

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

Volume 16 No. 1 Winter 2018

To Search and To Share

Waldoboro, ME Friendship Street

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Presidential Musings

By David Putnam

Dear Friends and Fellow Searchers:

On behalf of the entire executive board, I would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year. Here in New England we have been in the grip of very cold and snowy weather. However, this winter will not last forever and the executive board is already busy making plans for this year and beyond.

I have been in correspondence with Nicole Rancourt of the Maine Humanities Council and Professor Liam Riordan of the University of Maine about identifying opportunities for our group to participate in this year's National History Day, as well as the Maine Bicentennial Celebration in 2020. Hopefully, we will be sending one of our members to Orono on April 7th 2018 to serve as one of the judges for a history essay contest for students from grade 5 through 12 on National History Day. The upcoming state bicentennial will be an exciting celebration and I hope that the OBBFHA will find a meaningful way to participate. If you wish to learn more about the Maine Bicentennial Celebration go to umaine.edu/umhc/me-bicentennial.

Jean Lawrence, a member of our board of directors, as well as President of the Waldoboro Historical Society, informed me a few months ago that she wished to resign her seat on our board due to the amount of work she has at the historical society. I asked her to wait until I could find a replacement. I am happy to announce that Renee Seiders has consented to replace Jean. Thanks to Jean for all she has done for the OBBFHA and Waldoboro. Welcome aboard Renee and thanks for volunteering to serve.

I would like to welcome the following new members: Nancy Lecompte; a descendant of the Mink Family; Steven and Barry Beverage, descendants of the Ulmer Family; Sandra (Beverage) Andrews, a descendant of the Ulmer Family; and Sally Hilton. Welcome aboard folks and I hope you find your affiliation with our group to be fun and educational. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at dputnam925@msn.com. We are attracting new members almost every month!

The Tale of the Tomahawk. In the Fall edition of our newsletter I published a query from OBBFHA member Daniel Sides. Dan inquired about the whereabouts a tomahawk that had been used to kill his ancestor Lorentz Seitz. Dan wrote that the tomahawk was found in or near Seitz's body. Dan said the murder occurred in 1757 at the Seitz Farm in Broad Bay and family lore states that the tomahawk was in the collection of the Maine OBBFHA Newsletter: Vol. 16, No 1 Winter 2018

Historical Society. The collections manager of the Maine Historical Society stated that they have several 18th century tomahawks and axe heads in their collection, but their provenance is unknown. Dan received no replies to his query and I thought this might be another family story that had come down through the generations without verification. However, Dan recently sent me copies of his correspondence with the Maine Historical Society that offered further documentation of the tomahawk story that I found to be quite interesting. Dan wrote to the collections manager of the Maine Historical Society: "In 1910 Samuel Miller wrote the following about my Great Grandfather's death in the **History of the Town of Waldoboro**. "*This occurred on that part of the old Sides place now owned by Capt. Albion Stahl. A tomahawk was found in the head of the murdered man, and is now in the possession of A. R. Reed of this place.*" Then Roxie Sides wrote in her well known book **Early American Families**, published in 1963, that Lorentz's body was found badly mutilated and that "*the tomahawk later came into possession of Asa R. Reed and eventually found its way into the Collections of the Maine Historical Society in Portland, Maine, where it is on display at this time.*" It is possible that the Tomahawk has an association with A.R. Reed. Roxie Sides didn't report how the tomahawk got to your collections, so I don't know if it came directly from Mr. Reed's family or someone else. Any help you might provide would be greatly appreciated. Dan also sent me a recently discovered reference to the murder and the tomahawk in a 19th century German magazine, **Der Deutsche Pionier: Erinnerungen aus dem Pionierleben der Deutschen in Amerika**, which referred to this event in an 1884 article about Lorentz and the tomahawk, "*A tomahawk was found in the scalped skull of the killed man. This killing weapon now is owned by Gerog D. Smouse (Schmauß) in Waldboro, who, as a successor of the family, inherited it.*" I turned to Jasper Stahl's **History of Old Broad Bay**, published in 1956, and the author also referred to this incident. On pages 213 and 214 of Volume One, the author described Seitz, whom he called Loring Sides Sr., as a member of "*the first German Migration, that of 1742, and was a veteran of the Louisberg campaign in the preceding war.*" Sides and his son went in search of their cow which, unknown to them, had been stolen and killed by Native Americans. The perpetrators hid behind a large rock and lured the unsuspecting men by ringing the cow's bell. As they approached, the Indians emerged and "*the elder man was tomahawked, scalped, and the body mutilated.*" His son outran the Indians and took refuge in the Middle Garrison. Stahl went on to write, "*the tomahawk later came into the possession of Asa R. Reed and eventually found its way into the collections of the Maine Historical Society in Portland.*" While we cannot positively verify the existence of the tomahawk at this time, the references from Miller, Stahl, Sides, and the German magazine strongly suggest that this tomahawk is more than a family tale. I wonder if any of our members, or any descendants of the Seitz, Reed or Smouse Families can provide us with any further clues about the history and location of this artifact. Dan, thanks for sharing this engrossing mystery with us!

