

## Old Broad Bay Family History Association



NS Volume 21 No. 4 Fall 2023 **To Search and to Share** Last of the Palmer Fleet “Addie M. Lawrence”

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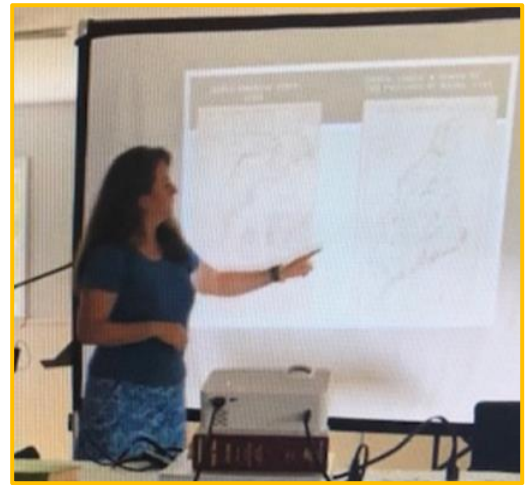
### President Musings by David Putnam

Happy Fall Dear Friends, I hope the change of season finds you well. Here in New England most people look forward to Autumn, and this year is no exception; our summer weather was dreadful! There was an uncommon amount of rain, and the rare sunny days were very humid. So, we are ready to move on to some bright and brisk Fall days, apple cider donuts and foliage.

Our annual meeting was held on August 5th, and it was an outstanding success. We had twenty-two people in attendance, and over one-hundred and sixty members watching online via our Facebook page and the Waldoboro Historical Society Facebook page. Bill Maxwell ran the feed for the WHS page, and Daniel Vannah ran the feed for our page. I cannot thank them enough for their assistance! I also want to thank several members for urging me to get our meeting online. I am not a devotee of Facebook (Deirdre handles that) and I was unaware of how relatively easy it was to broadcast the meeting. My thanks to members David Wallace, Dale Gunn, Tracie Ott, Pat Kriso and Becky Boyd who kept urging me to get the meeting online. So, you see, an old dog can learn new tricks, even if he doesn't want to!

Our featured speaker at the annual meeting was Ms. Heather Moran from the Maine State Archives. She gave a lively and informative presentation about the state archives and the information they offer to genealogists and historians. I strongly urge all our members to familiarize themselves with the Maine State Archives website at

[www.maine.gov/sos/arc](http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc). This site is a treasure trove of information about every aspect of Maine history. Additionally, Heather refused to take any payment for her presentation. She told me that history, genealogy, and archival preservation are her “passions”, and she wouldn't dream of accepting money for speaking about the subjects she loves. It is so reassuring to me when I meet young people with a passion for history and research. It is satisfying to know that the work done by our group and others over the years will be of interest to future generations.



**Heather Moran, Maine State Archivist III**

The annual meeting was also attended for the first time by Cecelia and Pat McGuiness of Surry, United Kingdom, Herb Kaler of North Carolina, and new members Lauren and Howard Robinson of Bourne, MA.



**Peter Achorn and Herb Kaler**



**Leslie Gatcombe-Hynes, Marjorie Snell, and Lauren Robinson**



**Daniel Vannah, Film Producer with Pat and Cecelia McGuinness from Surrey, UK.**



**David Putnam and Dale Gunn**



**Cecelia and Pat McGuinness**



**Deirdre, Cecelia, Leslie, and Marilyn Burrill**



**Fred Snell and Howard Robinson**



Renee Seiders, Vice President/Secretary/Cake Baker



Robinson's reading about our map and members



Loraine Lash and Carolyn Harris



June Hussiere, Ruth Riopell, Linda Morkeski, and Peter Achorn



After the Speaker, everyone settles down for lunch and to meet one another and share information.

I recently learned that one of our members, Ms. Anette Ruppel Rodrigues, an Instructor of German at the University of Maine at Orono, has written a piece that has been published in the prestigious publication, **“The Hessians: Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association.”** The journal is published by The Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, a group dedicated to discovering and preserving the history of the German mercenary soldiers (Hessians) that came to America to fight for the British against the rebelling American colonials, and those soldiers who remained in America after the revolution. As I am sure you all know, there are several families in Waldoboro descended from German mercenaries who elected to stay and make their home in Waldoboro. Anette’s article is titled, **Braunschweig and Ansbach-Bayreuth Troops at Fort George, Penobscot, During the American Revolutionary War.** Anette’s article discusses the strategic, economic, and political importance of Fort George at Castine, as well as the personal and social aspects for the German mercenaries stationed there. Thank you, Anette, for such a well written and historically informative article, and congratulations for having it published in such a respected historical journal!

