

Old Broad Bay Family History Association



NS Volume 20 No. 4 Fall

To Search and to Share

1854 shipping in Downeast waters by Fitz Henry Lane

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Hello Again Dear Friends, I hope this edition of the OBBFHA newsletter finds all of you well. After a rather blistering summer, the cool air and vivid Fall colors have returned to New England. Summer is wonderful here but Fall has its own unique magic. We have some fine articles in this edition. Archeologist **Harbour Mitchell** has submitted his report on the digs he did around Waldoboro last summer. His findings are exciting, especially since this is the 250th anniversary of the official founding of the Town of Waldoborough. We also have an article from **Andrea Curtis**, Education Program Manager at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. Ms. Curtis writes about a summer program in storytelling and creative writing that the museum sponsored for local youth. In cooperation with OBBFHA member **Jean Lawrence** of the Waldoborough Historical Society, the children studied the painting "Maidenhair" by Andrew Wyeth and used the painting as inspiration for their own stories. Wyeth painted local lass Elaine Benner sitting inside the Old German Meeting House in Waldoboro. What a wonderful program!

Annual Meeting: We held our annual meeting in Waldoboro on Saturday, August 6th. Treasurer Deirdre Putnam gave a financial report and Webmaster Fred Snell gave a report on the number of persons viewing our website, and recent additions to the website.

My thanks to them for a fine job.

We had a wonderful presentation on the history of shipbuilding in Maine by **Nathan Lipfert**, Curator Emeritus of the Maine Maritime Museum. Nathan has also written a book titled "**Two Centuries of Maine Shipbuilding-A Visual History.**" This book is a fine overview of shipbuilding in Maine featuring many priceless old photos. It would make a wonderful gift for someone interested in Maine history and can be

purchased on Amazon, or at the Maine Maritime Museum. I purchased a copy and donated it to the Waldoboro Public Library in the name of the OBBFHA.

I also had the pleasure to present the **Jasper J. Stahl Award** to Harbour Mitchell in recognition of his **Waldoboro Origins Project**. Harbour gave a gracious acceptance speech in which he outlined his vision for the

Waldoboro Origins Project. We are truly lucky to have someone with his vision and expertise interested in our history and I have advised him that we will support his efforts in any way we are able.

Another Waldoboro Book! If you recall, in the Winter 2022 edition of this newsletter I reviewed a book titled, **“The New Land-The Overstreet Saga, Book 1,”** written David O. Stewart. Mr. Stewart is a writer of historical fiction and a descendant of the Overlock Family of Broad Bay/Waldoboro. He has just announced that the second book in this series will be published on April 4th, 2023. The book is titled, **“The Burning Land-The Overstreet Saga, Book 2,”** which will follow members of the fictitious Overstreet Family of Waldoboro through the American Civil War. I enjoyed the first book, and I am looking forward to the second. It won’t be long until Hollywood comes knocking on the door!

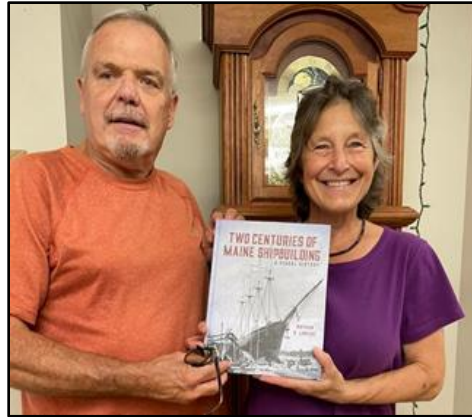
In Our Thoughts: During August I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Monica Boyd in California. Monica, a musician, singer and music teacher, died at the age of 53 from leukemia. She was the daughter of OBBFHA member Becky Boyd and her husband Bob. Monica was also the niece of OBBFHA members Pat Kriso and Carol Thompson. As we all know, the loss of a child is the cruelest blow. I know you all will keep Becky, Bob, Pat, Carol, and Monica’s wife Tuyet, in your thoughts and prayers. There is an online page for those wishing to send a personal message to the Becky’s family. www.pacificviewcalifornia.com

Closing Thoughts: I would like to thank Rene Seiders, Ruth Riopell, Dale Gunn, Jean Lawrence, Fred Snell and Deirdre for their hard work in putting on the annual meeting. I would also like to thank everyone who donated money to defray our costs.

