

# Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter



Volume 16 No. 3 Summer 2018

To Search and to Share

Historical image of the schooner Paul Palmer. Courtesy of LARC

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## Presidential Musings

Dear Friends, I hope this newsletter finds all of you enjoying the summer. Here in New England, we had a long, stormy winter and a cool and damp spring, so the recent onset of summer weather is being especially enjoyed.

Saturday, June 16th, was Waldoboro Day, the annual town-wide community celebration. The weather was perfect, the town and surrounding countryside looked beautiful with the lupines and rhododendrons in full bloom. The OBBFHA board of directors held our annual executive board meeting in the morning where we finalized the arrangements for the annual meeting in August. We also discussed the Stahl Award, which this year went to a deserving student at the local high school. We have not decided on a recipient for next year's award, so please submit any ideas you have for a person or organization that would be a worthy recipient of our award. We endeavor to bestow our award on people or organizations that work to discover and preserve local genealogy and history. The board also voted to have Renee Seiders look into how members of our group can participate in the Maine Genealogical Society DNA project.

After the meeting Dale Gunn, Deirdre and I hosted an informational table at the Waldoborough Historical Society. We had an opportunity to talk with folks who were touring the historical society and I also had a chance to view several new exhibits and artifacts on display. One new artifact of particular interest is a passport dated 10 April 1753 issued to a **Demnars Johannes Kohler** of Nenderoth granting him permission to emigrate from Germany to America. This is a rare artifact. At that time all German

citizens desiring to emigrate were required to have permission from their local prince or lord to leave their homes and settle in a new place. These passport documents are quite rare and offer an insight into the world our immigrant ancestors left. It is quite a coup for the historical society to obtain one! By the way, the historical society museum is better than ever. I don't think you will find a better community museum anywhere. If you come to Waldoboro the museum is a must see attraction. In fact, Jean Lawrence has arranged to have the museum remain open until 4:00 PM on the day of our annual meeting so members can tour the museum after our meeting adjourns. Thanks Jean!

**Annual Meeting:** Don't forget our annual meeting will take place on **Saturday, August 4th**, at the Knox-Lincoln County Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. Our featured speaker will be University of Maine **Professor Liam Riordan** who will speak on **Maine's Path to Statehood and the Upcoming Bicentennial**. Lunch and refreshments will be served. There will be time for the exchange of genealogical information after lunch. A \$5.00 dollar donation will be requested at the door. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM.

**The Women's Auxiliary of the German Lutheran Society** will hold their annual service and reception on **Sunday, August 5th**, at the **Old German Meeting House**. The meeting house, built in 1772, was the spiritual and cultural heart of the Broad Bay/Waldoboro community, and this service has been a favorite of many of our members over the years. When the OBBFHA was founded, the reason for selecting the Saturday before the first Sunday in August for our annual meeting was so members coming "from away" for the meeting would have the opportunity to stay an extra day and attend the German language service at their ancestral place of worship. The service will begin at 3:00 PM followed by a reception.

**Coming Attractions:** I am pleased to announce that the OBBFHA has been invited to participate in the New England Regional Genealogical Conference next April in Manchester New Hampshire. We will host an informational table and attend some of the seminars relevant to our group mission.

Additionally, I will be speaking to the Penobscot Historical Society in Bangor on September 19, 2018. I will be there on behalf of our group and I will speak about the history and mission of the OBBFHA.

I am sad to report that our website on the Rootsweb platform is still down. Unfortunately, this matter is out of our hands. Rootsweb last posted an update on March 6th advising us that they are rebuilding all the web pages on Rootsweb after updating their security apparatus. Let's hope our webpage is back up soon. You can also follow us on Facebook.

**50 Years Young!** The Waldoborough Historical Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary on June 17th. Society President Jean Lawrence spoke about the history of the group. One of the historical society's buildings was dedicated to Richard Wallace, who was in attendance. Richard has been an active member of the historical society for several decades and has served as a docent at the museum since the 1970's. He has also donated many of the artifacts on display. He is a living repository of Waldoboro history and the museum is a testament to his devotion and vision. A picture of Jean presenting Richard with a plaque is below in the article about all the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Congratulations Richard!

