

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

New Series Volume 2 No. 4 – Fall 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

To Search and To Share

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Annual meeting and reunion

The annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association was held Saturday, August 6th in the basement of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Knox and Lincoln Counties Office; about 25 Association members attended. The minutes of the 2004 meeting were read and approved.

President Richard Castner announced a new motto for the Association, “To Search and To Share” which will appear on the masthead of the newsletter starting with this edition. He reported that a primary topic at the fall board of director’s meeting will be the need to raise dues.

President Castner also updated members regarding the Waldoboro Utility District property which the Association will be using for the Memorial Park in honor of those who died the winter of 1753-54. Landscaping of the property has been postponed to next spring. The town of Waldoboro has offered the use of a back how to move a boulder from the old Conrad Heyer property to the Memorial Park. There is currently \$455 in the treasury to help pay the cost of the plaque. The estimate for a bronze plaque is \$300-350. Contact Sandy Stratton to assist with labor or to donate plants for the landscaping. [tomandsandy3@netzero.net or by letter to the Association postal box].

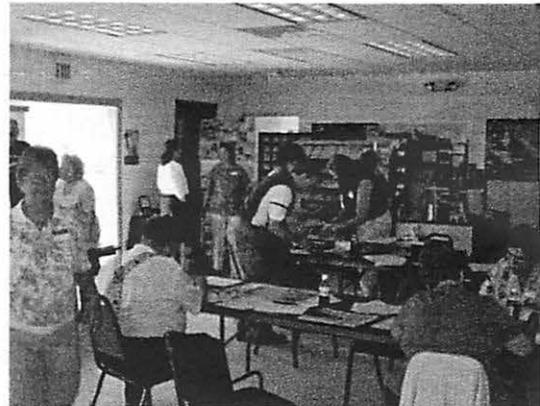
Vice President Rob Clark reported on efforts to write a new constitution and by-laws for the Association. If the Association is to receive grants, these documents must include specific wording to make the Association eligible for not-for-profit (501C3) status.

Treasurer Janice Rickermann gave a summary of the Association’s financial status. In addition to the sum reserved for the memorial, we have enough to cover current expenses and one more newsletter. In a close review of the membership list it has been discovered that many people have

not paid dues in over a year. Those people will find an insert in their newsletter and will be dropped from the membership roll unless their dues are paid immediately.

Darcy Coffin has agreed to be the Association's registrar. She will make sure the membership list is up to date and will compile the pedigree charts which members have or will submit. She may be reached directly at deejcoffin@hotmail.com or at OBBFHA, c/o Darcy Coffin, PO Box 105, Augusta, ME 04332-0105.

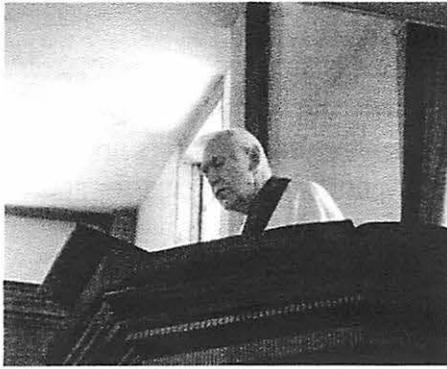
Sandy Stratton presented a talk titled "Waldoboro Shipyards and Sea Captains" which provided directions on how to find information on seafaring ancestors and their ships. She has found and followed the lives 457 ships built in Waldoboro.



Old German Church service

The annual service at the Old German Church was held on Sunday, August 6th; it was a Good Friday service. The German liturgist was the Reverend Michael Murphy, pastor of the West Waldoboro Community Church. The English sermon was presented by the Reverend Frederick Wedemeyer, a retired pastor from Worcester, Massachusetts.

The German lector was Ruth Cleaves, a member of the Water for Life Church; the lessons were read in English by Alan Cleaves. Following the service, an all German communion service was celebrated. Refreshments were provided outside under the shady trees by the Ladies Auxiliary of the German Protestant Society.



