

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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The Old Broad Bay Family History Association,
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ – Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

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Dues are due for 2013-2014!

Dues are due! The last page of the newsletter has the renewal form. Please cut it out, print it out, or make a copy and send it with your check to treasurer Deirdre Putnam before July 1st. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

Executive Board to meet

The officers of the OBBFHA will meet at the Waldoboro Public Library on June 15, Waldoboro Day, at 10:00 a.m. Members may attend, but have no vote. Following the meeting there will be a table set up at the Waldoboro Historical Society where information about the association will be available.

Waldoboro Day, June 15

The theme for this year's Waldoboro Day is "Old Time Values and Traditions." Come join the fun in downtown Waldoboro. The parade kicks off from the VFW Hall at 10:00 a.m., going down Jefferson Street and turning onto Main Street. There will be music and vendors on Friendship Street from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. A special treat this year will be tours

in the afternoon of the former A. D. Gray School (on School Street) which is being converted into the Waldoboro YMCA. Stay late and watch the best fireworks in the county from the school starting at 9:00 p.m.

Annual OBBFHA meeting

Don't forget, the annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association will be held on **Saturday, August 3rd** in the basement of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Knox and Lincoln Counties Office, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. for the business meeting.

Our speaker will be Anette Ruppel Rodrigues who will speak on Fort George in Castine during the Revolution. Mark Bisco will lead a tour of historic Waldoboro locations in the afternoon.

We will once again have a potluck lunch with brats & sauerkraut from Morse's Sauerkraut as the base. Since everyone seemed to like the "name" cake, we will do it again this year. Details on what is needed to round out the menu will be in the Summer newsletter (early July). [Note: If your ancestor's surname was missing last year, please let me know ASAP so no ancestors are forgotten!]

Old German Church service

The annual service at the Old German Church will take place on **Sunday, August 4th at 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served afterwards. For those who may be coming for the first time, parking on the church grounds is limited. Most people park along the highway, but please be very careful of traffic and ditches. There is no electricity or sanitary facilities on site. If it is hot & humid it is best to bring a old fashion fan and a towel or pillow to sit on.

OBBFHA at NERGC

The Association had a strong presence at the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference in Manchester, NH, April 25-27. President Helen Shaw had a booth for the Association at the Society Fair the evening of April 25th. There was a 3-fold display of German surnames, passenger lists, maps, and photos of the Old German Church. A copy of the 1815 Robinson map was also displayed. Several folks with Broad Bay roots stopped by and picked up a copy of the membership brochure. A particular treat was meeting a lady whose parents were married in the Old German Church in the 1930s.

On Saturday Helen presented a talk (sponsored by the Maine Genealogical Society) titled "Broad Bay: The German Settlement of Maine." The 3-fold display and the map were set up again and there was a small, but enthusiastic audience. [This display will be set up at the annual meeting.]

Waldoboro's Fire Department – 175 Years and Still Going Strong!

By Jean M. B. Lawrence

In 1838, Waldoboro's businesses were housed primarily in wooden buildings, and the owners realized that the sites of their livelihoods were in great danger from fire. Under the leadership of Hector M. Brown and George D. Smouse funds were raised by private subscription to purchase Waldoboro's first fire engine, *The Water Witch*, a second-hand machine which arrived in Waldoboro after having served at the Old North Church site for the City of Boston. With this purchase, twenty-two men, many of them the town's leading citizens, among them Bela B. Haskell, James Hovey and Augustus Welt, volunteered to form a company to train to use the engine in time of fire. Under the leadership of General William S. Cochran who served as foreman of the group, the men practiced using the machine until, as is recorded in Stahl's *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* (Vol. II page 232), Cochran was able to report to the Selectmen "a true list of the men now belonging to the engine company in this town, all of whom regularly do their duty." It is the formation of this company of volunteers that marks the beginnings of the 175 years of service of the Waldoboro Fire Department which will be celebrated during the weekend of August 9-11, 2013.

