

More volunteers are needed to keep this exciting project moving forward. Your efforts will serve those interested in local history for generations to come.

*To find out more, please contact the office: email:
info@boothbayhistorical.org or call 207.633.0820*

Current Exhibits

Open Thursday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



In honor of the US Coast Guard, our latest exhibit highlights some history of USCG vessels built or employed in Maine waters, such as the US Coast Guard Cutter Algonquin, seen here breaking ice.

A Look Back: 150 Years of Life in the Boothbay Region showcases local history through artifacts, photos, and stories. The exhibit highlights the Reed family, who built the museum, and features the Monday Club Papers.



The **Rice Brothers Collection** exhibit celebrates the legacy of the Rice Brothers Shipyard. It features photographs, archival records, and detailed ship models showcasing the shipyard's history.



Help Us Make History!

Do you have some time to share? Our volunteers engage in a variety of projects to help keep the society moving forward, while benefiting our communities.

No prior experience is necessary—we'll provide the training. Or if you have a particular skill or talent, chat with us and we can design a project just for you!

To learn more, email or call the office: 207.633.0820. info@boothbayhistorical.org. Or make an appointment to stop by and discuss different projects. **Thank you!**

Did you know...

There are different objectives in caring for a museum's collections.

Preservation is the protection of items from further deterioration, through proper care and storage.

Conservation refers to stabilizing an artifact or document in its current state or restoring it to its original condition with light cleaning and repairs.

Restoration returns an artifact to its original condition. This may mean simply removing old paint or actually replacing damaged or missing parts.

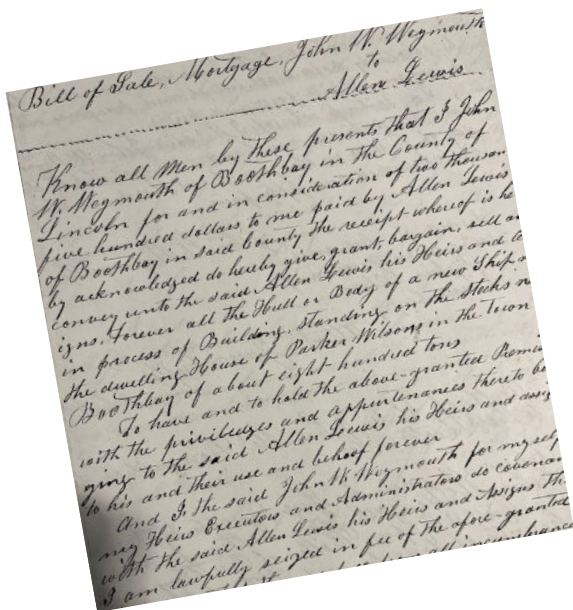
Join our Collections team as we catalog and care for the treasures that tell the rich story of the Boothbay region. It's fun and informative!



Volunteers prepare a painting for archival storage.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Digitize historic documents and photos
- Enter items into our digital collections database
- Historic artifact conservation and care
- Post on social media
- Create newsletters
- Small carpentry and building projects
- Help with special events
- Greet visitors
- Answer research questions
- Join a standing committee



Call For Transcribers!

Can you read fancy cursive writing? The society holds many old deeds, voting records, and wills written in the "olden days" that are difficult to read and impossible to digitize. If you're up for a challenge, please talk to us about transcribing these documents. Work at the museum or at home with photocopies.

*For information,
[email: info@boothbayhistorical.org](mailto:info@boothbayhistorical.org),
or call us at 207.633.0820.*

2025 Calendar of Events

www.boothbayhistorical.org



June 19: New exhibit opens honoring the US Coast Guard, on display throughout the summer. Learn a bit about the history of this valuable service and its connections to the Boothbay region.



July 3, 9:00 a.m. until sold out! Annual Fourth of July Bake Sale at the Historical Society, 72 Oak St. Boothbay Harbor. Stock up on yummy, pies, cakes, breads, cookies, and more!

July 10, 4:30 p.m. Speaker Van Reid of Edgecomb, is the author of the Moosepath League series. Van grew up in a storytelling family and has infused the spirit of those stories into novels set in 19th Century Maine. Join us for tales of adventure, romance, and Maine life. Note: This program will be at the Boothbay Town Hall. Call or email the office to reserve seating.

August 11, at 7:00 p.m.: “An Evening of Stories: Tales from Retired Bridge Tenders Duane and Dwight Lewis.” Presented jointly by the Society and the Friends of the Southport Historical Society at the Southport Town Hall, 361 Hendrick’s Hill Road (Rt. 27.)