[Keep on Searching and Sharing!](#)



Author/Speaker Nathan Lipfert



2022 OBBFHA Meeting

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association donated a copy of Nathan Lipfert’s new book, “Two Centuries of Maine Shipbuilding, A Visual History,” to the Waldoboro Public Library. Seen here, Library Director, Cathrina Skov receives the copy from OBBFHA President, David Putnam.

Visiting Members



Archeologist/Speaker Harbour Mitchell



Linda Morkeski of Waldoboro



Peter Acorn of George Town



Leslie Gatcombe-Hynes



Jean and David Lawrence and Marilyn Burrill
Background: Dale Gunn, June & David Hussiere



Marjorie Snell and Nathan Lipfert

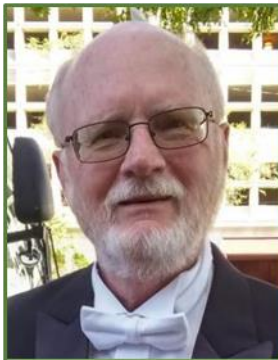


Marquita Chambers and Linda Morkeski

Other members not pictured:
Deirdre Putnam, Fred Snell
and Ruth Riopell who made
the fresh blueberry cake.



Renee Seiders
Vice President and Secretary
Official Celebration Cake Baker



In memory of

William C. Chapman



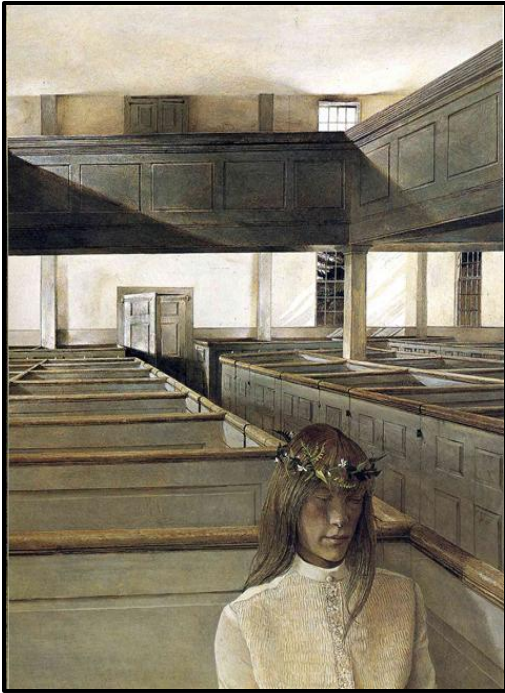
William "Bill" Carl Chapman 1948-2022, the son of Paul Sidelinger Chapman and Gertrude Ida Schaeffer. Bill is survived by his wife of 43 years, Helen Ann Shaw; his sons, William "Will" Paul Shaw-Chapman and Nathaniel "Nate" Eugene Shaw Chapman; his daughter-in-law, Hannah; granddaughters Angela and Elsie; his brother and sister-in-law John, and Patricia Chapman of Cleveland; two nieces and eight nephews.

Bill received his BA in economics from the University of Illinois and his MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. He worked for the Northern Trust Company in Chicago from 1972 until retirement as a vice president of trust systems in 2003.

Following three years with the 12th Special Forces Group, Bill joined the Illinois National Guard serving from 1974 to 1992. Bill served the town of Rockport as a member of the Budget Committee, the Select Board (2008-2017) and Rockport's board of the Mid-Coast Solid Waste Committee and the Mid-coast Economic Development District. Member and treasurer of the Rockport Library Committee and a member of Legacy Rockport.

Long time members of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association.

Behind the Scenes – Maidenhair Story



Andrew Wyeth, Maidenhair, 1974

By Andrea L. Curtis, Education Program Manager, Farnsworth Art Museum

Contributor: **Jean Lawrence**, President, Waldoborough Historical Society

The haunting expression of the sole figure seated in a wood-grained box pew has long captivated visitors to the Farnsworth Art Museum. Shoulders angled, eyes parted, and a crown of delicate flowers upon her head, the subject of *Maidenhair*, (1974) by Andrew Wyeth evokes a rich visual story. Her articulated strands of blonde hair, reminiscent of the wheaten grass of *Turkey Pond* (1944) hang youthfully next to her drawn and ashen face. Who is she? What is she doing alone in this place? Has someone just left through the slightly parted door, or perhaps someone is about to enter?