On a personal note, the paterfamilias of my Welt Family line was a Jager (light infantry) named Blasius Welt, who either deserted or was discharged from the Ansbach-Bayreuth Regiment while stationed in Castine and subsequently married Sedona Benner of Waldoboro. The relationship between the Germans in Waldoboro and the Germans at the fort was friendly, but complex. A subject I will cover more thoroughly in the Winter edition.

I would like to take a moment and thank Doug and Tracie Ott for their financial donation. I also want to thank Daniel Vannah for attending our meeting and filming it for our Facebook page. Daniel is a local resident and a college student who also volunteers at the Waldoboro Historical Society. I hope to count Daniel among our members soon!

Finally, I hope you will keep Archeologist Harbour Mitchell in your thoughts and prayers. He is at home in Waterville recovering from some heart problems. I have communicated with him via email, and he is looking forward to getting back out into the field and working on his exciting Waldoboro Origins Project.

**Keep on Searching and Sharing!**

### **Fires Shape Lives and History**

*by David Putnam*

Over the last few years, we have watched as powerful wildfires have devastated forests, homes and entire towns throughout our nation and Canada. Waldoboro suffered a similar catastrophic fire causing approximately \$500,000 dollars in damage (3.65 million dollars today!) Here is the verbatim text of the report by the Waldoboro Selectmen on the fire that devastated Waldoboro Village at a time when Waldoboro was a prosperous shipbuilding, fishing, and agricultural town. I wonder to what degree the personal lives and fortunes of our ancestors were impacted by this calamity.

#### **Great Fire in Waldoboro, ME.**

“On Friday, the 25th of August inst., at about 1 o’clock P.M., this once flourishing village was visited by one of the most DESTRUCTIVE FIRES ON RECORD.

So extensive was the conflagration, that not a Store, Workshop, Public House, or Office is left. Nearly all the *furniture* in the *houses*-the *tools* in the *workshops*-the *libraries* in the *Offices*, and the *Goods in the Stores*, (thirty-seven in number) were destroyed and consequently, no articles of Provisions, Clothing, Furniture or Medicine, can now be purchased. Portions of Goods and Furniture which were taken to places of apparent security were burnt.

More than seventy families are now houseless and would be suffering for the common necessities of life, but not for the unexampled liberality of the citizens of the neighboring towns, in supplying the destitute with food and raiment—but few having been able to save *even a change of clothing*.

The fire spread with such fearful rapidity, that in less than forty minutes from its discovery, every portion of the village, which is now a heap of smoldering ruins, was enveloped in *one sheet of flame*.

The magnitude of the loss may be conceived, when we state, that if three-quarter of the business portion of any town or city of this country should be burnt at once, with all the *goods, furniture, and clothing*—it would not be a greater calamity than has befallen *us*. ”

At a meeting of the citizens, holden the following evening, the undersigned were chosen a committee to appeal to the sympathies of a generous public; and we now make that appeal on behalf of our destitute fellow citizens, many of whom barely escaped with their lives.

The whole amount of property destroyed, from the best estimate we are able to make, cannot fall short of *half a million dollars*, not more than one-third of which is covered by insurance.

Signed: Isaac Reed, B.B. Haskell, George Sproul, Henry Kennedy, James Hovey, George Allen, James Cook, Alfred Hovey, A.W. Clark, John Balch, Alfred Storer, John Bulfinch, James Schwartz II, William S. Cochran, John H. Kennedy, M.M. Rawson, William A. Schenck, D.W. Seiders.

Waldoboro, Aug. 27, 1854.



**Masthead:** The last of the Palmer Fleet, the Addie M. Lawrence of Casco Bay, Portland, ME. (Postcard) Built in Portland, ME. in 1903. Sold to J.S. Winslow & Company.

Submitted by Mark Benner.

### William F. Palmer Fleet Collection

William F. Palmer bought an unfinished Bath, ME. schooner hull in 1899 and within a few months had launched the Marie Palmer, the first of his famous fleet. By 1908, there were fourteen large, white hulled schooners engaged primarily in the coal trade.

