

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

New Series Volume 2 No. 3 Summer 2005

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572-1242
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

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Annual meeting and reunion

The annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association will be held Saturday, August 6th in the basement of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Knox and Lincoln Counties Office, 377 Manktown Road in Waldoboro. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m.; coffee, juice, and muffins will be provided. Parking is available around the back of the building, allowing direct access to the meeting room. Those who do not need direct access may park up front and walk around the building or enter through the front door and proceed down the stairway to the right.

There has been little interest in the potluck lunch. Either people really like going to the effort to prepare their own lunch or they simply ignored the directions on the registration form. A sign up sheet for the lunch is printed on page 7 of this newsletter as part of the reunion registration form. **If you have not yet sent in your registration and lunch form, please do so immediately. Registrations at the door will be \$15 per person.** The reunion committee needs to plan for morning refreshments, tables, chairs, etc. If we still do not have any interest in the potluck lunch, it will be cancelled and those who did fill out the form will be notified.

Manktown Road is located on the Lincoln/Knox County & Waldoboro/Warren town line and makes a T intersection with Route 1. There is no street sign, but there is a new, very large sign for the Medomak Valley High School. There is a blue sign for the school along with a white sign for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service on the right side of Route 1 about 500 feet before the intersection.

The keynote speaker for the reunion will be our own Sandy Stratton who will present Researching Waldoboro Ships and Seafaring Ancestors. She will discuss ships built in Waldoboro and where they went on their voyages. She will also give directions on how and where to hunt for information on your own seafaring ancestors.

Fund raiser dance

Richard Castner is organizing an evening of old fashioned square, round, and contra dancing with a local band of fiddlers that plays traditional music on the evening of August 6th. No fancy outfits are needed. This OBB fund raiser will be held at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Knox and Lincoln Counties Office and will be open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with dancing beginning at 7:30. If you don't remember how to swing your partner, come at 7:00 for a quick lesson.

Annual Old German Church service

A Good Friday service will be held at the Old German Church at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 7th. The service will be conducted by the Reverend Michael Murphy in English and German.

The church is located on State Route 32 about two miles south of the intersection with Route 1. Parking is limited on the grounds of the church and many vehicles park on the road below. There is no electricity in the church so bring your hand-held fan if the weather is hot.

Following the service, refreshments will be served outside under the trees by Becky Maxwell and members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Change in membership year

In an effort to streamline accounting, all memberships will now run concurrent with the Association's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Persons who joined the Association or renewed their membership between January 1 and June 30, 2005 will continue as members until June 30, 2006. Those who joined the Association or renewed their membership between July 1 and December 31, 2004 should submit a renewal form before the reunion.

Update on the memorial and landscaping

Work is progressing nicely on the curbing and drive at the memorial site for those unfortunates who lost their lives in the winter of 1753-54 and should be completed by the time of the reunion. Details of the landscaping and plans for placing the boulder and memorial plaque will be discussed at the reunion.

Sandy Stratton is still willing to take on the task of landscaping and to donate part of her prized German iris collection. While she is looking for people to help plan the flower bed and help with the labor, not everyone has that skill or time. You can still be a part of the memorial by making a donation of perennial plants and bulbs, small trees, and bark mulch or make a cash donation to help buy those items (checks should be made out to the Association and sent to the postal box or brought to the reunion).

If you want to donate plants or mulch, contact Sandy at tomandsandy3@netzero.net or by letter to the Association postal box. She has a truck to haul mulch and is willing to help dig up plants you

want to donate. Those who make donations are encouraged to do so in memory of their Old Broad Bay ancestors or other family members. Details of how to acknowledge memorial donations will be discussed at the reunion.