Reverend Murphy



Reverend Wedemeyer

Association dues to go up

Due to the lack of membership renewals, it will be necessary to raise dues for the Association starting with the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The Board of Directors will discuss the amount of the increase at its fall meeting. If the experiment to send the newsletter via the internet is successful, the increase will not be hefty as printing and mailing the newsletter are the largest costs faced by the Association.

An Experiment: Newsletter to be sent via the internet

In an effort to cut costs, this will be the last issue of the newsletter to appear only in print format. Starting with the Winter 2006 (January) issue, those of you with e-mail addresses will receive the newsletter as a PDF file which you may choose to print out on your own printer. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in print form, please send a letter to Janice Rickerman at the Association postal box or an e-mail to obbeditor@earthlink.net.

***Lincoln County News* obituary file**

There is a looseleaf file of obituaries published in the *Lincoln County News* which has been compiled by newspaper personnel. The newspaper is headquartered in New Castle and is looking for someone to come to the office to review the file, make sure it is complete, and make a computer index to the obituaries. If you are interested in taking on or assisting with this endeavor, please contact Richard Castner at the Association postal box or send an e-mail to obbeditor@earthlink.net.

Dear OBBFOLKS: Greetings! Of interest during the coming quarter:

Richard Castner

The Maine Genealogical Society met in Farmington on October 8th, and at least one OBBFHA member was there. You can expect some sort of report in the next newsletter. Please remember, we still need to know of a few more people who belong both to OBBFHA and the MGS. Once we have

a group of ten, we can become a chapter of the state organization, to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

There seems still to be some confusion as to access to our records and whether or not they can be published. Our current policy is that they are open freely to members and to others upon application to, and approval by, at least one of the officers. Permission for publication, except for short extracts, resides with the person(s) who submitted the data in the first place, unless they have filed a permit slip with their submission(s), as a number of members have done. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will data relating to living persons be permitted to leave the archives.

The Waldoboro Utility District still has not finished their work on what we are calling the Memorial Garden so we will have to postpone our plans until next spring. As a result, your treasurer has taken the \$600 earmarked for the project and put it into a CD so that it will earn some interest. Note that we still have to raise at least that much, or more, in order to accomplish our goal of a suitable bronze marker attached to a granite boulder surrounded by appropriate plantings and landscaping. Please contribute as generously as you can. Have a good time searching for more ancestors!

The OBBFHA web page

Fred Snell, webmaster

At the annual meeting held in August 2000, I offered to explore the idea of setting up an OBBFHA website. The group voted to proceed to create a web presence. This could be provided at no cost to the group through Rootsweb.com which has generously provided web hosting to thousands of individuals and groups as part of their overall mission.

The website went on line on August 27, 2000 and five years later has had over 9500 visits. That is nearly 160 per month – not bad for a free website. The URL, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha>, is indexed by Google and Yahoo (search under OBBFHA) and Cyndi's list under "Societies and Groups" in Lincoln County, Maine.

The page has a photo of the old German Church and introduces readers to what the group is all about. There is a list of current officers and contacts, a membership form is available for download, and reunion information is posted so out of town people can plan trips. A link page to Maine genealogical sources is also provided.

One part of the page that has the most potential for all of us is the index of researchers working on various surnames. A reader can click on a surname of interest and get the name and e-mail address of others working on that name. There are many names with no researchers listed. To be added to the list send an e-mail to me at fred@snell.com. Also, please send me any ideas for additional links or features that can make our OBBFHA website more useful.