The *Water Witch* and her sibling machines were imported from England and her certificate dates to

1776. It is known that John Hancock purchased one of the machines, and George Washington purchased and donated a machine for the city of Alexandria, VA. The engine is six feet long and two and one half feet wide. The zinc lined compartment in the rear was filled by bucket brigades and was pressured by six men, three pumping on each side. Her stream was capable of reaching 94 feet and her tank holds about a barrel of water. The *Water Witch* was pulled by men, not horses, and had two rope handles on the rear for men to grab hold in order to keep her from getting away when going downhill. Presently, she resides in the Waldoborough Historical Society along with two other engines, the *Medomak* and the *Triumph* which also served Waldoboro. A fourth engine, the *Baw Beese*, built in 1871 and known as a ten in piano button machine, was purchased privately from Gardiner, Maine, by the local hand tub association of Waldoboro volunteers, and was used in numerous past pumper competitions organized by the Maine State Hand Engine League.

The *Medomak*, a second-hand Hunneman engine, was purchased after the 1846 fire which did \$50,000 in damages. That fire took 16-20 stores, a bank, four lawyers & three doctors offices, two harness shops, one tailor shop, two milliners, the Odd Fellows and Masonic Halls, and the post office. The *Medomak's* purchase price was guaranteed by the signatures of twenty-seven local men who pledged from fifty cents to three dollars to "defray the expenses of the Medomak Engine Company, recently started: purchasing necessary hose and other fire apparatus, repairing engine and other incidental expenses." Captain Benjamin Roberts was sent to Boston to purchase the tub, and it was brought by coaster, landed on the ice and hauled to the village.

Fire took three village sites in 1849 and in 1850 a conflagration that exceeded half a million dollars almost leveled the village. The post office, two banks, the Custom House and 37 stores were destroyed with 70 families left homeless. Because the fire hit the village during a prosperous time, it was rebuilt in less than a year's time.

In 1872 Captain L.L. Kennedy traveled to Boston to purchase the second-hand Smith Tub engine known as the *Triumph*. This engine was used along with the *Medomak* and is mentioned in the news coverage of the 1890 fire when the Fish or Union Block on the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets was destroyed.

By 1900 fire wards were elected at town meetings and volunteers were paid a small sum to fight fires. An engine house on Glidden Street became the home of the first fire truck with the town office located upstairs. This served until the early 1950's when the town built the present American Legion Hall on Jefferson Street as a fire station, town office, and town maintenance building. In 1964, the town selectmen appointed Robert Maxcy, Richard Glidden, and Michael Lailer the town's first appointed chief, deputy chief, and assistant chief, respectively. Maxcy served for 42 years and was followed by Glidden, who though retired, still drives an engine when called upon today.

The written history of the department comprises a major part of the celebration publication that will be released in June. Along with numerous photos, the document is predicted to become a collector's item. It is impossible to condense all of the material into a short article, so it is hoped that readers interested in more information will be encouraged by the news in the next paragraph.

This spring, the Fire Department joined with the Waldoboro Public Library and the Waldoborough Historical Society to preserve the history of the department via a grant that they have been awarded by the Maine Memory Network and the Maine Historical Society. Within the year, an exhibit of the fire department's history will be completed and placed on the Maine Memory Network for all to view. The Maine Memory Network is a free site and can be accessed at www.Mainememory.net.

Names of the men who formed the first company may be found in Stahl's *History of Old Broad Bay*, Volume II, p. 232. The Medomak document with signatures may be seen at the Waldoborough Historical Society Museum this summer.

Waldoborough Historical Society

The Waldoborough Historical Society is located at 1164 Main St., on Route 220 just south of the Route 1 traffic light & Moody's Diner.

The Museum is open from noon to 3:00 p.m. every day except Tuesday, June 15 through Labor Day. The Museum is also open weekends in September from noon to 3:00 pm.

2013 Special Exhibits:

“Conrad Heyer: first child born in the settlement”

“Braided Rugs: artwork of Waldoboro women”

“Newbert Family Artifacts: recent dig items from North Waldoboro site”

“Salute to Waldoboro's 175 Years of Fire Department Service,” four early engines on site

For more information, check out their website or contact them at:

<http://waldoborohistory.us/>

Waldoborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572-0110

info@waldoborohistory.us

Update on MOCA cemetery bills

Public hearings were held in March on the two cemetery bills sponsored by Senator Thomas Saviello on behalf of MOCA. The first, LD 174, *An Act to Prohibit the Placement of Political Signs Within 25 Feet of a Cemetery or Burial Ground* was assigned to the Committee on Veterans & Legal Affairs where it was killed because the ACLU decided it was unconstitutional. It was decided to send a letter, signed by all committee members, to the head of each political party suggesting it was inappropriate to post political signs in or near cemeteries and asking that it not be done.