In all, Palmer had 15 four and five-masted schooners built for his coal business. Six of them were launched in Waldoboro built by George L. Welt at what is today the Waldoboro town landing, the PALMER was described in an early account as “a beautiful vessel. No effort or expense was spared.”

Schooners built in Waldoboro by George L. Welt:

- 1900 Fannie Palmer
- 1901 Baker Palmer
- 1902 Paul Palmer
- 1903 Dorothy Palmer
- 1904 Singleton Palmer
- 1904 Harwood Palmer

Schooners built in Bath, Rockland, ME. and Boston

- 1900 Marie Palmer (Bath)
- 1900 Maude Palmer (Bath)
- 1901 Rebecca Palmer (Rockland)
- 1902 Prescott Palmer (Bath)
- 1903 Elizabeth Palmer (Bath)
- 1904 Jane Palmer (Boston)
- 1905 Davis Palmer (Bath)
- 1907 Fannie Palmer (2) (Bath)
- 1908 Fuller Palmer (Bath)

Palmer served as managing owner, designing the vessels, recruiting the capital, supervising the construction, and handling the day-to-day operation of the fleet. His success to 1907 was spectacular, with the return on investment averaging twenty percent. In 1905, the fleet made forty coal voyages to Boston and Portland, Me., from Virginia and the Chesapeake. The following year, the Davis Palmer alone made thirteen voyages. In 1908,

however, there was a sudden and severe economic downturn which reduced profits to about four percent. At this time, specially designed steam colliers began to appear on the runs north of Cape Cod, and, despite the impetus provided to coastal shipping by World War I, sail-powered vessels never recovered their former share of trade.

Palmer's fleet consisted of two four-mast wooden schooners and thirteen five-mast wooden schooners—all with large carrying capacity. He himself designed all but the Marie, the Jane, and the Elizabeth. The Palmer schooners were painted white and carried the name Palmer, the first name being the name of the family member or large shareholder.

After Palmer's sudden death in September, 1909, Marie (Widow) ran the fleet for about a year the vessels were then sold to J.S. Winslow & Company of Portland, ME.

Source: Internet Archive, Maine Maritime Museum, William F. Palmer Fleet Collection, by Elizabeth Singer Maule and Edited by Nathan R. Lipfert

Learn more about the shipbuilding history in Waldoboro from Mark Biscoe's *Merchant of the Medomak: Stories from Waldoboro Maine's Golden Years 1860, 1910* and Jasper Stahl books the *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* (2 volumes, 1956)

Summarized by Patricia Kriso and Becky Boyd

### Palmer Fleet Captains -1909



Edward H. Sneed (Baker Palmer) – Millard Wade (Elizabeth Palmer) – Walter B. Willey (Fannie Palmer)  
Dr. Fuller, Asst., Mgr. of the Fleet – Harry L. Bowen (Jane Palmer) – Gregory Campbell (Rebecca Palmer)

### Builders of the Schooner Paul Palmer 1902



Waldoboro ME– source: Maine Maritime Museum. Forwarded – Mark Biscoe 2015

# MEMBERSHIP DUES ALWAYS DUE ON JULY 1ST

## OBBFHA Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: [www.obbfha.org](http://www.obbfha.org)

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

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

Send general inquiries to [obbfha@gmail.com](mailto:obbfha@gmail.com)

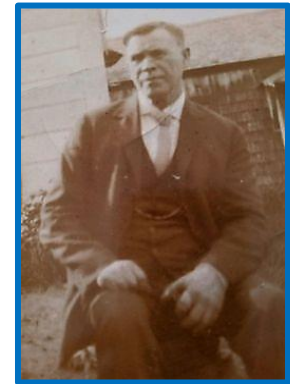
NOV. 23RD

Direct Ancestral Line from our Original German Settlers

Gottfried Feiler ancestor of Sally Joyce Harris



**Gottfried Feiler** 1721-1784 m. Regina Fahs 1720-1787  
 Son: Christopher Feyler 1760-1849 m. **Mary 'Molly' Benner** 1767-1854  
 Son: Christopher Feyler 1810-1894 m. **Maria Welt** 1809-1864  
 Son: Gardner Feyler 1830-1910 m. **Mary C. Lash** 1843-1878  
 Daughter: Sadie Catherine Feyler 1873-1913 m. Alexander Davidson Lyon  
 1868-1935 (Photos)  
 Son: Clarence Lyon 1892-1941 m. Maud Benoit 1893-1935  
 Daughter: Patricia Lyon 1923-1995 m. Robert Harris 1922-1992  
 Daughter: Sally Harris m. Russell Martin