August 15: Pre-order delicious Pineland two-year aged cheddar cheese. Watch for more information in August.



September 13, 4:00-6:30: Join us for a special evening as we step back in time. Tour the iconic 1700s Leach House on Sawyers Island. Sandra Oliver, well-known Maine food historian will share period food bites and stories of life in those early days. Local archaeologist Tim Dinsmore will highlight 18th century taverns and local archeological discoveries. Full details coming in July.

October 11, 9:00-sold out! Cheese & Treats sale at the museum. Always a hit! Pineland two-year aged cheese and yummy baked goods.



December 6, 10:00-2:00: Annual Holiday Open House. Join us as we ring in the holidays with seasonal treats, gifts, and raffles.

New!
Our 2026 Photo Calendar
featuring *Then & Now* images from
around the region. Watch for it later
this summer!



What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered where Boothbay got its name? In 1995, local historian Barbara Rumsey shared some possible explanations.

Winnegance - Townsend - Boothbay

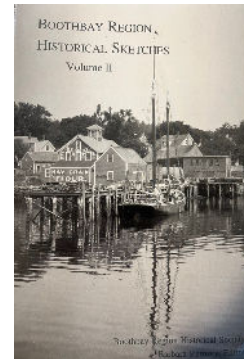
During the late 1600s, early settlers called the area Winnegance, the native name for “carrying place.” When a permanent settlement was established in 1730, the name Townshend (eventually spelled Townsend) was chosen in honor of Lord Townshend. Maine was part of Massachusetts until it became a state in 1820. In 1764, the townspeople petitioned the Massachusetts General Court to become an incorporated town.

As recounted in Francis Greene’s 1906 “History of Boothbay, Southport, and Boothbay Harbor” (p.691) there was already a Townsend, Mass. The petitioners were stumped when asked to choose a different name. A member of the Court asked if there were any distinguishing features of the area. The agent replied, “We have a harbor as snug as a booth.” “Do you have a bay?” “Yes.” And the name Boothbay was born! True story? It’s hard to say, but it seems to have been well known by the mid-1800s.

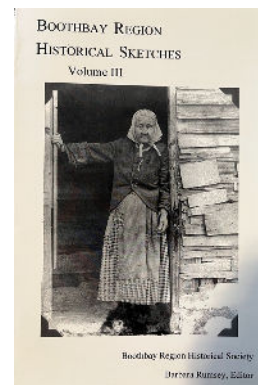
Beath Bay? Old Boothbay?

The Beath family was prominent beginning with the early Townsend settlement. By 1764, John Beath had organized a church, hired a minister, and found a meetinghouse – all required for incorporation as a town. Sadly, there are no documents or established oral histories to support this theory. There is even less evidence that someone at the General Court may have just decided to name the area in honor of a town in England.

As Barbara concluded: We were given an arbitrary name, like a hurricane name, but it's a good name, as names go.



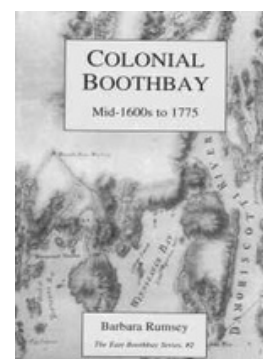
Source: *Boothbay Region Historical Sketches Vol. II.*



The Sketches series of stories Colonial Boothbay by Barbara Rumsey are musts for anyone interested in Boothbay region history. Available for purchase at the Historical Society.

Also available: Greene's History of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, and Southport.

*To order, call: 207.633.0820,
or email: info@boothbayhistorical.org.*





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

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

Contact
(207) 633.0820
info@boothbayhistorical.org
www.boothbayhistorical.org

Follow Us
  
@boothbayhistorical

*Boothbay Region Historical Society is
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization*

Please advise us of any address, phone, or email changes

BOOTHBAY REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Ruth Alley
Joe Ambrosino
Pat Brunell
Liz Ullrich

Outreach & Development

Manager Connie Hartley
Local historian, Barbara Rumsey
Trustee Emerita, Bea Walker



Your Support Matters

Memberships run from May 1 to April 30 with different member levels. Your dues create a reliable source of income

Annual Fund Donations may be made anytime, for any amount. Annual Fund donations are generally unrestricted.

Restricted Purpose funds support specific projects and programs, such as our Scholarship Fund. Specific purpose appeals allow us to augment tight annual budgets.

Bequests make a lasting impact and highlight the donor's confidence in the Society's future. Please contact the office for more information.

*Your support helps sustain and enhance the Society's
efforts to preserve and share the region's rich heritage.
Thank you!*