**Paris on the Medomak:** Did you know there are 13 art galleries in Waldoboro. That is an amazing number for a small rural town! I think the attraction lies in the fact that the town is located on a river rather than the ocean, so the rents and home prices have stayed reasonable. The downtown has also retained its 19th century charm, and the surrounding countryside is really beautiful. I can understand why artists are attracted to the town.

In closing let me wish all of you a great summer. I hope to see all of you at our annual meeting. If you can't attend, I hope you follow us on Facebook. If you have any research or historical related questions, *or* comments and suggestions about how we can do a better job, please contact me at [dputnam925@msn.com](mailto:dputnam925@msn.com). Your input is always welcome. If I can assist you it will be my pleasure to do so!

As always, on behalf of the entire OBBFHA Membership, let me express our gratitude to our newsletter editor, Pat Kriso, and her sister Becky Boyd. Pat puts a great deal of time and effort into putting this newsletter together, and together with Becky, they also pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Thanks ladies for your hard work and generosity!

***Keep on Searching and Sharing!***

## Waldoborough Historical Society Anniversary Celebration



Richard Wallace holding his award seated in the Barn where he has greeted guests for 50 years.



President Jean Lawrence presents Trustee Richard Wallace with a plaque; overhead is the new sign for the dedication of the barn.



A terrific Waldoborough Historical Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration took place on Sunday, June 17, 2018! Over sixty people gathered to listen to the Kora Shrine German Band playing German musical numbers.



Waldoboro Day Trivia Teams;  
l-r: Ernie, Daniel and Ernie, Teamannah;  
Betsy, Barbary, and Ted: Team Wooster

A **surprise** honoring for his years of volunteering was held for Fifty Year Trustee **Richard Wallace**, a descendant of one of the original German immigrant settler families. President Jean Lawrence presented Wallace with a special plaque which will be installed beside his chair in the newly designated Richard Wallace Barn where he has greeted visitors for the past fifty years. Delicious cake, ice cream and lemonade were served by Trustees Kathie Hills and Pat Kristiansen and member Jeanette Achorn. Many attending enjoyed slides of the 60's and 70's shown by Vice President Bill Maxwell in the Boggs Schoolhouse. A new sign was dedicated for the schoolhouse and new handicapped parking signs were built by Trustee Roy Hatch. The results of the "Top 50 Citizens Past or Present" voting were announced with Ronald Dolloff receiving 33% of the vote. His widow Lillian was presented with an arrangement of daisies.

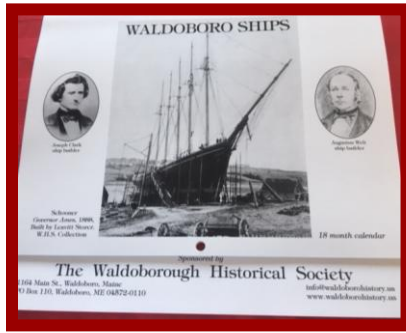
Folks had an opportunity to speak to Secretary Carol Blodgett who was present after a winter of battling illness. Carol was welcomed with open arms by all who have been praying for her health. New green T-shirts created for the anniversary were seen throughout the crowd, and the trustees proudly showed and sold the shirts and the new "Waldoboro Ships" calendar.

The celebration began on Waldoboro Day when the Museum opened for the season. A Waldoboro Trivia Contest was held with Team Vannah and Team Wooster competing for the prize of new green T-shirts. Ernie, Daniel and Ernie fought valiantly, but Betsy, Barbara and Ted were the winners with a score of 63-58! The good will that these contestants showed as all attending laughed and cheered during the contest was a great experience.

The trustees greatly appreciate all who took time to visit and celebrate with us during the weekend. Come by the museum between noon and 3 P.M. any day except Tuesday through Labor Day! We're ready for the next 50 years!

*Submitted by Jean Lawrence*

## **Waldoboro Ships 2019-20 Eighteen Month Calendar**



The Waldoborough Historical Society listened to members of the community who requested that our next calendar show more ships. We are pleased to announce that with the assistance of Laurie McBernie of Lincoln County Publishing our newest eighteen month calendar for 2019-20 is ready for sale. It contains photos of many of the five masted schooners, but also one very rare photo of the Steve Jones original sail loft taken from a stereopticon slide loaned by Richard Wallace. Gracing the cover are photos of Joseph Clark and Augustus Welt two of Waldoboro's foremost ship builders and the Governor Ames, 1888, built by Leavitt Storer. The tide table is included as

well as the Olympia LaRosa, last ship built in the old Reed and Welt Yard in 1943 by Carroll T. Cooney & Company. Designed by Bill Maxwell and Jean Lawrence, the calendar is on sale in the Museum and at the Community Pharmacy. We will mail copies for \$15 to cover cost of mailing and the calendar; send check to WHS, P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572. It's a great gift, and the donation of ten dollars will help fund our Tree Project to save our buildings!