The second bill, LD 274, *An Act to Preserve and Protect Ancient Burial Grounds and Burial Grounds in Which Veterans Are Buried*, was assigned to the Committee on State and Local Government. After much discussion, this bill was passed out of committee as “ought to pass” with one dissenting vote. A friendly amendment on the level of care for public cemeteries was added but has not yet (May 1) been posted on the bill's website. It is unclear whether or not there will be discussion of the bill on the floor or whether it will pass under the gavel.

Marking Your Ancestral Veteran's Grave

Current veterans and their families are aware that one of the benefits of honorable military service is the right to be buried in a state or national military cemetery or, if buried in a public or private cemetery, to have a military headstone, marker, or medallion furnished for free by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. But did you know you can request a military headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of your ancestral veteran or a medallion to place on an existing (privately purchased) headstone of a veteran?

“The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government Headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of dates of birth and death.” An eligible veteran is “Any veteran discharged under honorable conditions and any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.”

While there is no charge for the headstone or marker, the cost of placing it in a non-military cemetery is the responsibility of the applicant. The applicant must also consult with the cemetery owner to make sure the type of headstone or marker meets the cemetery’s rules. The application form requires the signature of a “cemetery or other responsible official” attesting to the fact the ordered headstone or marker is permitted in the cemetery. The headstone or marker can be delivery directly to the cemetery.

If your ancestral veteran already has a privately purchased headstone or marker you may order a veteran medallion to place on it. The medallions come in three sizes and have the word “Veteran” across the top and the branch of service on the bottom. There is no charge for a medallion which comes with the adhesive needed to affix it to the headstone as well as instructions and hardware.

The military service of pre-World War I veterans must be documented using primary records such as compiled service records, pension records, and/or bounty land warrants from either the National Archives or from the state from which the service was rendered. There are special upright marble headstones for Civil War and Spanish American War veterans. Headstones may be ordered for both Union and Confederate veterans.

At this time a veteran headstone, marker, or medallion must be ordered by the deceased’s next of kin (relationship must be specified) or a person authorized (in writing) by the deceased or the next of kin. The VA is re-thinking this policy. Many unmarked pre-WWI veterans’ graves are being found and preserved by non-relatives. In the past veterans groups, historical societies, lineage societies, cemetery owners, and town officials, among others, could order a headstone or marker for a veteran’s grave. It is hoped the VA will return to this policy in the near future.

For more information on marking a veteran’s grave and to download the application forms (40-1330 for a headstone or marker; 40-1330M for a medallion) go to the US Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/index.asp> where you will find links to pages detailing the types of headstones, markers, and medallions; eligibility criteria; and ordering information. You can also contact Maine’s Bureau of Veterans’ Services in Augusta for information and assistance: 207-430-6035 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Membership

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the founding families, and in particular the founding German families, of what is now Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine.

There are three types of membership: individual, family, and library. An individual membership confers the right to one vote. A family membership confers the right to two votes. A library membership is solely for the purpose of allowing distribution of the newsletter to libraries and historical societies and confers no right to vote.

The membership year is July 1 to June 30. The newsletter is issued three times a year, in April (Spring), July (Summer), and October (Fall) with a fourth (January / Winter) issue when there is enough material.

Membership checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to: Deirdre Putnam, OBB Treasurer, 17 Bush Hill Rd, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Second member in the household: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

How do you want to receive the newsletter?

Individual membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$10 _____ US mail \$15 _____
Family membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$15 _____ US mail \$20 _____

Please attach a list of your Broad Bay ancestors or write the list on the back of this form.

Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.): We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out this portion of the membership form. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal invoice by mail each year. **Subscription: \$15 per year.**

Name of research facility: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person: _____