In closing, I would like to call your attention to three pieces below written by Jean Lawrence. Jean is a career educator, author, poet, and an avid lover of books. I asked her to write a piece about an extraordinary Maine author, Mary Ellen Chase. Jean did better than that and included three authors, in addition to Ms. Chase. I have read all of them and heartily recommend them, especially during the cold winter months. Now all of you have your reading assignments! Jean also included exciting news about the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration of the Waldoboro Historical Society, as well as some books available through the historical society. Wherever I travel I like to visit local museums and historical societies. I find the local history fascinating, and the exhibits reveal how a community views itself and what it values. The Waldoboro Historical Society Museum is one of the best I have ever seen. If you go to Waldoboro you must visit the museum and see what our ancestors valued about themselves and their community. Keep on searching and sharing! We are discovering and preserving our historical and genealogical legacy for our descendants!

Late Notice: I have been advised by our webmaster, Fred Snell, that the entire Rootsweb online platform will be down for several weeks. Therefore, our website is down, but you can still follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/waldoboromaineancestors.

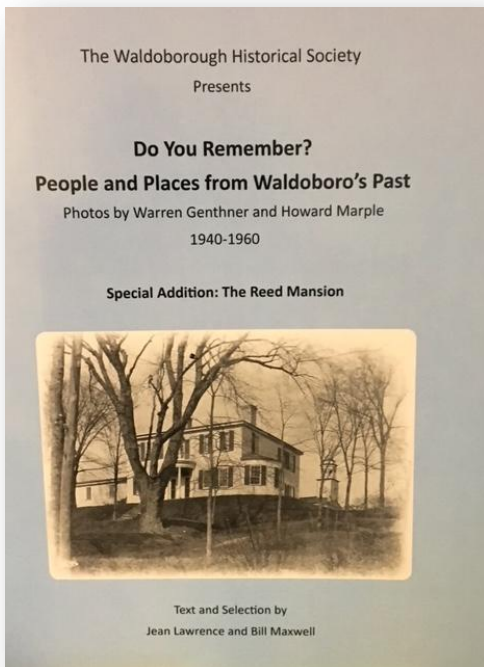


Some Good Maine-Based Reads

By Jean Lawrence

David asked me to write a recommendation for Mary Ellen Chase's *Windswept* published in 1941. The novel covers three generations of the Marston family who lived on a farm on the coast of Maine from 1881-1939. These are practical people whose passion is their home. They always return to their roots and meet the crises of life with what most would call New England stoicism. It was considered one of the top sellers of '41 and is considered a classic. A second classic which celebrates life on a coastal farm is *As the Earth Turns* by Gladys Hasty Carroll: best seller for 1933, a Book of the Month choice, Pulitzer Prize nominee, and a Hollywood motion picture of 1934. The narrative is considered an example of local color and covers one year in the life of the Shaw family in the 1920's. The characters really come alive on the page and depict a chronicle of farm life in Maine: chores, rituals, and tasks. Modern life brings planes, college educations, city life, and foreigners, and one reads of their effect on Mark Shaw's family. Both are books from writers of the past and inform the reader of a life of which we are no longer aware.