## **Waldoborough Historical Society 2018 Programs Our Anniversary Year**

**July 11**, Wednesday, Brief Annual Meeting 6:30 P.M. for election of officers, "Slide Show: Genthner, Hauck, and Wallace Photos help us remember Waldoboro's past" Dessert served.

**July 14**, ARTWALK Museum will remain open until 4:30 P.M.

**August 4**, The Waldoborough Historical Society's Museum will remain open for an extra hour, until 4 P.M., on Saturday, August 4, in order that any visitors from OBBFHA who are interested may stop by to see the many new exhibits.

**August 11**, 10:30 A.M. Mark Biscoe will lead a Walk Around Waldoboro beginning at the Town Landing and concluding at the Anne Haywood Gallery. Museum will remain open from noon to 4:30 P.M.

**August 26**, Sunday 2 P.M. "Celebrate the River" with Glen Melvin. Steamed clams will be available for tasting compliments of Delano Seaford and the Waldoboro Shellfish Committee. A framed photo by Lainie Cross will be the door prize. Come and learn about one of our most precious natural treasures, the Medomak River.

**September 8**, ARTWALK. We will remain open from noon to 4:30 P.M.

**September 22** – "A Celebration of Abraham Lincoln" at Broad Bay UCC on Main Street; pot luck supper 5:30 P.M. in the vestry; guest speaker: Dr. Carla Knorowski of the Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation will take place in the sanctuary at 7 P.M. Dr. Knorowski is the creator of *Gettysburg Replies*, a collection of 100 essays about the meaning of Gettysburg written for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. She also collaborated on *Under Lincoln's Hat*, a reading treasure! Books will be available for purchase with funds going to the Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. This is a very special presentation and Waldoboro is fortunate to have such a well- respected international speaker!

**October 13**, ARTWALK. The museum will be open from noon to 4:30 P. M.

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and check the *Lincoln County News* or our Facebook page for specific details as these dates draw near.

The major project of the Waldoborough Historical Society for its 50<sup>th</sup> year has been to raise \$6,000 to have the trees endangering its three buildings removed and the brush around them cut. Through the kindness of an anonymous community member, we have had a dollar for dollar match offer - up to \$1,000 during the month of July - for any donations made for this project. Checks may be sent to WHS, PO Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572. Please note "tree project" on the check. We are grateful for this offer to assist us in keeping our buildings and thus our artifacts safe from fire, wind, and snow damage. Our heritage artifacts reside within these walls!

*Submitted by Jean Lawrence*

### ❖ 2018 STAHL AWARD ❖

As some of you know The Stahl Award was established in August 2008 as a memorial fund. In June 2009 the first Stahl Award funded the placement of a memorial stone with a plaque dedicated to the many settlers that died the winter of 1753. The stone was placed near the site of their common grave.

This year the Board decided to give a monetary award to a senior of Medomak Valley High School who was planning on furthering their education directly after high school. We required that the student be in the top 10 % of the class. Also we asked that the student have an interest in local history.

On Tuesday, June 5, at Medomak Valley High School Class Day, Brent Stewart, a senior, was presented a certificate and \$500 check for winning OBBFHA's Stahl Award. Brent lives in Warren with his parents Craig and Stacey.

Brent Stewart says "I have always had an interest in historical places because of the history of my own house. I live on Four Rod Road in a house that was built in 1820. It is a ship builder's home. In the McCullums house lived Tina and Charles. Charles built schooners in the river right across the street from us."

"We have the original tin ceilings in two of the rooms. The spiral staircase is still being used by our family. Another fascinating thing is the light switch to the hallway where the spiral staircase is, a two-way button. Our house has over 19 rooms. A lot of them are quite small. When the historical society had tours our house was included in the tour. Our house is also talked about in a book written about Warren. We have a historical sign that the town puts in our front yard every spring and summer. It gives people a little bit more information about the house."