Serendipity at Work

Richard Castner

Your president, long known to be an insomniac of the first order, was browsing the internet during the doldrums of an early, muggy, July morning when, lo and behold, he discovered on E-Bay a veritable treasure. It seems that an ephemera dealer in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, had discovered a

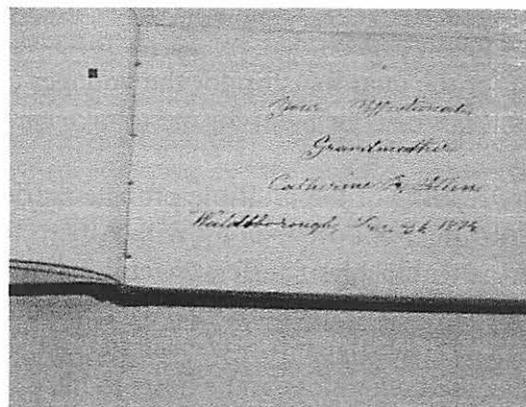
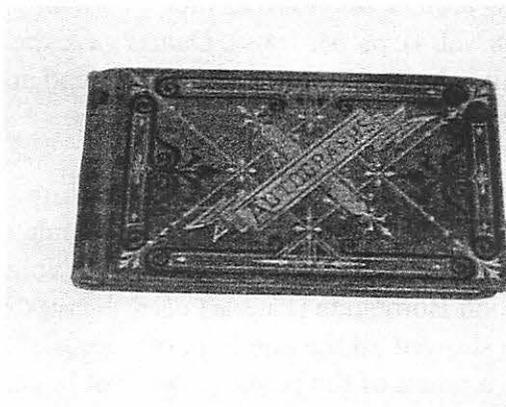
Victorian (1874-1875) autograph album and was offering it up for auction.

“So what?” you say. Well, this particular item came from Waldoborough, Maine and contained some 42 signatures inscribed by local residents. Sandy Stratton and her husband Tom immediately took up the challenge of obtaining the album. Tom, being quite sophisticated concerning the ins and outs of on-line bidding, ultimately won the album for \$41.77, a real bargain, considering its provenance.

Sandy brought the package to the annual meeting and, to much anticipation as to what was in the box, opened it to the surprise and delight of those present. Then, with little urging, many members stepped forward to donate \$1 each to help cover the cost of the album. So a true treasure is now housed in our burgeoning archives, at very little expense to the treasury and Sandy is insisting (quite rightly) that it be handled only with clean white gloves. Next time you visit Waldoboro, be sure to ask to view this wonderful autograph album.

Names (in alphabetical order) in the album are:

M Emily Allen (owner of the album), Grandfather George Allen, Grandmother Catherine Allen, Cousin A R Allen, H L Austin, Allen R Benner, Mame A Benner, Carrie W Bosworth (of West Newton, Mass.), Nina S Bosworth (of West Newton, Mass.), A L Brown, Alice Caldwell, Mame E Caldwell, Annie Castner, Annie A Carlton, Annie C Chapman, Cousin Ann R Davis, A L Elwell (of Westboro, Mass.), Fannie E Elwell (of Westboro, Mass.), Etta L Eugley, Nettie Farrington, Henry Farrington, John Farrington, Francis Garcia, E.F & D.O. Genthner, Ethel March Hazelwood (of Andover, Mass.), Webster Hazelwood, H F Heyer, Dora Howard, Pastor A.J. McLeod, Carrie McLeod, Cousin Emily T Parks, Alice M Reed, Annie Reed, Mary G Reed, Cousin George R Robertson, Aunt Lydia N Rogers, Annie M Schwartz, Carrie V Schwartz, Fronia E Sides, Lizzie Trouant, Emma F Vannah, Jennie B Winslow, Lillie Winslow



Serendipity at Work, Again...

Another Waldoboro related treasure recently surfaced on E-bay and was snatched up by President Richard Castner to be added to the Association’s archives. This time it was an old stampless cover containing autographs of four local men: Isaac Reed, James Schwartz, Isaac Benner, all selectmen of Waldoboro, and Thomas Genthner, the Waldoboro town clerk.