Alexander Davidson  
Lyon was a Scottish  
Stonecutter

John Henry Benner m. Maria Margareta Keyser?  
 Daughter: **Mary 'Molly' Benner** 1767-1854 m. Christopher Feyler 1760-1849

Pleusus Blasius Welt (bapt.) 1761-1793/1798 m. Sedona Benner 1756-1841  
 Son: John William Welt 1783-1871 m. Sarah Schuman?  
 Daughter: **Maria Welt** 1809-1864 m. Christopher Feyler 1810-1894

Erasmus Loesch? m. Regina Kuebler?  
 Son: Jacob Lash Sr. 1774-? m. Mary Moody 1779-1850  
 Son: John Lash 1818-1888 m. Catherine Barbara Benner 1822-1870  
 Daughter: **Mary C. Lash** 1483-1878 m. Gardner Feyler 1830-1910

Amos Moody 1747-1847 m. Elizabeth Chamberlain 1751-1832  
 Daughter: **Mary Moody** 1779-1850 m. Jacob Lash Sr. 1774-?  
 Son: John Lash 1818-1888 m. Catherine Barbara Benner 1822-1870



## *In Memoriam Major Nelson Dale Rhodes, USAF, Ret.*

May 12, 1939 – October 22, 2022

Major Nelson Rhodes is survived by wife Nancy Elizabeth Chance, they were married in 1963. He served as a pilot in Southeast Asia and over seven campaigns in Vietnam and was awarded five Air Medals for service. He retired in 1981. He was a member of the Allerton Colony, Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants and OBBFHA.



1<sup>st</sup> day of Winter, Dec 21st

## THE MAP AND THE RABBIT HOLE, PART II

Oct. 2023. Tracie Gross Ott ([tracott@comcast.net](mailto:tracott@comcast.net))

In pursuit of searching for the *original* date of the cadastral<sup>[1]</sup> map of the east side of the Medomak River, its surveyor, and *J. L. D.*<sup>[2]</sup> who drafted it in 1857, I landed upon a different map via the Mass. Digital Archives Repository. It is the [*original*] Plan of Waldoborough 1794-5;<sup>[3]</sup> very detailed however, the small letters and numbers make it difficult to read in full map form printed on 8" x 11" paper. Good news, the scanned *original* versions' zoom-in feature works great to view this remarkable map in detail.

Last month I had the fortune to visit the Massachusetts Archives in Boston, reference info in-hand, making it easier for the librarian to retrieve the archival material. I felt thrilled to see the *original* 1795 map, a beautiful work of art in watercolor mounted on linen and with the help of a reference librarian who took photos using my iPhone *w/no flash*, I now have keepsakes.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Surveyors and Plans

"The Eastern Lands Record Group documents the settlement of public lands in the District of Maine, aka the eastern lands. Instructions to Surveyors, (1774-1820): Under successive authorizations, the Committee for the Sale of Eastern Lands (1783-1801) and the Land Office were the primary agencies with responsibility for the management and sale of public lands in Maine on behalf of the Commonwealth. As part of their land management function, they regularly commissioned surveys then, identified surveyors and provided them with detailed instructions. Surveys variously were designed to delineate the bounds of large tracts, subdivide tracts into townships and lots, or support exploration and road building. Instructions ordinarily include the identity of the surveyor, the methodology to be undertaken, survey reference points to be used, and the terms of compensation. Instructions also often direct the surveyor to note topographic features, mill sites, and timber availability."<sup>[5]</sup>

"[Wayfarer's Notes] The legislature of 1891 appropriated \$1,200- to be expended in \*copying old plans of land in Maine (see source [10]), now in the Massachusetts archives. The late Major James H. Cochrane of Augusta was selected to do the work. The plans of towns in Maine surveyed under the act of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, **dated June 26, 1794**, were all filed in the office of the secretary of State of Massachusetts. ... [T]he carefully drawn surveys of these old and settled towns were withheld by Massachusetts as treasures too precious to part with, and forming as they do a part of the historic records of the commonwealth they could not be surrendered to Maine. There were 130 of these *original* surveys of towns which he copied, nearly all made in 1794-95. Major Cochrane made *two copies* of these surveys and plans, one for the state and one for the county in which the land is located. The following names of counties [Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, Waldo; Lincoln *not* listed], towns and surveyors: Knox – Camden, Cushing, Friendship, James Malcom; Thomaston, Malcom, and Copeland; Vinalhaven, Union, **Eben Jennison**; Warren, Rufus B. Copeland.