The works of two modern writers that I have recently read and which I recommend heartily are Barbara Kent Lawrence's *Islands of Time*, the story of a young Maine fisherman Ben Bunker and Becky Granger, daughter of a prominent summer family. Told from Becky's point of view, it is followed by *Ben's Story*, the sequel in which Ben shares his knowledge and perspective on the changing fisheries and the ways in which they affect his family and community. The second modern writer is Christina Baker Kline whose book *A Piece of the World* is a work of fiction that tells the story of Andrew Wyeth's famous Christina of the painting "Christina's World." It is very well researched and a winner. I guarantee you'll enjoy it and the former works



New Waldoboro Book Available

The Waldoborough Historical Society has a new publication which came out in November: *Do You Remember? People and Places from Waldoboro's Past: photos by Warren Genthner and Howard Marple, 1940-1960*. Now in its second printing, the book has been received well by locals and was initially funded by the Waldoboro Lions Club. Its profits will fund a tree project which when completed will help keep the three buildings of the society safe from tree damage for ten years. A special addition to the book covers the history and photos of "The Reed Mansion" which was lost to fire last spring. Both photographers were residents whose work informs us of life in Waldoboro. Copies may be ordered from WHS, P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572: \$12.00 plus \$3.00 for postage.

Celebrating Fifty Years

On Sunday, June 17, at 2 P.M. the Waldoborough Historical Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special presentation, program "Remember When", and a birthday cake and ice cream. From its inception, the organization has attempted to save artifacts of Waldoboro life, promote and educate future generations on the history of our village and its founders. Please consider this announcement an invitation to join us in our joy on this date or at any of the other special programs that we will offer from March through October. We will also be publishing two additional books: *Father's Farm: Growing up on a Waldoboro Farm in the early 1900's* by Esther Gross and *Dora the Dory*, a children's book by Howard Marple.