The document was a notice to the Justices of the Court of County Commissioners held at Waldoboro in January 1850 on the results of the election for [Lincoln] County Treasurer held on the

second Monday in September 1849. A total of 724 votes were cast with Edmund Dana receiving 475, Samuel W. Jackson receiving 248, and Joses Jenness receiving one.

Guardianships

The first thing one usually thinks about when hearing about a guardian being appointed is that it is done for young orphaned children, but that is not the only instance in which a guardian might be appointed.

Why would a young child need a guardian? Minors (the age differs by sex and state, but most often refers to those under 21 years) cannot own property or conduct business and they cannot give consent. They need someone to act for them. A minor who does not need to conduct business, who does not own property, does not need a guardian. In Maine's first publication of laws (1821) guardianship laws (*Laws of the State of Maine*, vol. 1, chapter LI, section 46, pp. 212-213) allowed children older than 14 to choose their guardian while those age 14 and under had a guardian appointed for them. Guardianship ended when the minor reached 21 years.

Since in past centuries the right for women to own property was abridged in some states, a widow and her minor children who inherited property might both have guardians appointed to manage their estates. Even if the father was alive, minor children might have a guardian appointed. Adults who were unable to care for themselves for any number of reasons, might have a guardian appointed either by the court or at the request of a family member.

In June 1835 Daniel Sidelinger of Union asked that his son Solomon be appointed guardian of his other children, George W., Louisa, and Lucy Ann, all being under the age of 14. Further, Daniel's sons Moses and Lewis, being over the age of 14, chose their brother Solomon as their guardian. (Lincoln County probate court, vol. 35, pp. 164-5, vol. 39, pp. 394, 498, vol. 41, pp. 95, 318-9). Daniel gave the reason for the guardianship for the younger children "...as they have no mother she being dead and as it will not be consistent for me to take care of them as I wish..."

A close reading of the multiple probate entries shows an additional reason for the guardianships. The Sidelinger children, along with Albert, Robert, Sarah, Archibald, Abigail, Louisa, Deborah, and Catherine Robinson of Jefferson, children of Archibald Robinson, were the grandchildren of John E. Borneman, "late of Waldoboro." The probate records for John Borneman (Lincoln County Probate Court, vol. 34, p. 172, vol. 37, pp. 163, 425, vol. 39, p. 11, vol. 42, pp. 444-5) showed all the children, offspring of his two deceased daughters, to be heirs to his estate. While the amount of the bequests was not large, it did include one quarter share "of a pew on the lower floor of the German Meetinghouse in Waldoboro" for each set of children, making them property owners in need of someone to manage that property.

In his will written 10 November 1873 (Lincoln County Probate Court Docket vol 1, p. 213, no. 28-1874), Eben Dow left his homestead lot and house to his brothers Cushing Dow of Nobleboro and John Dow of Gardiner, and his sisters Elizabeth Sidelinger and Esther Mink [sic] of Newcastle and Martha Dean of Braintree, Massachusetts. His wife Martha was left all his household furniture. The will was presented for probate in early 1874 (administrator appointed 10 February). Why did the widow not receive her late husband's real estate? In April 1874 a guardian was appointed for Martha Dow, she "...being of unsound mind and unable to care for herself" (Lincoln County Probate Court, Docket vol 1, p. 223, no. 28-1874). Martha remained in the household and received a widow's allowance, but the

property was owned and managed by her brothers and sisters-in-law who also oversaw her personal care. According to the guardianship file, Martha was deceased by 6 June 1880.

Two very different cases, yet both basically the same, the need by someone to have another person take care of their property and to act in their best interests. While only the original Maine 1821 law is noted above, one should check later codifications to determine the precise law in effect at the time of interest. And remember that different states have different laws. Your local reference librarian or a search of the Internet should direct you to the appropriate resource.

National Cemetery Administration

According to its web site (www.cem.va.gov) "The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with a final resting place and lasting memorials that commemorate their service to our Nation." This Department of Veterans Affairs office is where you go to find out about burial benefits and about headstones and markers for deceased veterans.