After the above was accomplished, Wayfarer suggested further search for old plans, and through an old employee at the Boston state house, Major Cochrane found over 300 other old plans of Maine territory and places many of which antedated the above list."<sup>[6]</sup> \*Copying = New hand-drawn maps.

### Transcription by Tracie

THIS is a Plan of the Town of Waldoborough on Muscongus River in the county of Lincoln shews the out lines of said Town with the courses of each line all distance as marked in the margin of the Plan. Also- all the Ponds, Rivers, and principal streams within said Town. The Reputed magnitude of the Ponds are as follows~ Viz<sup>t</sup>: Medomock Pond supposed to be equal to Two Hundred & Fifty Acres of Land. Little Pond about One Hundred Acres. North & South <sup>^</sup>Pond about One Hundred Acres. The Rivers & (Broad Bay) as represented in the Plan taken from as Actual Survey made of the same as far as the head of the Tide. From



thence s<sup>d</sup>. River is about Three Rods wide. There are Seven Saw Mills and Three Grist Mills standing in said Town, as marked on the Plan. The Meeting House standing in s<sup>d</sup>. Town as marked on the Plan as also all Mountaneous -- Lands Which Plan is taken by order of the Legislature agreeable to their Precept and Laid down by a Seale of Two Hundred rods to an Inch from an actual Survey made by **Mr. Nathaniel Meservy**<sup>[7,8]</sup> in the years 1794 & 1795. And is Plan<sup>d</sup> from his Minutes of the Survey May 27<sup>th</sup>. 1795. The Reputed distance from Waldoborough to Boston is 200 miles & from the Shire Town of the County 22 miles -

