

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

To Search and To Share

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Dues are due

Dues are due before 1 July! 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. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

President's comments

by David Putnam

Dear Friends, I hope you are all well and enjoying a fine Spring. Those of us who reside in New England have lived through a record breaking Winter of snow and cold. However, before we know it the ice will be out and we will be enjoying some good weather and a piece of pie at Moody's Diner.

THE ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting this year will be held on August 1st at the Knox Lincoln County Extension, 377 Manktown Road in Waldoboro. The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and after a brief business meeting we will have two speakers to entertain and enlighten us. Ms. Patricia Hubert will speak to us about her new book, *Major Philip M. Ulmer-A Hero of the American Revolution*. (see review below) As I am

sure most of you know, the Ulmer Family was one of the founding families of Broad Bay, and Philip was born in Broad Bay and later moved to the nearby village of Ducktrap. Ms. Hubert will share with us the story of Philip and his military service in the American Revolution. She will also speak about the process she followed while writing her book. She will bring copies of her book for sale and will sign any copies previously purchased.

Clyde Berry, President of the Maine Old Cemetery Association, will also speak to us about the preservation and care of old cemeteries and tombstones. Lunch will be served and after there will be time for the exchange of genealogical information. I hope you all will attend!

ELECTIONS: Elections for President, Vice-President/Secretary, Treasurer, and the Board of Directors will be held at the annual meeting. I hope all of you will consider running for an office. We always need new blood and new ideas! You do not have to live in Maine, most of our officers are out-of-state residents. We try to conduct all the less important business online during the year and save the important matters for the annual meeting.

NEW MEMBERS: I would like to welcome some new members to the OBBFHA:

*Patricia and Richard Hubert of CT. (Ulmer Family)

*Judy Winchenbaugh of ME. (Newbert, Levensaler, Kaler, Genthner, Schumann, Eichorn, Achorn, Smause, Mank, Benner Families)

*Becky and Bob Boyd of SC. (Creamer, Eichorn, Achorn Families)

*Sally and Robert Boggs of ME. (Newbert, Levensaler, Kaler, Genthner, Schumann, Eichorn, Achorn, Smause, Mank, Benner Families)

*Kathleen and Albert Collings of MA. (Sarah Sally Achorn)

Welcome aboard folks! If you learn as much as I have, and have as much fun as I have had while being a member, I know you will not regret joining.

BILL CONARY: I regret to announce the death of longtime member Bill Conary. Bill and his late wife Effie were dedicated genealogists. Bill's Maine roots go back to the Conary Family from the Blue Hill area. Effie was a descendant of the Sidelinger Family and it was through Effie that Bill joined the OBBFHA. Bill and Effie wrote an excellent book on the Sidelinger Family Genealogy, a copy of which is in the Waldoboro Public Library. Bill was a veteran of the United States Army and served in World War II and Korea. Bill was a quality control engineer for various companies and he brought that precise and meticulous mindset to his genealogy research. Over the years, Bill served as Treasurer and on the Board of Directors of the OBBFHA. At the annual meeting in 2013 Bill was presented a lifetime service award from the OBBFHA. His knowledge, skill and calm demeanor will be missed. Bill's family will have a memorial brick placed at the Waldoboro Public Library.

Broad Bay research material on Familysearch.org

In an e-mail dated 7 February 2015 Wilford Whitaker reported that he had given all the research notes used to compile *Broad Bay Pioneers* to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The material filled eight boxes, each weighing about 60 pounds. The material was digitized and resulted in eleven discs containing a total of almost 20,000 pages of material.

The material has been posted to FamilySearch.org and some of it can be accessed via your home computer. Some may be accessed via a computer at a family history library or other library which has an agreement for the FHL in Salt Lake (Exp: the Camden Public Library). To access material from your computer you should first set up an account with FamilySearch.org – this is free and helps you access & download files.

Broad Bay material which can be accessed from your home computer:

(1) Broad Bay descendants' correspondence : letters, research, documents -1990-2000 : relating to the history of Broad Bay (Waldoboro), Maine : the German colony of Broad Bay settled by Samuel Waldo, gent. 1742-1753

(2) Hyler-Heiler families : of Switzerland to Germany and voyage from Germany to Broad Bay, Maine 1742

Material which, apparently, can only be accessed via computers at a family history library:

(1) Broad Bay, (Waldoboro, Maine) : historical research documents : German parish research by Gary Horlacher

(2) Old Broad Bay German settlers : on the West side of the Medomak River

The following is listed in the FHL catalog as digitized, but there is no link to access it:

(1) Broad Bay (Waldoboro, Maine) historical research and documents

The following are not digitized, but may be available on loan to a local family history library:

(1) Broad Bay, (Waldoboro, Maine) : historical research and documents : births and deaths

(2) Broad Bay pioneers : 18th century German-speaking settlers of present-day Waldoboro, Maine

To access the digitized files log into FamilySearch.org, then go to

SEARCH, then go to

CATALOG, then click on

AUTHOR, and type in Whitaker, Wilford. This will bring up two choices, click on

WHITAKER, WILFORD, 1934

You can then chose the file you want to access.

Book review

by Bill Blodgett

Major Philip M. Ulmer: A Hero of the American Revolution by Patricia Hubert, History Press, 2014.

Patricia Hubert has studied her 18th Century ancestor Philip Ulmer, who started his life in the eastern frontier German settlement of Broad Bay, now known as Waldoboro. He was born in 1751 in this poor struggling settlement which had only been settled for a few years. The author traces Ulmer's life and his service in our War for Independence to Ulmer's death in the Village of Ducktrap (today's Lincolnville) in 1816.