In the fall Brent will be attending the Golf Academy of America in Florida majoring in Business Operations. When he finishes school, Brent would like to return to Maine and start more centers for children and teenagers. His goal will be to start programs to help children get out of the house and make new friends.

Congratulations Brent!

*Submitted by Barbara Rogers*



Assist. Principal Mrs. Tamra Philbrook, presenting award to Brent Stewart.

### Membership dues for the upcoming membership year beginning July 1, 2018 are due now

The dues help pay for the room/kitchen rental for our annual meeting, allow us to fund projects around the community, which have included the replacement of worn historic signs, library access to a genealogy website, preservation of a historic map of Waldoboro, the placement of a granite stone/plaque to commemorate early settlers, fund a school genealogy project, and more!

To allow the group to continue its good works, there has been a modest increase of \$5 in each category - the first increase in 25 years. If you are not sure if you are up to date, just ask our Treasurer, Deirdre Putnam at [dhurleyputnam@gmail.com](mailto:dhurleyputnam@gmail.com)

## A Wedding and its Terrible Aftermath - 1853 - 1854 (Part One)

A wedding day is always a special day, and October 15, 1853 was no exception. The neighborhood - all six families of little Dog Lane (now Pleasant Street) in Waldoboro were alive with excitement as the bride, Miss Ella Clark, teacher and writer and daughter of Joseph Clark, the richest shipbuilder in town, and the groom, Mr. Albion Oakes, respected teacher and recently appointed partner in a local law firm, prepared to take their vows. Their newly built house stood adjacent to the large Clark home. Those neighbors - Alexander Young and Aaron Kaler, shipbuilders, Edward Benner, businessman, and Samuel Jackson, banker - along with many other folks from town were in attendance.

Miss Clark, 21, and Mr. Oakes, 27, had met first when she was a student at the school he was in charge of and also through the many social events held at the Clarks' lovely mansion overflowing with the hustle and bustle of the other five Clark teens and twenty year olds. She admired his take-charge approach with the unruly students; he admired her scholarship and interest in learning. And she was getting prettier and prettier! Albion even put aside his dreams of becoming rich in the California gold fields to remain in Waldoboro for Ella's sake.

As folks gathered at the reception held for the young couple, two major worries in the hearts of all Waldoboreans of the day were temporarily laid aside for this joyful event. The first was the rampant sickness so prevalent: cholera, small pox, dysentery, mumps, measles were some of the curses sweeping the town. Every day saw three or four funerals - most of them young children. The other worry was fire: twice in the last ten years - 1846 and 1849 - large parts of the village had been devastated. Wooden buildings replaced the vast majority of burned ones. Dry weather was again upon them; the pitifully small and inadequate town fire engines were exactly that - small, inexpensive, and insufficient to handle anything but a tiny blaze. What would happen if another even larger fire struck? Waldoboro, now reaching a zenith in shipbuilding fortunes was to find answers - not necessarily happy ones - within the next year. Albion and Ella - as well as the entire Clark family and the townspeople would experience these answers soon. For the time being, however, all was joy on Dog Lane (AKA Pleasant Street).

Not even a year had passed before tragedy was to strike - first at the Clark family. Mrs. Joseph Clark, 51, supporting partner to her husband's empire of shipbuilding, real estate holdings, and stores, as well as mother to their six children became ill and passed away in May of 1854. She left her husband to care for Edwin, 14, and Celeste, 16, as well as young women Ella, Caroline, and Mary - 21, 28, and 23, and Joseph, 25 - all married but living very nearby. A servant girl, Mary Genthner, 24, also lived in the mansion at the time. She was to play a major role in the recovery of father Joseph's life and businesses after the tragedy.

(Author's note: It is important to remember at this juncture that in 1853 the Waldoboro district - extending from Boothbay to Northport - was producing more ship tonnage than any district in New England, with the exceptions of Bath and Boston. There were at least eleven active shipyards within one mile of Waldoboro village alone. The town was as wealthy as it would ever be.)