Update: Lincoln County Courthouse Records

Lincoln County has the distinction of being the only county in Maine to retain its old court records. In a state wide preservation effort in the late 1960s and early 1970s, a survey and accounting of all judicial records in the state was made by David Q. Whittier under the auspices of the Maine State Archives. A *Draft Report on Judicial Records Survey* was submitted to the state archivist, Mr. Silsby, in February 1969. [No final edition of this report has been located at the State Archives.] As a result of this survey, all court records prior to 1929 were transferred from the individual county courthouses to the Maine State Archives in Augusta. Over the years, counties have continued to transfer more recent court records to Augusta. Mr. Whittier's work also resulted in the printing of *History of the Court System in the State of Maine* in 1971 which details the evolution of the various courts in Maine.

Lincoln County was able to keep its early court records because it had already begun preservation efforts in 1967 when Tony Wrenn was hired to assess the condition of the records in the courthouse attic and make recommendations on their preservation. His recommendations led to the inclusion of an archival vault in the addition to the courthouse built in 1972. Private donations covered the cost of Mr. Wrenn's services, a microfilm camera, acid free boxes, and materials needed to clean, re-humidify, and de-acidify the early case files. Preservation efforts were led by Katherine M. E. Fredericks, Mrs. Clyde Barry, and Mrs. Roger Drake. Some of Mrs. Fredericks' findings can be found in her book, *Bar Bits*, published in 1969. Two articles about the preservation efforts can be found in *The Lincoln County News* (21 May 1970) and the *Bath-Brunswick Times Recorder* (26 May 1970).

While the original records remain in Wiscasset, the Maine State Archives does have microfilms of them made by the county. A list of these microfilms, by box number, is available in a 3-ring binder at the reference desk. The courthouse also has a set of these microfilms as well as many boxes of microfilm made by the Genealogical Society of Utah covering court, probate, and land records. However, no list of these microfilms has been found at the courthouse.

HELP NEEDED

A great deal of preservation work has been done on the Lincoln County records, but much still needs to be done to preserve those records not included in the 1970s preservation effort and to make all the records fully and easily accessible to researchers. Most of the work must be done at the courthouse, but there will be work that can be done at home by someone with a computer and internet access. Some of the projects proposed are:

1. Revolutionary War pension papers: make a list of the names on the loose papers and cross-reference it with the list of names in the Common Pleas Court Record 1820 and with the files of the National Archives. Place all loose papers in properly labeled acid free file folders.
2. Maps: go through the grocery box, sort it out, and determine what index or finding aids exist.
3. County microfilms: Get a copy of the microfilm list from the State Archives, put it into a computer file and sort it by type of record. Print out a copy for the courthouse.

4. LDS microfilms: printout a list of all LDS microfilms from their on-line catalog and label all the boxes in the vault with pencil or acid free ink. Put the microfilms in one location and make a finding aid.

If you would like to help with these projects, please contact Helen Shaw at obbeditor@earthlink.net or by letter to the Association postal box.

Name changes in 19th century went through Maine Legislature

Roxanne Moore Saucier @2005 Bangor Daily News, Used with permission

Call them brick walls, call them dead ends. We all have those ancestors of whom it can be said, "Nothing further is known." Let's suppose you had a Dorcas Mitchell somewhere in Maine in the 1830s. You find several Dorcas Mitchells, but not the right one. Where did yours come from?

It turns out that in 1828, Dorcas Twitchell asked the Maine Legislature to change her name to Mitchell. Making the same request were several other people named Twitchell - Betsey, Clarisa, Cynthia, Eliza, James, John E., Lydia, Mark, Moses, Moses Jr., Rachel, Rufus, Sally, Susan and William. Now you have other paths to follow.

This information can be found in what we used to call the Legislative Index Series, published several years ago in five-year increments. You can find the same information online on the state Web site, www.maine.gov. Click on State Agencies, then on Archives, Maine State.

Under Online Services, you will notice a couple of databases we have mentioned here:

Marriage Database, an index of Maine marriages 1892-1966 and 1977-1996

Death Database, an index of Maine deaths 1960-1996

But new to me is:

Archives Interactive. I entered Mitchell, Dorcas in the search field and clicked on Legislation Proposed or Enacted 1820-1860. What popped up was "Surname changed from Twitchell 1828." I entered Twitchell in the search field with no first name specified, and came up with all the other Twitchells who changed their name to Mitchell that year.