**Union On St. Georges River May 27<sup>th</sup>. 1795 T Ebenezer Jennison**<sup>[9]</sup> } sworn surveyor } of Lands

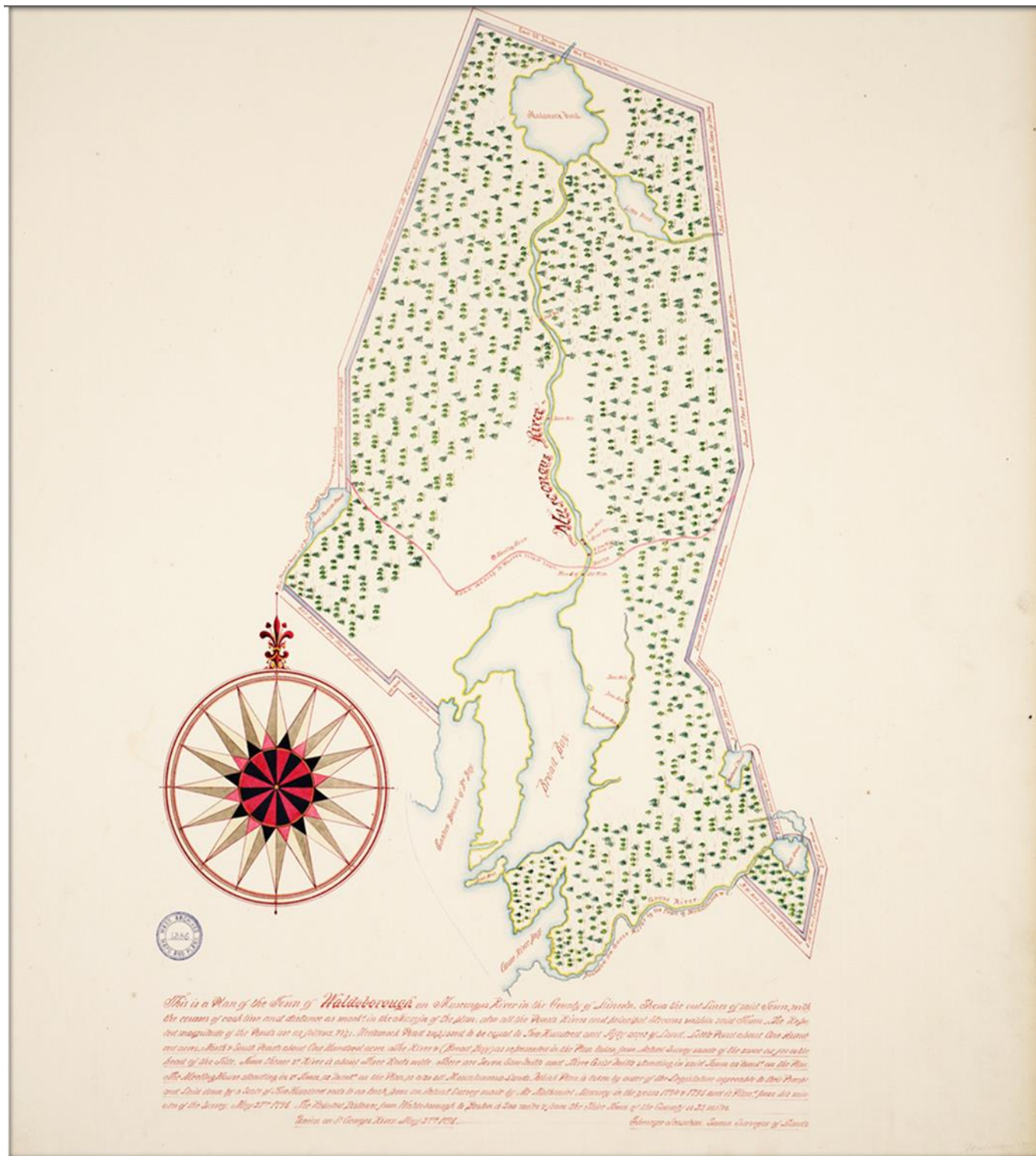
## Sources

- [1] (<https://www.merriam-webster.com>) accessed : (4 Oct 2023). Cadastral: (1) of or relating to a cadastre (2) showing or recording property boundaries, subdivision lines, buildings, and related details. Cadastre: an official register of the quantity, value, and ownership of real estate used in apportioning taxes.
- [2] The full name of the draftsman unknown, signed with initials. See: MAP, Plan #149, (<https://www.lincolncounty.me/deeds>). The maps' fragile state, now in a temperature-controlled vault in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Wiscasset, Maine. The representative at the Deeds office printed a full-scale version for \$5- "the map" drafted in 1857 from the *original* plan (In-person, 20 Sept 2023).
- [3] (<http://digitalarchives.sec.state.ma.us>) accessed : 17 Apr 2021. Town Plans, 1794. Plan of Waldoborough surveyed by Ebenezer Jennison, dated 1794-5, v. 13 p. 12. SC1/series 47X. Massachusetts Archives. Boston, Massachusetts. [Search: [Plan of Waldoborough](#)].
- [4] (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc>) accessed : 26 Sept 2023. Massachusetts Archives, Head Reference Librarian, Caitlin Ramos emailed me a higher resolution TIFF file of the map. With the help of a professional, hopefully, I can print out a full-scale version or piece together my photos (In-person, 20 Sept 2023).
- [5] (<http://digitalarchives.sec.state.ma.us>) accessed : 10 Apr 2021. Massachusetts Archives Digital Repository Collections: [Eastern Land Records Group](#). The original-archival material location: Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Archives, 220 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA, 02125-3384.
- [6] (<https://books.google.com>) accessed : 2 Oct 2023. Sprague, J. F. ed. (1913). Sprague's Journal of Maine History, vol. 1-3, p. 15, 258. United States: (n.p.). [Old Plans at the Massachusetts State House of Lands in Maine \(Wayfarer's Notes\)](#). "Editor's Note: The Late Honorable Joseph W. Porter from Bangor from 1885 to 1893, published 'The Bangor Historical Magazine,' and after its discontinuance and for a few years prior to his decease, he contributed to the Bangor Commercial a series of exceedingly valuable papers relating to the early history of eastern Maine. These were all written by Mr. Porter and published under the nom de plume of 'Wayfarer' or 'Wayfarer's Notes.' Like all of his historical research these papers are of inestimable value for the accuracy and the care with which they were prepared." (<https://www.merriam-webster.com>) accessed : 4 Oct 2023. Wayfarer = A traveler especially on foot.
- [7] (<https://books.google.com>) accessed : 4 Oct 2023. [The New England Historical and Genealogical Register](#). (1919). U.S.: NEHGS. [Nathaniel Meservy](#): Early Vital Records of Jefferson, Maine, (p. 171). Nathaniel Meservy Jr. b. 5 Feb 1769 m. Ruth Winslow on 1 Jan 1795. [daughter of John Winslow of Scituate & Dorothy Simmons of Waldoborough]. [Nathaniel Meservy, Sr.](#) (b. 1748/9) m. Rebecca Martin.
- [8] (<https://books.google.com>) accessed : 4 Oct 2023. Sibley, J. L. (1851). [A History of the Town of Union, in the County of Lincoln, Maine: To the Middle of the Nineteenth Century](#). U.S.: B. B. Mussey & Co. [Nathaniel Merservy](#): "Taylor's Purchase 13 May 1774... actual survey taken by me, Nathaniel Meservy, sworn surveyor of lands. The plan, which is not very exact, is on a scale of 40 poles to one inch" (p. 29).
- [9] *ibid.* [Ebenezer Jennison](#): "In consequence of a precept from the General Court of [MA], the inhabitants moved during the years 1794-96 to have a survey of the town [Union]. The plan made by Ebenezer