Then, according to historian Jasper Stahl, "1854 was a year of freaky weather, with snow five and six feet deep. Thereafter came a period of warm weather, and then long, hot, and rainless days. By midsummer all that was needed in the wooden village on the Medomak was a spark. The catastrophe came at one o'clock in the afternoon of August 25, when fire started in the stable connected with the Tavern (present Grange Hall parking lot). The blaze ripped through the wooden structures with the speed of the wind, and the whole block east and up to Jefferson Street was ablaze at one time. From this area it leaped Main Street in a southeasterly direction and laid everything in ashes on both sides of Friendship Road. It spread east, south, and west. To the westward it stopped only at the river, destroying one bark and one ship (Clark's) on the stocks as well as a great supply of lumber. On the south it went down Friendship Road as far as the site of the brick schoolhouse. To the east it burned Dog Lane to the Benner, Jackson, and Kaler houses where it was checked by one of the small fire

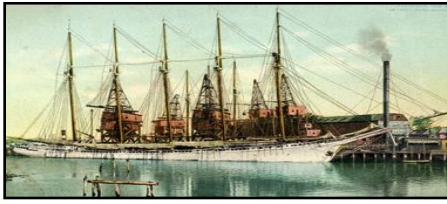
engines. In all, two banks, the customs house, the hotel, several livery stables, stores, and many homes were destroyed in less than 40 minutes. Seventy families were homeless; there was half a million dollars worth of damage with only about one third covered by insurance.”

(To be continued)

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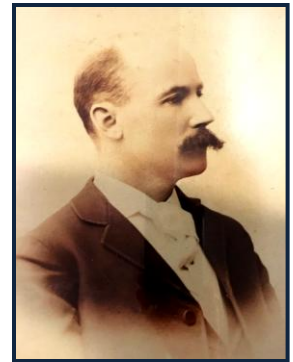
Sources for these two articles : *The Letters of Albion Oakes* - in possession of the author ; *Stahl's History of Waldoboro* ; *Miller's History of Waldoboro* ; *M.W. Biscoe's Merchant of the Medomak* - Volumes I and II ; Research by Mr. Mark W. Biscoe Jr. and Ms. Mary S. Biscoe

September 3



**Masthead:** George L. Welt 1855 – 1917 Ship Builder, built the 5-masted schooner *Paul Palmer* in Waldoboro, Maine in 1902. *Paul Palmer* measured 276 feet in length, 44 feet in breadth, and had a 24-foot depth of hold. Built for William F. Palmer, the schooner was one in a fleet of large schooners with white hulls that operated in the New England coal trade. *Paul Palmer* operated successfully for Mr. Palmer until J. S. Winslow and Company bought all of the Palmer schooners in 1911. The *Paul Palmer* departed Rockport, Maine on Friday, 13 June 1913 without a cargo. Onboard were eleven crewmembers, Captain H. R. Allen, his wife, and a female guest. The lighthouse keeper at Highland Light observed the schooner on fire off Race Point on 15 June 1913. Unable to quench the blaze with the *Palmer's* own fire pump and the assistance of a tug, the crew abandoned ship and were picked up by a waiting fishing schooner. The *Palmer* burned to its waterline and then sank.

Photo courtesy of Robert Gault



**ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER**—If you are interested in writing an article or a genealogy list for the newsletter, we are always in need and would like to hear from you. Any article or information printed in the newsletter is archived for future generations to discover. Our newsletter goes to the Waldoboro Public Library, Waldoboro Historical Society, DAR Library in Washington D.C., Genealogical Society of Utah, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN., NEHGS in Boston, MA., and the OBBFHA website. Email or U.S. Mail to Patricia Kriso.

#### Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: [www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/)

Editorial comments & queries to [pmkriso@gmail.com](mailto:pmkriso@gmail.com)

Visit the OBBFHA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/waldoboromaineancestors>

First Day of Fall  
September 23



# Old Broad Bay Family History Association

*To Search and To Share*

## Membership Application or Renewal

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in discovering and preserving the genealogy and history of the founding families of Broad Bay, now known as Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine. The Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter is available either by email or USPS mail.

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

**New Member**

**Renewal**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The membership year is July 1 to June 30.

Choose One	Type of Membership	Voting Rights	Cost per year
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**Paper newsletter by US Mail**

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A library membership is solely for allowing distribution of the newsletter to research facilities and confers no right to vote.

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Second person in the household  
Of Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to OBBFHA and send with this form to:

Deirdre Putnam, OBB Treasurer  
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Ipswich, MA 01938



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