Andrew Wyeth, Turkey Pond, 1944

This summer, as I planned a storytelling and creative writing unit, Wyeth's painting activated my imagination. I was pleased to learn that the setting for this mesmerizing work, the *Old German Meeting House* in Waldoboro, Maine, was not only a mere 17 miles from the museum, but also open for visitors during the summer months.

Set upon a hill near the Medomak River, the old church is elevated above the arched cemetery entrance. Greeting me beneath the church doorway was Jean Lawreine, the secretary of the *Ladies Auxiliary of the German Protestant Society*, who now volunteers each summer to "tell the stories" of the "Old German Church," as it is now called.

The church includes historical gems such as a "Mayflower barrel" and gravestones of early-American veterans. Built in 1772, the silence of the reverent space is interrupted only by the occasional creak as the walks one walks on the centuries old wood. With no electricity, natural light beams through the antique windowpanes, possibly a feather that attracted Wyeth to this location.

As I positioned myself in the front pew, I imagined how the fair maiden would have sat. I noticed a wineglass pulpit towering above (a majestic detail excluded from our vantage point in Wyeth's painting) and the bare walls hold only three portraits of prominent parishioners, including a rare photograph of a Revolutionary War veteran, Conrad Heyer.

As a former teacher, Lawrence is extraordinarily knowledgeable about the church and the painting of *Maidenhair*. In partnership with the staff at the museum's Wyeth Study Center, Lawrence and I quickly began to collaborate on lessons for the participants of the Arts in Education program.

In the fall of 2018, over 231 students and 14 teachers from schools in Waldoboro, Rockland, Hope, Appleton, Lincolnville, and Cushing, Maine visited the Farnsworth galleries to study *Maidenhair* and collaboratively create stories to accompany the work of art. Following their museum visit, we traveled to the church for a private tour, where students learned not only the history of the early German settlement, but also the story of the young girl sitting in the pew

Students gasped as they discovered that the young woman, Elaine Benner, was once one of Lawrence's students and that Elaine (now Elaine Hyler) still writes letters to her to this day. When they ask if she was a bride, Lawrence

chuckles warmly and tells them her version of the story.

In a letter written to Lawrence, Hyler describes meeting Andrew Wyeth. The year was 1974 and as a young 17-year-old she was riding her bicycle on her way back from a lawn-mowing job. Hyler recalls, “Andy, as I call him, drove by me, in his Stutz Bearcat,” a popular car among celebrities such as Elvis Presley.

Days after the chance encounter Hyler recalls, “Andy showed up in front of the house. With everyone peeking out the house window, Andy opened the door of his Stutz for me to get in. First time anyone opened a door for me, I hardly knew how to act.”

When asked about Wyeth’s process, she states that she “. . . sat for Andy in the church for about a month, but also a number of days in his studio in Cushing.” Hyler relays that she never wore a crown of flowers upon her head; rather it was painted on afterward (In another Wyeth work of the same year, we see model Helga Testorf wearing a similar crown). “The beautifully intricate blouse I have on in the painting [belonged to] Andy . . . He said it was s special family piece.” Hyler remembers warmly, “Andy was so much fun, laughing, joking and at the same time he could reach down into the very depths of your soul and see what you were about . . . We had great fun, and he sometimes on the way home would stop and buy a gallon of ice cream, or some fresh corn to take back to mamma and the kids.”

Upon hearing her story, our students shared their won interpretations of the young woman. Some thought she was a bride contemplating her wedding and others saw her as a child that had recently lost a loved-one. Regardless, Lawrence replied, it’s important that, “we each bring our own interpretation” to the work of art.