Jennison, Esq. and it is not very exact. Though there has not been a survey, the town-lands have been perambulated. **Oct. 2, 1823**, ...done bet. **Union & Waldoborough**... [Gleason; Lindley & Hawes] (p. 123). [10] ([https://digitalmaine.com/planbook\\_22/33/](https://digitalmaine.com/planbook_22/33/)). There are two versions of this *copied map*; Found 1<sup>st</sup> version, Page 24. Plan Book of the Town of Waldoborough on the Muscongus River in the County of Lincoln; **1796**. Ebenezer Jennison & Nathaniel Meservey. The 2d version is dated, **1795**, Ebenezer Jennison, and sealed "Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the Secretary, Boston, December 30... **1893**, Compared with the Original and found correctly copied." Signed "W<sup>m</sup>M. Olin sec'y."



Town Plans, 1794. Plan of Waldoborough surveyed by Ebenezer Jennison, dated 1794-5.



Copied Plan [10] Plan of the Town of Waldoborough in the County of Lincoln; 1795



2024

Merriest Christmas

HAPPIEST NEW YEAR

## The Waldoboro Boston Post Cane

Lincoln County News, Aug.19,1909

Submitted by Mark Benner

Edwin Atkins Grozier, of Massachusetts, bought the bankrupt newspaper, *The Boston Post*, in 1891. He wanted to sell newspapers and came up with the Boston Post cane idea for one of his most successful sales gimmicks in 1909 to beef up circulation. The idea was that the cane was to be presented to the oldest citizen in town with the stipulation that, upon the holder's death, the cane would be handed out by the Selectmen to the next oldest citizen of the town, and so on. The cane, therefore, belongs to the town, not the recipient.

Up until Grozier's death in 1924, the cane was only awarded to the oldest males in the communities that held this tradition. When his son, Richard Grozier assumed ownership of the company he did away with this old-school tradition and in 1930 the cane was awarded to the oldest citizen, regardless of being man or woman. Today the majority of recipients are women. The cane is a splendid specimen of such manufacture. It was made by J. F. Fradley and Company of New York, who are widely recognized as the leading manufacturer of fine canes. The Boston Post editor and publisher at that time, Edwin Grozier, sent 700 of these ebony canes with an accompanying letter, to the selectmen of 700 towns, (no cities), only in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island towns, with the request that they be presented with the compliments of The Boston Post to the oldest male citizen of the town, for his use as long as he lived in the town. The canes arrived with the stipulation that the presentation duties traditionally fall unto the responsibility of the town selectmen, and upon the recipient's death, the cane would be handed on by the Selectmen to the next oldest citizen of the town. The cane, therefore, belongs to the town, not the recipient.

The materials in the Boston Post cane are the best obtainable. The sticks are of Gabon ebony from the Congo, Africa. They are shipped to this country in logs, about seven feet long, and then cut into stick lengths of approximately 36 inches. They are allowed to dry for six months, so they will be thoroughly seasoned. After this they are carefully examined, and all cracked, warped, or otherwise imperfect sticks are discarded. The perfect ones are then turned to the desired sizes on a lathe and allowed for about three months for further drying. They are given a coat of shellac and rubbed down with pumice, coated with the finest quality of French varnish and then polished by hand with very fine pumice and oil. It takes about a year from the time the ebony logs are cut to produce a perfect stick.