The Old Pitcher Barn, South Waldoboro (Broad Bay), Maine

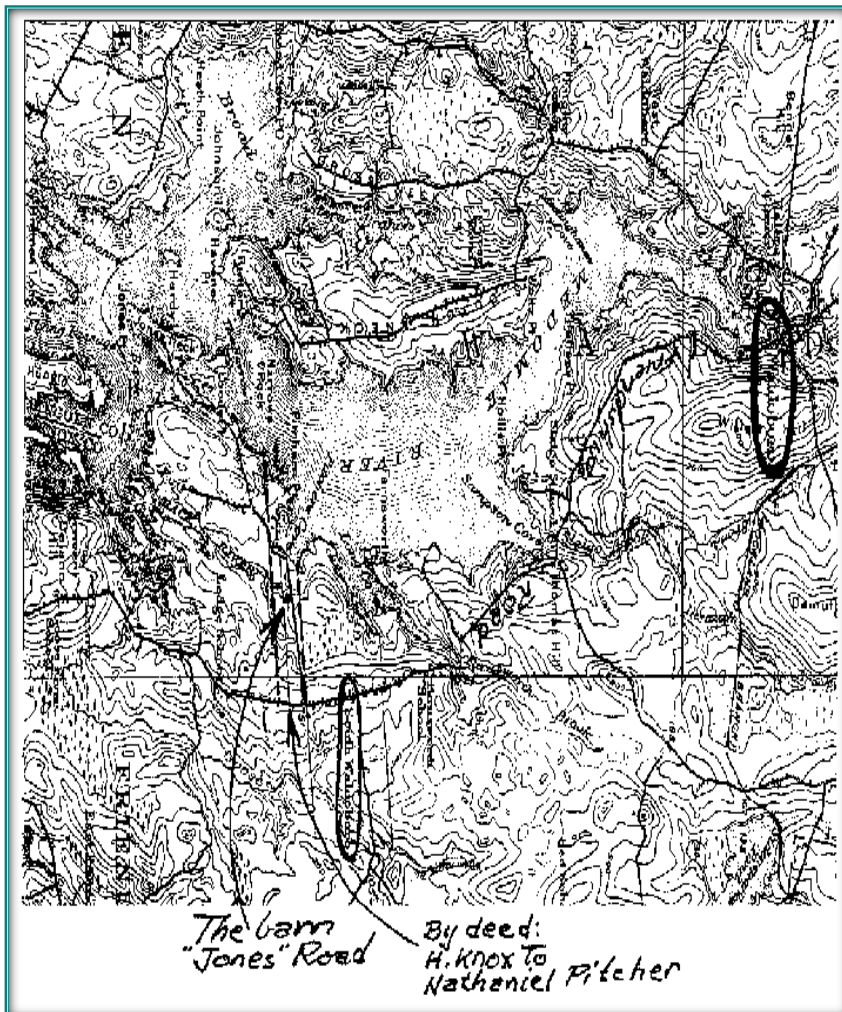
By Susan Pitcher Haines

This, I believe, is the original structure as built by Nathaniel Pitcher and son John after their removal from Scituate, Massachusetts to Broad Bay, Maine. (circa. 1760) The barn certainly dated to pre 1800. Note the map below which shows, roughly, the original Pitcher 100 acres in the area as well as site of this barn. The homestead building had been destroyed by fire sometime around 1930. This barn existed, on its original site until after 1978 or so. (Above information and map from the collection of Donald Pitcher, Cartographer.)



A letter written in 1969 as a result of a search and authenticity of the Pitcher Barn

Waldoboro, Maine June 18, 1969



Dear Mr. Pitcher,

My husband and I went down to So. Waldoboro tonight, I believe we found out the information that you want. The map was a big help in looking [for the] barn. It was there just as you described it. It is a lovely old barn and it is possible it was built in the late 1700's. A good look at one of the nails would help determine this. The very old ones were not only square (as some of the very first machine made ones were), but they tapered as they reached the top. The barn is owned by Floyd A. Benner of South Waldoboro and there was a for sale sign on the barn. The agency is Laurila Realty of Rockland, [address and phone numbers given]. General Totman owns the land where the Pitcher cemetery lies. It does lie adjacent to the land that is owned by Hollis Pitcher. I believe that Hollis Pitcher moved away to Connecticut for awhile without selling the land, however. He and his family have now moved back at South Waldoboro and though they still own the place at South Waldoboro they have bought a place in Waldoboro quite close

to the business district. I don't know them or just what they have planned, but when we drove by the place in South Waldoboro tonight they seemed to be building a foundation just back of the house. It looks like a very old Cape Cod home.

The Waldoborough Historical Society is terrible poor as far as artifacts are concerned and unfortunately we don't have any old maps. We would be delighted to have a history of the Pitcher family for our records. This is exactly what we hope to build eventually-a source of reference for people as well as a coastal museum. We hope that the Lawn Party will be a profitable venture that will help us a step along the way. The building that we own is really in the most pitiful condition. Perhaps if we can get it in better shape people will feel like donating old records, etc., so many of these have already been lost. Waldoboro has a wealth of historical lore. [It would be] a great chance for a novelist with a bit of imagination. If I only had the talent! I think it would be a grand idea for a "Pitcher" to come back home.

This is a beautiful state and Waldoboro is hard to best. Taxes are going to be higher with the new school and a few other things, but they are everywhere and at least we have tranquility here. Hope you can make it to the Lawn Party.

Most sincerely,
Gwendolyn B. Miller
Mrs. Roger E. Miller

Pitchers in Massachusetts and Maine

The first Pitcher in my line, at least to come to the country, was Andrew who was my 7th great grandfather. He was born about 1613 in Devonshire, England (based on a land grant in 1634). He settled in Dorchester, MA on land granted that year. He married Margaret Russell. Among their children was Nathaniel Pitcher, my 6th great grandfather. Andrew died 19 February 1700 in Dorchester.