A portion was printed in the Fall 2018 Newsletter, the Article: Old German Church and Andrew Wyeth by Jean Lawrence



Andrew Wyeth, 1977



Jean Lawrence and Andrea L. Curtis



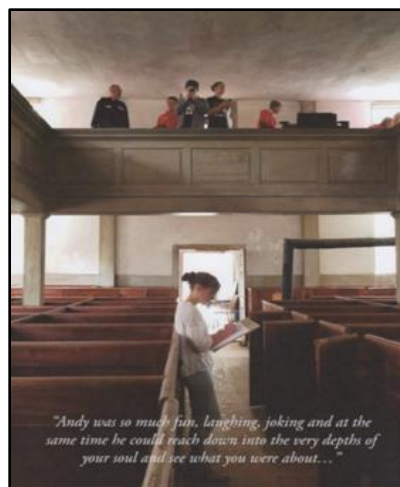
Visiting Students



Student draws the Mayflower Barrel



Student sits in the position of the girl in the painting



(On the painting) “Andy was so much fun laughing, joking and at the same time he could reach down into the very depths of your soul and see what you were about . . .”

Students investigate the church, Writing and drawing.

Resources: Farnsworth Art Museum, Wyeth Study Center, Rockland, ME : <https://www.farnsworthmuseum.org/visit/campus/wyeth-study-center/>

The Andrew and Betty Wyeth Collection @2018 Andrew Wyeth/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Letters by Elaine Benner Hyler to Jean Lawrence 2018

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The Waldoboro Origins Project: How Old is Waldoboro, Anyways?



Greetings to all those reading this article - members, Broad Bay descendants, and interested followers of OBBFHA doings.

This year I began archaeological testing along the Medomak River, about two miles down from the head-of-tide. And I wanted to take a minute to tell you how it went.

Wow! What a year! As you may recall, I am undertaking a research effort (The Waldoboro Origins Project) to prove that all the structures in Broad Bay, as indicated on Joseph Des Barres' map of 1776, were actually there. To that end, beginning last year, I started archaeological testing along the Medomak River.

This summer I tested a location where Des Barres indicates a single structure was located. Long story short, I found it!

The occupation is on a sand and gravel knoll and represents a relatively late arrival in Broad Bay; Andrew Schenck. Schenck arrived in Broad Bay in 1769 and died in 1799. Pottery and other materials, like a two tined fork, clearly indicate a 1770's occupation was present on the knoll when Des Barres did his survey of Broad Bay. But, as amazing as that is, there's more!

While looking for the 1770's occupation, I recovered pottery and other materials from a much earlier period. Excavation within what I thought was a large, filled cellar produced pottery, gun flints, buttons, from a period we know historically as the French and Indian War – the 1750's, decades before Schenck!

Very large footings, rocks upon which a building rested above the ground, indicate a structure about 40' square sat above the cellar. Soon after that discovery, I exposed a trench with support rock all along one side – a palisade trench. A palisade is a vertical log wall designed to surround a compound of some kind, in an effort to protect those within the compound. In this case, the palisade was not around a fort, but an area about the size of a football field within which people took refuge in times of conflict. I had accidentally discovered one of several garrisons in which the Germans of Broad Bay are historically known to have taken shelter during their early years here! But wait. There's more...

Trash pits, initially considered associated with the 1750's garrison, produced iron products like hand forged nails and a partial axe head, as well as the base to a green alcohol/wine bottle (in an awful lot of pieces ☺). When



I returned to the lab, and reconstructed the bottle, I was amazed to find it is a type dating to about 1700! The Germans had constructed their garrison *over* an earlier occupation, a *much earlier* occupation!



Then, in late summer, after even more testing, another structure was revealed. It was a small, rectangular building with an *intact* open flagstone hearth, and at least two cellar-like pits up to 3' deep. One was almost 10' long. Trash within the pit's dates to the mid-1700's - the Germans' period. This indicates the Germans, or someone after them, filled the pits when the building was no longer

there. Fill within the pits included some very early tea ware. Several English delftware tea bowls, teacups designed without handles, suggest the building may have been initially occupied around the 1730's. But wait. Yes, there's even more... By September, after an exhausting five months of testing, I had discovered *yet another structure*, this one, circa, 1800-1830. It is possible Andrew Schenck built a second home on the knoll just a few

years before he died. The house was large, and typical of the period, with a very large midden, or dump, outside what was the kitchen area. A single excavation unit about 3' square filled the sifting screen with hundreds of pieces of bone, clam shell, brick, hand forged nails, pottery, and other materials. Then mysteriously, the occupation appears to have stopped! No materials later than about 1830 appear to be present! It may be that once Andrew Schenck died, the family continued to live in the home for a few decades, then moved on. What happened after that is a mystery.