I knew about the Legislative Index Series, but didn't know the index was online until I attended a workshop on the Maine State Archives by Jeff Brown at a recent genealogy conference in Oakland sponsored by the Silence Howard Hayden chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Brown, an archivist II, has been with the Archives for nearly 25 years, and really knows his stuff. Other items in the index, he pointed out, included petitions to obtain a divorce, or to have a marriage validated.

President's Message

Richard Castner

Dear Members and Friends:

Have you given serious thought as to just why you're involved with this organization? It is my hope

that we can do more than simply sponsor an annual reunion, worthwhile though that may be.

We have been in existence since 1992, and (to be blunt) have little to show for it. After all, the purpose of any genealogical endeavor is first to search and then to share. Admittedly we have shared with each other, but not with the larger community.

With the revival of our newsletter, thanks to the efforts of Helen Shaw, we have a wonderful opportunity to publish our findings. So, it is up to you, each of you, to submit the results of your research. Yes, they will probably need editing, but documented data are always worth the trouble it takes to make them available to the wider world. How far would our own research have gotten had you been unable to take advantage of the results of earlier workers? Enough said; please send in copies of the results of your research efforts.

In a similar vein, what have you done in the furtherance of the "Maine Families in 1790" project? The Maine Genealogical Society needs your input. Editorial help in organizing your material is available by sending your material to the Association postal box. And yes, we will need help in the editing and processing of this material.

Speaking of volunteers, we are in need of a Registrar; someone to process applications and keep membership and subscription records up to date.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the pioneers memorial garden project proceeds apace. Both the State DOT and the local utility are hard at work preparing the site. It should be ready for your viewing by August sixth.

Four generation ancestor charts will be available at the reunion. Please spend some time filling one out as completely as your research permits (including all documentation) with yourself as number one. Continuation of your membership will necessitate having an ancestor chart on file.

If you can volunteer some time for any of the efforts mentioned above, please contact me (Richard Castner) at castnerchronicle@netscape.net or by letter to the Association's postal box.

The Death of Jacob Ludwig

transcribed by Sandy Stratton

In its 10 July 1885 issue, the *Lincoln County News* published the following essay based on an obituary which appeared in the *Portland Advertiser* in January 1826. The essay demonstrates clearly some of the trials and tribulations which the Broad Bay pioneers faced. As was the style of the day, the original was written in one long monograph; it has been broken into paragraphs for easier reading.

January 10th 1826, Jacob Ludwig died in Waldoboro, aged 91 years and 5 months. In the *Portland Advertiser* of January of that year, may be found the following obituary.

Mr. Ludwig of Waldboro, whose death we announced last week, was born on the banks of the Rhine, 1735, and with a large company of Germans who were induced by Brig. General Waldo to emigrate to this country, settled on the Muscongus in 1752.

The place of their settlement was then a wilderness and was so infested with hostile Indians that blockhouses were the only places of safety, and the inhabitants dared not venture out to cultivate their little fields without taking with them their firearms. The hostility of the savages and a severe famine occasioned great distress, and considerably diminished their number. Secluded in some measure from consolation and almost precluded from assistance by ignorance of the language of the country, their sufferings were aggravated by disappointment for they had been promised a hundred acres of land to each family, upon the banks of a navigable river and had been induced to believe that the place to which they were coming was another Eden.

Most of them were young and many of them had been brought up tenderly. The transition was overwhelming. The disappointed Germans enduring the pangs of famine or suffering the infliction of the tomahawk, sighed in vain for the pleasant and cultivated banks of the Rhine. Nurtured in the hard lap of adversity, and educated in the school of penury and disappointment, Mr. Ludwig's vigor and intrepidity were useful even at this time, young as he was, in supporting his neighbors in the despondency which oppressed them. Soon after the declaration of war against the Indians in 1755, Mr. Ludwig with several neighbors joined the army and shared its dangers and privations till the peace in 1762. His strong mind, regular deportment and industrious habits soon procured him the station of orderly sergeant in the army and he frequently commanded scouting parties of rangers in the neighborhood of the lakes and on the Canadian frontier; a service not less honorable than hard and dangerous, requiring skill, prudence and fortitude.