On the "History" page is a link to "General History" which gives background information on national cemeteries and includes a photo of the Togus National Cemetery near Augusta. Under "Headstones and Markers" there are links for eligibility, ordering a [new] headstone, ordering a replacement headstone, and a special link to information about pre-WWI headstones. Apparently these historical style markers for Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans have not been available for some time and are now back

A very helpful page is the "Nationwide Gravesite Locator" which can be searched by name to locate the burial place of a veteran. Another page on the site lists all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries. There is also a link to national cemetery web pages which include a wide range of information about individual cemeteries.

If you have a ancestor who was a veteran and whose grave is not marked or if you know of a veteran whose grave is unmarked, you may order a headstone for the veteran at no charge assuming he or she meets the eligibility criteria. Basically this means the person had to have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for at least 24 months except those who served prior to 1980 (enlisted) or 1981 (officer) when the length of service necessary is shorter; see the application form for details. The veteran had to have died while in service or was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The veteran can be buried in any cemetery anywhere in the world.

If you are interested in ordering a headstone you should first speak with the official who controls the cemetery where the veteran is buried. They may have rules about the type of marker that can be placed and they may have fees for placing the marker. In any event, they must sign off on the application form and agree to receive the marker.

An example of the Civil War marker available from the Veterans Administration: Shaw family lot, Butternut Ridge Cemetery, North Olmsted, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.



World War II Army enlistment card information available on-line

The National Archives has placed on its web site data from the Army's enlistment records for World War II, covering 1938-1946. While the database is not complete, it does cover about nine million people who enlisted in the US Army, including the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Information in the file includes name, state and county of residence, place and date of enlistment, military rank, civilian occupation, nativity (state or country of birth), education, and marital status.

To access this database, go to: www.aad.archives.gov / AA

Click on "People"

Click on "World War II Army Enlistment Records"

Click on the "Select" button for "Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 1938-1946"

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to reach the search boxes.

To test the site, I simply entered a surname and the full name of the state (eg: Sidelinger; Maine) in the appropriate boxes. This brings up a list of individuals. Once you have that list, click on the small box to the left of any name of interest, then scroll down to, and click on, the "Show Selected Records" button to get information on each person in plain English.

The "People" link leads to many databases which list people; the example above is for only one of them. Other military databases are: Records of Repatriated Korean War Prisoners of War, 1978-1980; Records of Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, 1942-1945; Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Registers, 1979-1991; Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II, 1988-1989; Records of American Prisoners of War During the Korean War, 1950-1953; Records of Military Personnel Who Died as a Result of Hostilities During the Korean War, ca. 1977-1979; Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam Conflict, 1967-1998; Records of World War II Prisoners of War, 1942-1947; Records of Deceased Army Personnel, Deceased Dependents of Active-Duty Army Personnel, and Active-Duty Wounded Army Personnel, 1961-1981; Records on Korean War Dead and Wounded Army Casualties, 1950-1970; Records of Awards and Decorations of Honor During the Vietnam Conflict, 1969-1973; Records With Unit Information on Military Personnel Who Died During the Vietnam Conflict, 1983-2002.

Non-military data bases which list people are: Records About the Proposed Sale of Unregistered Securities by Individuals, 1972-2000; Records on Trading of Securities by Corporate Insiders, 1978-2001; Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, 1977-1987; Index to the Donated Copy of the Records of the Trust [Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands], 1981-1986.

Do not be confused by the year ranges noted in the database titles; in many cases they refer to when the database was assembled rather than to the years the data covers. When you select a database, scroll down the page to read a complete description of the database. For example, the Irish famine passenger list covers 604,596 people who arrived in New York between 1846 and 1851, mostly from Ireland, but 32 other countries are represented. The ships themselves arrived from both Irish and non-Irish ports.