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BOOTHBAY REGION
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

December E-news 2025

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



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A Year In Review

As we reflect upon this year, we are celebrating a successful and productive time, thanks to our volunteers, members, and local businesses that have supported our programs, projects, and fundraising events. Through collaborative efforts we have developed new partnerships with people and businesses within the community.

Summer Speaker Series:

During our Annual Meeting in May, Coast Guard Auxiliary member Dave Eastwood presented history of the **U.S. Coast Guard** and the connection to

Local author, **Van Reid**, entertained members, and friends of the society at the Boothbay Town Office with personal stories he intertwines in his novels.

In collaboration with the Southport Historical Society, we presented “An Evening of Stories: Tales from Retired Bridge Tenders, **Duane and Dwight Lewis**.” The Southport Town Hall was filled with laughter from an overflow audience of local and out-of-town visitors.

Special Events & Fundraisers:

In March, we collaborated with **Bristol Marine Shipyard** to offer “An Evening with Eleanor” event. Over fifty guests gathered for a tour of the restoration work being completed on the replica ship Eleanor. Stay tuned for another Bristol event in 2026!

In September, we were honored to present **Step Back in Time at the old “Gray House”** a unique evening at one of the oldest homes in the region on Sawyers Island. One hundred guests attended this event and experienced a tour of the Leach House. Presentations were provided by Archaeologist Tim Dinsmore and Maine food historian Sandra Oliver, along with a buffet of food and beverage samples dating back to the 1700’s. With a sold-out evening and the support of our sponsors, this fundraiser was a great success. Thank you, Sally Leach Sewall, for making it possible!

We are also grateful to a long-time friend of the society who created a special **\$1,000 Matching Gift Challenge** to benefit multiple preservation projects for the museum’s many historical collections; artifacts, photographs, family and oral histories, sometimes one-of-a-kind documents, and more often require special treatment and storage materials.

We were proud to once again support the Boothbay Region High School Class of 2025 with a **\$1,000 college scholarship award** to an outstanding student. This year’s award went to Cleyton Splaine.

In what is becoming an annual tradition, our spring “**On the Water” raffle** offered a sailing cruise along the waters off Boothbay Harbor. A special thanks goes to Captain Craig Collins for donating a half-day sail aboard the 44’ Radiant. Watch for next year’s raffle!

And of course, no year would be complete without our annual bake sales, fall cheese sale, and holiday open house. Thanks to the many volunteers that help make these efforts possible.

This summer, our four volunteer greeters welcomed visitors to the museum, provided history about our local community, and assisted visitors with research inquiries. Look for next summer's call for volunteers!

The Boothbay Register Digitization project is progressing nicely, with over thirty-seven out of 135 years fully complete. Volunteer scanners travel weekly to the Maine State Library in Augusta to participate in this important project to preserve centuries of local history only found in the Boothbay Registers. If you are interested in participating in this important volunteer project, please call our office 207-633-0820.

Volunteer projects may include working with collections, accessioning and management, helping to create new exhibits and displays, helping to photograph or scan the thousands of artifacts and documents in our collections, and working on preserving our oldest holdings. Or become a research assistant and help answer the wide variety of research inquiries we receive throughout the year. Perhaps you may be interested in assisting with small maintenance projects around the museum. Stop by or give us a call if you would like to learn more about these volunteer opportunities.

Many thanks to all who support the society's efforts through donations, membership dues, attendance at events, and volunteering. We could not sustain our mission without you.

Happy Holidays!



Annual Appeal

Dear Friends,

The Society's mission is to collect, preserve, and promote interest in the history of the Boothbay Region through research, exhibits, and programs. The Society serves as a community hub for the historical documents, artifacts, and photographs that bind together past, present, future generations.

How do we collect and preserve these memories? For over 50 years, local historian Barbara Rumsey reminded one and all of the value of "their" historical society and the need to support its efforts through donations of funds or items

the annual fund will allow us to purchase the necessary materials to store and preserve these treasures and the 1874 Elizabeth F. Reed house for the future.

How do we promote interest in these collections? By offering free admission, our displays and programs are accessible to everyone. Our historical and genealogical materials, many of which have been digitized, are available for in-depth research. We collaborate with local groups to present programs that are often recorded for YouTube. *Your gift to the annual fund can help enhance our outreach through the purchase of portable audio/visual and exhibit equipment, supplies for school visits, and upgrades to our website.*

Your investment in the Society's mission, at whatever level is comfortable, will have a lasting impact on our ability to connect current and future generations with the people, places, and events that came before.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for supporting the mission of the Boothbay Region Historical Society.

Kay Wilder

President

[Click here to donate!](#)



*Earle Barlow's 1920's Scene of the Coal Wharf East Boothbay
(Boothbay Region Historical Society Photo Collection)*

Annual Holiday Open House A Vintage Christmas

Celebrate the holiday season at our Annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 2 pm. The event will be held at the museum located at 72 Oak Street, Boothbay Harbor.

Harbor winter freeze. Take a chance to win one of several exciting door prizes and raffles, to include gift baskets along with \$100.00 gift cards! There will be a selection of items for sale to include books, history maps, and our 2026 calendar. Come and share your family stories with us! Tell us what the Boothbay Region Historical Society means to you!

A portion of the proceeds will support the Boothbay Region Historical Society's High School Scholarship Fund.

Please note: Raffle tickets will be available for purchase beginning Saturday, November 22 at 10am. Stop by and make your early purchase.

There is no charge for this event as it is our chance to say thank you to the community for supporting the work we do to preserve and promote the history of the Boothbay Region. For more information contact the office at 207-633-0820 or email info@boothbayhistorical.org Thursday through Saturday, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

We would like to thank our Event Sponsor, Hammond Lumber Company.

Our Friend Sponsors, Ames True Value Hardware, Bath Savings Institution, East Boothbay General Store, Midcoast Symphony Orchestra, Newcastle Publick House, Newagen Seaside Inn, R H Reny, Inc, Robinson Wharf, and Sea Glass Spa for their support of this festive event!

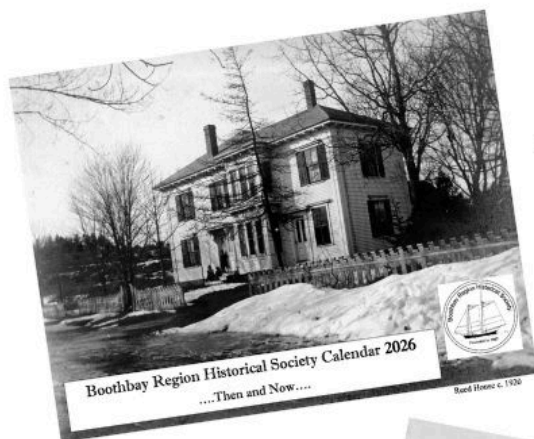


We currently have a need for DIY volunteers to assist our Building & Grounds crew with small repairs, carpentry work, painting and clean up projects.

If you are interested in one of these volunteer opportunities or know someone who would be, please contact the office at 207-633-0820 or email info@boothbayhistorical.org, Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.

It's Here!

2026 Then & Now Pictorial Calendar



**Original Black
& White Photos
from the Past**

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of Today**



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10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local historian available by chance or appointment

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