The gold in the heads of the Boston Post canes is of 14 carat fineness. It is rolled into sheets, cut to the desired size, and soldered in a conical tube, then placed in a sectional steel chuck or form, which admits it being drawn into the exact shape of the finished head. The tops are first cut into discs, and then soldered to the cane after it has been shaped. They are then filled with a hard composition and "chased" or ornamented, by hand, after which this composition filling is removed, and they are sent to the polishing room for final finishing. The inscription reads, "The Boston Post, to the oldest citizen of Waldoboro, Maine, to be transmitted".

"The Boston Post cane was not merely an ornamental cane. It was designed for practical everyday usage and will last for many years." As of 2021, 521 towns of the original one-time issue of these cans have reported their status; continuing the tradition, discontinued the tradition, or just plain lost the cane. Waldoboro still holds possession of its original Boston Post Cane.

The known Waldoboro holders of the *Boston Post cane* that were presented to the oldest resident in town were:



- (1) Isaac W. **Comery**, presented to the first qualified recipient on August 12, 1909-until his passing in 1914,
- (2) Alexander **Wallace** \_\_\_\_-1920
- (3) Benjamin **Gross** 1921-\_\_\_\_
- (4) William N. **Lash** \_\_\_\_-1923
- (5) Martin V. **Hopkins** \_\_\_\_-1927
- (6) Jacob C. **Bogues** 1928-1934
- (7) Dr. Thomas F. **Turner** 1934-1937
- (8) George **Palmer** 1937-1944
- (9) Gardiner **Gross** 1944-1945
- (10) Chester B. **Jones** 1945-1945
- (11) Archibald S. **Kaler** 1946-1950
- (12) Estelle A. (Philips) (Coburn) **Burns** 1951-1952
- (13) George E. **Burns** 1952-1955

*Lincoln County News*, June 26,1952, page one-

"Mr. and Mrs. George Burns are now the oldest residents of the town of Waldoboro. Mr. Burns was born in Waldoboro 96 years ago on October31,1855. Estelle Burns, who is 97 years old, was born January 1,1855."

- (14) Judson **Benner** 1956-1957

*Waldoboro Press*, (newspaper), April 21,1960

"The Boston Post cane, which by tradition is held by the oldest citizen of Waldoboro, was, during the recent spring cleaning, found at the town office. The town manager will appreciate any information as to who the oldest citizen may be."

- (15) Hattie (Ludwig) **Welt** 1960-1966
- (16) Anson B. **Ludwig** 1966-1967
- (17) Almeda E. (Eugley) **Winchenbach** 1967-1975
- (18) Viola E. (Wellman) **Kuhn** 1975-1976
- (19) Winnie A. (Steele) (Ware) **Powers** 1985-1991
- (20) Ruby (Walter) **Miller** 1992-1997
- (21) Edna M. (Orff) (Achorn) **Weaver** 1997-1997
- (22) Clyde L. **Sukeforth** 1998-2000
- (23) Lillian M. (Roscoe) **Creamer** 2002-2003

*Lincoln County News*, April 7,2005, page seven-"Town seeks oldest resident for presentation of the Boston Post cane. Waldoboro town clerk, Linda Perry, retrieved the old Boston Post cane from the town vault. Old Broad Bay Family History Association president, Ricard Castner, examines the cane. The O.B.B.F.H.A. plans to make a replica of the original cane. Awardees will then be able to have an actual cane. The original cane is now only awarded ceremoniously."

- (24) Albert M. **Eames, Jr.** 2005-2010

*Lincoln County News*, April 2005 "Albert Eames, Jr., 99, was presented the Boston Post "alternative cane replica", on his 99th birthday April 19, 2005, with the real cane remaining in the town's vault after the ceremony. The replica, made of mahogany, was designed by Jody Perry, and topped with a Waldoboro medallion showing the famed five-masted schooner."

- (25) Dr.Francis **Golffing** 2011-2012
- (26) Edward C. **Werler** 2013-2016
- (27) Woodrow J. "Woody" **Verge** 2018-2018
- (28) Eleanor L. (Winchenbach) **Smith** 2021



(25)



(26)



(27)



(28)



# 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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#### Digital (PDF) newsletter by Email

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#### Paper newsletter by US Mail

	Individual	One vote	\$20
	Family	Two votes	\$25
	Library	No vote	\$20

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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Second person in the household

Of Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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Deirdre Putnam, OBBFHA Membership

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Ipswich, MA 01938