So, as a result of months of archaeological testing, we now know that Des Barres' map is accurate, and where the Schencks lived in the 1770's. But in the course of finding the Schencks, we found so much more! In addition to the Schencks, we know at least three other occupations took place on the same location over a period of at least 100 years! One of those occupations was in a time of great conflict and danger to all of Broad Bay's inhabitants. And because of archaeology, we're now starting to understand how they managed during those difficult times - their story. We have food bone, ceramic plates and cooking vessels, table knives and forks, cast iron kettle fragments, weaponry related materials (gun flints and musket balls), and personal items like buttons, buckles, and small hooks to secure dresses and other garments.

And, incredibly, we now know that perhaps as early as 1700, decades before the Germans arrived, there were Europeans present along the Medomak River, in a place that would someday be known as Broad Bay.

Well, thanks for sharing a minute of your day with me. I'll be in touch with more, after next year's testing effort is complete. Until then, if you happen to be driving around Waldoboro, and you see a guy in the middle of a field, with a shovel and screen, sweating over a little square hole, and you're wondering what the heck he's doing... it's just me, digging deep into our past ☺

Harbour

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Every Name Index to 1992-2021 Bund und Blatt and OBBFHA Newsletters

For those of you who are doing research, the *Every Name Index* will be a fascinating find.

For those of you who enjoy discovering about your ancestors lives, enjoy.

Easily accessed at www.obbfha.org and found under Publications

Example: NAME VOLUME v1 NUMBER #1 PAGE p1, YEAR 1992: Name v1#1p1, 1992

Patricia Kriso, Newsletter Editor and Fred Snell, Web Master

Membership dues always due on July 1

OBBFHA Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: www.obbfha.org

Editorial comments & queries to pmkriso@gmail.com

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

Send general inquiries to obbfha@gmail.com



Dec. 21st

Correction: Fall 2021 newsletter error; Kurt is Kent Bradley Snyder.

Godfrey Ludwig House



(1978)

In 1780, Jacob Ludwig was the first German to serve as Representative to the Massachusetts General Court, reflecting his position of leadership in the community. He was a shrewd, thrifty, intelligent, and ambitious man, entirely self-educated. He realized Waldoboro would become an English community, so he mastered the language, law, practices, and ways of English life. This made him a leader among his people in the 1790's. Childless, he was devoted to his nephew, Godfrey, son of his brother Joseph. He spent long hours training him in the lore and learning that he had acquired. In 1799 he presented his protege with a generous piece of good farmland on which Godfrey built the sturdy brick in 1800. Though Godfrey never achieved public recognition equal to that of his uncle, he was a widely respected prosperous farmer who, after 1820, became a strong supporter of Methodism to the extent that his house became a stop for circuit riding ministers to conduct services. The Union Circuit, of which the Ludwig House was a part was the earliest established in eastern Maine and extended from Union southwesterly through Waldoboro as far as Round Pond. [Maine Route 32]

The use of the house for services resulted in the construction of its most interesting feature. Built as it was on a central hall plan with end wall fireplaces, there was no room large enough for meetings. Consequently, the hall walls were rebuilt with hinges along the ceiling so that they could be swung upward into the two front rooms thus combining them, along with the hall, into one large room occupying most of the floor area of the main part of the house. The kitchen was in a small ell. This white painted brick Cape Cod style house with its black painted trim stands out as a landmark recalling Waldoboro's German heritage as well as the early Methodist circuits in eastern Maine. [Frank A. Beard, photos]

National Register of Historic Places listings in Lincoln County, Maine 1980



Masthead: Fitz Henry Lane's sketches and paintings documented maritime practices in Maine during the height of the lumbering and shipbuilding industries. In the center of this work a deeply drafted brigantine is laden with its cargo of finished lumber products. Smoothed so that no brush strokes remain, the painted surface is a picture of a luminous, late day sunlight reflecting off water and sky—imagery that casts a reassuring sense of continuity and prosperity for investors of these enterprises.

Featured in "Maine and American Art: Farnsworth Art Museum" with thanks to the Henry Luce Foundation and Wyeth Foundation for American Art.



And





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.**

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