Nathaniel moved to Milton, MA. He married Mary Clapp. Their son Ezra was my 5th great grandfather. He lived and died in Scituate, MA. Ezra and Mary's son Nathaniel was born 29 December 1738 in Scituate, MA. He married Experience Jones on 5 February 1761. It is he who first moved to Maine; Friendship or Broad Bay. I don't know why he moved to Maine. However, judging from the age of the Pitcher barn I would guess that he built it, and most likely lived nearby. My father visited there in the 1960's. The barn was built on land deeded to him by Henry Knox. The homestead was burned around 1930 and the barn existed until around 1978.

Nathaniel and Experience had children, among them was my 3rd great grandfather John, born in 1784 in Waldoboro. He died in 1870 in Waldoboro. He married Sarah Hoffses. They seem to have had two children, Lydia and Herman F. who was my great grandfather.

Herman married Lucinda Winchenbach. They had 4 children, some of whom I remember hearing my father mention; Mary Ann, George Brainard, Reddington and Almeda. George at some point moved back to Massachusetts, Somerville.

Web Links and Contacts:

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

Editorial comments & queries to pmkriso@gmail.com

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



Jan. 15

Submitting Articles

Articles about Waldoboro families or area history, queries, and milestone news about members are welcome. Consider submitting an article of interest along with pictures, maps, any historical documents.

To Search and to Share

by Stephen W. Beverage
North Haven Island, Maine



Ulmer Descendant through Johannes who immigrated to Broad Bay in 1742 with part of his family.

I remember as a youngster in the very early 1960's, after many years of traveling through Maine visiting older family relations, what my parents were working on. They wanted to capture all the available information from our living family who could remember about the past relations. Once the older folk are gone it becomes so much harder to find out first hand information and we have to search so much more to fill in all the questions!

We went to every part of Massachusetts and Maine visiting and getting everything we could from old photos, letters and family Bibles as well as visiting the old cemetery plots. Some were at regular cemeteries and many were in back yards of old farmsteads or overgrown wood lots. That is how it was with my parent's 70 year quest for information of our family and the history of our country that they were connected with. They were historians, genealogist and lovers of this our United States and they wanted to pass it all onto their children and other relations before it was lost.

After our losing my father Samuel, 97 years old and my mother Eleanor, 95 years old, these past couple years, now it is my brother Barry and my sister Sandra along with myself who are to try and carry on and find more pieces of the puzzle they started to put together for us. The big part of the genealogy puzzle was to trace our lines to the Mayflower; through the years both sides of our family were told of the many connections there. The other was our Ulmer family who helped settle Waldoboro (Broad Bay) and moved to Ducktrap and Rockland/ Thomaston. Every year when we came through these towns my mother would tell us how at one time our family owned so much of it and how important they were in the American Revolution. All their efforts helped us understand so much about history and aided me in my history courses all through school. My brother went on to become a history teacher and has drawn much from our family's struggles and efforts in early America.

Mom and Dad were instrumental in 1976 after writing many times to the Selectmen about the horrid condition at Howe Point, which is the Ulmer Cemetery overlooking Ducktrap harbor where many of the Ulmers who settled there are buried; Major Phillip Ulmer being one. Thankfully the restoration of that cemetery then was undertaken. We as kids helped our parents do a lot of work at North Haven Island finding and clearing the old plots and using sounding rods to poke through the overgrown sod to locate fallen and buried stones so they could be recovered. Then we would take etchings using tracing paper and crayons to pull up the engravings. That way we could put on paper the locations of each of the stones for further study. We began this in the sixties and from then on it was full speed forward on gathering information.

Our parents were instrumental in founding the North Haven Historical Society and our mother is a founding member of OBBFHA. Now all this is passed down to us and we strive to learn more about our Ulmers and other ancestors who came before us who helped make our great country what it is. We hope everyone has the same quest for knowledge and understanding of what these people went through to make a new life in this strange new world. I am pleased that my siblings and I are members and hope to learn all we can about our German ancestors.



Feb. 19



Old Broad Bay Family History Association

To Search and To Share

Membership Application or Renewal

**REMEMBER TO
INVITE OTHERS**

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

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We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal invoice by mail each year. Enter the Contact Name and Address above and the Facility Name Below:

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