Philip Ulmer enlisted in the rebel forces in 1775, fought in the battle of Bunker Hill, and continued to take part in many of the engagements from Lake Champlain to Trenton, Princeton and Saratoga. After the war, Ulmer and his brother, who became a land agent for Henry Knox, became very successful merchants in the new settlement of Ducktrap. As Knox's fortunes declined at the turn of the new century, so did the Ulmer brother's spiral downward, and Philip died in poverty in 1816. His remains were buried on a point of land in Ducktrap where his marker stone remains today.

Three new cemetery bills before the legislature

The ad hoc committee to review cemetery laws prepared three revisions of current cemetery law for the 2014-2015 legislative session. Senator Andre Cushing sponsored two bills: LD 862, “An Act to Clarify Who May Authorize Repairs in a Burying Ground,” and LD 862, “An Act to Clarify the Ownership of an Access to Ancient and Family Burying Grounds.” Senator Thomas Saviello sponsored LD 1071, “An Act to Increase the Penalties for Vandalizing a Cemetery.”

LD 1071 had its public hearing on April 15 before the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. While committee members agreed cemetery vandalism was unacceptable, several were concerned about stigmatizing juveniles (the most frequent cemetery vandal) with a felony. Attorney groups objected to the creation of another felony, saying cemetery vandalism could be prosecuted under other laws. It was pointed out by bill supporters that law enforcement personnel are reluctant to even try to track down cemetery vandals (it’s a misdemeanor, why bother!), attorneys refuse to prosecute because it is a victimless crime and only a misdemeanor, and judges refuse to require restitution, leaving towns, cemetery owners, and families with thousands of dollars in costs to repair the damage. After a call for a vote of “ought not to pass” (which passed with only 2 no votes) Representative Catherine Nadeau said she wanted to work to amend the bill. The amendments were not accepted by the committee.

Public hearings for LD 862 and LD 1328 were held on April 27 before the Committee on State and Local Government. Due to the perceived complexity of the bills both were tabled when committee members could not agree on amendments following the work sessions on May 13. Subsequently a request was made to carry LD 1328 over to the fall legislative session with a subcommittee to meet with stakeholders over the summer. LD 862 was tabled after a work session on May 20; at this time it is not known if it will be carried over to the fall session. Check the MOCA Facebook page for updates.

Cemetery survey results

As a result of the arduous work done to revise LD 1662 during the 126th Legislative Session, an ad hoc group was formed to review all cemetery laws. Members of the committee were from the Maine Genealogical Society, Maine Old Cemetery Association (MOCA), Maine Cemetery Association (MCA), Maine Municipal Association (MMA), and the Maine Department of Veterans Affairs.

At the first committee meeting it was decided to survey municipalities to determine what they know about cemeteries within their boundaries, what was being spent to care for these cemeteries, and what issues were of concern for municipalities in terms of vandalism, land use, and other threats. Kate Dufour of the MMA drafted the survey and it was sent to 492 municipalities on the MMA mailing list. For most municipalities MOCA was able to provide a list of cemeteries within their boundaries based on the MOCA database. Where no such list existed the municipality was given a blank form on which to record known cemeteries.

Three hundred and thirty-two municipalities responded to the survey. A 500+ page report has been drafted and when completed will be posted on the MGS, MOCA, MCA, & MMA web sites. Over 5000 cemeteries were listed with ownership reported as 1,464 municipal, 319 association, 2,452 private, and 825 unknown. Ownership of most of the cemeteries listed as private is in fact unknown.

Several of the issues raised by responders will be answered by the bills submitted this legislative session including vandalism, repairs, ownership, and access. However, the biggest issue for municipalities is the cost of caring for cemeteries and gravestones. There are few granting agencies that fund cemetery repairs and preservation. Many people who volunteer to clean a cemetery are not trained to do so properly and some people who offer repair and cleaning services use methods that can damage older gravestones. These are issues the ad hoc committee will work on during 2015 along with revising LD 1328 and (probably) LD 862 for the fall legislative session. The issue of vandalism will also be revisited.

Vital records rules update

The final draft of the rules for accessing vital records have been sent to the stakeholders. An Assistant Attorney General is reviewing the document. When she is done a public hearing will held. When that date is known I will post it on the MGS Facebook page and send an e-mail notice to OBBFHA members whose e-mail address I have.

A major change to the rules will be to allow genealogists with a state researcher ID card to have on-line access to the DHHS vital records database prior to ordering a copy of a vital records certificate. Persons applying for a state researcher card must belong to a genealogy society and must sign a genealogist code of conduct which includes the legal penalties for misuse of the DHHS database.

Upcoming events

The Maine Genealogical Society, the Maine State Library, the Maine State Archives, and the Maine State Museum, will host a **Genealogy Fair** at the Capitol Complex in Augusta on **Saturday, July 11**, from 9:00 to 4:00. This is a free event including free admission to the Museum and tours of the Library and Archives (no research at the Archives that day however). For more information go to the MGS website <http://www.maineroots.org>.

OBBFHA annual meeting: **Saturday, August 1** at the Knox-Lincoln County Cooperative Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. More details to come on the Association web page

Annual service at the Old German Church: 3:00 p.m., **Sunday, August 2**.

MGS Annual Meeting & Conference: **Saturday, September 19**, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. The keynote speaker will be Michael L. Strauss, AG. For more information check the MGS website <http://www.maineroots.org>.

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. This year the newsletter will be issued twice: in April (Winter / Spring) and in October (Summer / Fall).

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: _____