After peace he returned to Broad Bay where he continued at the head of the militia and of municipal officers. In the Revolutionary War he again entered the service of his country at the head of a company of drafted militia of which he retained command until the time of service expired and the company was disbanded.

He was the first town clerk, selectman and representative elected in Waldoboro, and from its incorporation in 1773, continued to occupy the two latter stations, with few intermissions, for more than forty years. With vigorous and athletic bodily frame he possessed a sound and energetic mind which enabled him to supply, to a surprising degree, the deficiencies of early education in the English language. In discharging his various duties as a soldier, citizen, and a magistrate, he acquired the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens. He died in full communion with the German Lutheran Church in Waldoboro, of which he had been for many years an exemplary member.

This gentleman was the emigrant ancestor of Dr. Ludwig of Portland, Maine and the late Dr. M. R. Ludwig of Thomaston.... This obituary throws some light upon the manner that immigrants were imposed upon in the early time. It was about as much of an Eden as Mark Tapley with his friend Martin Chuzzlewort found at Cairo, Illinois. It shows that our masters were no better than ourselves. By W. H. Smith, Portland, 26 June 1885

EDITOR'S NOTE: The reference to Martin Chuzzlewort [sic], Mark Tapely, and Cairo, Illinois in the last paragraph above are to Charles Dickens' 1844 novel *The Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* a satire about a young man (Martin) disinherited by his grandfather and expelled from architecture school who decides to emigrate to the town of Eden in the US to make his fortune in land speculation. His servant and companion (Mark) goes with him. Dickens modeled Eden on Cairo, Illinois where he (Dickens) is rumored to have made investments through a London brokerage.

**Pre-Registration Form for Reunion & Meeting
Saturday, August 6, 2005**

Member s name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Reunion & Meeting cost: \$10.00 per person

(This fee covers the cost of renting the meeting hall, morning refreshments, and beverages, disposable plates, napkins, & flatware for the lunch.)

Number of people attending: _____ Total funds remitted: _____

Checks should be made out to the Old Broad Bay Family History Association and should be sent to: Annual Meeting Committee, OBBFHA, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572-1242.

Potluck Sign-up

This year we are having a potluck lunch to be held in the same building as the meeting for everyone s convenience. This should make it easier for folks who want to continue sharing family history information while enjoying their meal!

In order to ensure that we have a nice variety, the lunch committee will be assigning each family an item to bring. Please select THREE possible items from the list below and return this form to us ASAP. Someone will get in touch with you and let you know what you have been assigned. We will make every effort to accommodate you choices and give consideration to those who will be traveling the farthest. The Association will provide beverages. Being in August, we are planning a cold lunch, but there are outlets for crock pots if you have a hot dish you really want to share.

Check the items you would most like to bring by marking them 1,2,3:

Fruit or fruit salad	_____	Vegetables/dip	_____
Sliced cheeses	_____	Cold cuts	_____
Green salad	_____	Bread/rolls	_____
Macaroni salad	_____	Pie/cake	_____
Potato Salad	_____	Mayo/mustard/pickles	_____
Other (please specify)	_____		

There are local stores where much of this can be purchased and there is a refrigerator on the premises.

Membership

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the German families who settled what is now Waldoboro, Maine in the mid-1700s.

If you are already a member, thank you for your support. We would ask that you please pass a photocopy of the membership form below on to others you know who have connections to Old Broad Bay or to Lincoln County.

If you are not a member, please photocopy the membership form and join us. (*Italicized portion for research facilities only.*)

Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.): We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out the lower portion of the form, beginning with *Name of research facility.*

Dues are \$10 a year per address. Mail application to O.B.B.F.H.A., P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572-1242.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Spouse/significant other: _____

Your Broad Bay Ancestors _____

Name of research facility _____

Contact person _____ *Title* _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Are you interested in obtaining back issues of the newsletter? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, you will be contacted for further information.