

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

New Series Volume 4 No. 4 Fall 2007

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 reunion and meeting

There was a small group at this year's annual reunion and meeting, but we got a ton of work done. Unable to attend, president Richard Castner, offered the advice to just start over when it came to preparing a constitution and by-laws for the association as no known constitution and by-laws exists. So that is what we did; the group discussed the association, its purpose and organization using the material in the Summer newsletter as a starting point. Each of these topics is very important and has been treated below under its own heading.

New officers and directors elected

Among other business attended to at the annual reunion and meeting was the election of officers and directors. Given the small number of people volunteering to serve, the offices of vice president and secretary were combined into one.

The new slate of officers and directors includes some names which will be familiar to members as well as some that will not be familiar. Please see the box to the left for the new list of officers and directors.

Old German Church service

The annual service at the Old German Church, held on Sunday August 5th, was very well attended and license plates from several states were observed in the parking area. The Reverend Michael Murphy, pastor of the West Waldoboro Community Church, read the service in both German and English.

The organist for the service was Paul Smeltzer. Ruth Friend and Jean Lawrence sang a beautiful

duet. Readers were Ruth Cleaves (German) and her husband Alan Cleaves (English). The ladies of the German Protestant Society served the usual delicious refreshments under the trees following the service.

President s message

by David Putnam

Dear Friends and Readers,

Allow me to wish you all a happy fall season! The past year has been a difficult one for the Old Broad Bay Family History Association, but it has been a productive year, as well. Allow me to thank all the outgoing members who served as officers and directors. At our annual meeting in August we rewrote portions of a draft constitution and by-laws which you will be voting on over the next few months.

We have some exciting events planned for 2008! During "Waldoboro Days" in June we will be dedicating a memorial commemorating the German settlers who arrived in the fall of 1753 and perished that first winter. Their mass grave lies somewhere near the site of the memorial stone. The stone and plaque will be located in front of the Miller School in Waldoboro.

I want to personally thank Ruth Riopell for her tireless work on this project. The memorial would not have come to fruition without her single-minded efforts. The dedication of this memorial represents a real step forward for our association, as it gives a tangible symbol of our efforts to preserve the memory of the early German settlers of Broad Bay. In the spring newsletter we will have more details about the dedication. I want to encourage every member to attend the dedication and enjoy this opportunity to celebrate our German ancestors. We will also have an informational table set up during Waldoboro Days to recruit new members. I hope you will stop by and say hello!

We have already begun planning for the annual meeting in August of 2008. We will try to keep association business to a minimum and concentrate on information exchange and welcoming new members. I am already looking around for a speaker who could entertain and inform us on some aspect of genealogy or local history. If anyone has a suggestion for a good speaker, please forward their name and address to me at dputnam925@msn.com or send your suggestions to me in care of the Association PO box.

I want to wish you all a happy holiday season. I look forward to meeting with you all in the coming year. Let us not forget that one of the purposes of The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is to preserve the memory of our German ancestors. This is important work because if we do it well, we will create an archive and a legacy for those who come after us seeking their German roots in Waldoboro's fine old soil. So let us look towards the new year with hope that all our efforts will do justice to the work and sacrifices of our German ancestors.

Constitution and by-laws

The draft constitution and by-laws needs to be voted on by the membership. The draft is six pages long and too large to be included in one newsletter. This newsletter (pages 5-7) will deal with the Constitution and those parts which require individual votes by the membership. A brief discussion

of the by-laws is presented on page 7, but they will be dealt with in full in the Winter newsletter.

Those persons receiving the newsletter via e-mail will receive the complete draft of the constitution and by-laws in a separate e-mail. The full draft will also be posted on the OBBFHA website. Persons who do not have a computer may go to their local library and access the OBBFHA web-site there to print off a copy of the document or they may send a SASE (41 cents) to editor Helen Shaw in care of the Association PO Box to receive a copy by mail.

Membership issues

This past year has been difficult in terms of our membership files. Application forms for both renewals and new members have been lost and checks have been lost or long delayed in being deposited. The officers and directors understand your frustration and thank you for your patience while we have sorted out this problem and put things in order.

First let me explain that the membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. A membership application form and renewal reminder are printed in the spring (April) and summer (July) newsletters every year.

If you sent a form and check for your 2007-2008 membership and your check has not yet been cashed, please consider it null and void. Even if more checks are found, they will be destroyed and not sent for deposit. Enclosed with this newsletter is a replacement membership form to be used to pay your 2007-2008 dues. Those of you who receive the newsletter by e-mail will receive a separate file containing the replacement membership form.

Two meetings to be held each year

At this year's annual meeting it was decided the Association needs a presence at Waldoboro Days which are held in June each year. To that end, there will be a member meeting, probably including a speaker and a meal event as well as a meeting of the officers and directors. The Association will also have an informational booth and will hold the dedication of the 1753/54 memorial discussed below.

Further plans will be published in the winter and spring newsletters as they become available. Anyone who would like to help with the booth or to plan the meeting events, please contact President David Putnam at dputnam925@msn.com or in care of the Association PO box.

1753/54 Memorial

It is a pleasure to announce that a new site for the memorial to the German settlers who died the winter of 1753/54 has been found and the stone should be in place very soon. Ruth Riopell and June Hussiere stepped up at the annual reunion and meeting to take this project in hand and see it through.

The new site is next to the flag at the entrance to the Miller School on Route 32. Not only is the

school on or very near the original burial site, it is a location where the community gathers and learns. Ruth went with Randy Gross to the old Conrad Heyer farm to see Neal Shuman whose father Roger Shuman had originally offered a stone from the farm for the memorial. Two large stones were chosen, one as a back-up in case the other sustained damage in the move. The town manager, Lee Smith, offered the services of the Department of Public Works (John Daigle) to move the stone to the memorial site.

Ruth and June sought out several companies for estimates on the cost of the plaque to be affixed to the stone. William Dorman Memorials in Thomaston has been chosen. The officers and directors have been working on the wording for the plaque and have settled on the following:

*Dedicated to the memory of those German immigrants who came to Broad Bay the fall of 1753 and who perished during the winter of 1753/54. Their descendants remember them and the sacrifices they made to come to this place seeking a better way of life.
Old Broad Bay Family History Association, Spring 2008*

A 12x12 plaque with this wording will cost about \$604, including installation. There is currently \$444 in the Memorial Fund which leaves about \$160 to be raised. If you would like to make a donation to the Memorial Fund, please send a check made out to the OBBFHA and send it to William Conary, OBBFHA Treasurer, 9 Hilltop Rd, Plaistow, NH 03865. Please mark the check as being for the Memorial Fund. Any funds received over the amount needed will be used to help pay for upkeep of the memorial. Area biology teacher Neil Lash has volunteered to place native plants around the memorial. Neil runs an heirloom seed project and garden.

The plan is to dedicate the memorial during Waldoboro Days next summer. Details will be published in the winter and/or spring newsletters.

Genealogy help sessions

Randy Gross continues to hold genealogical help sessions at the Waldoboro Public Library the second Monday of each month from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in exploring the history of their Waldoboro families should attend.

Genealogy classes

Helen Shaw is teaching an introductory genealogy class *Horse Thieves & Prostitutes, Heroes & Heroines Discovering Your Family History* at Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockport on Monday, November 5, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.

A second class, *Internet Genealogy, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* will be taught at Medomak Valley High School in Waldoboro on Monday, October 22, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. (cost \$15) and at CHRHS on Monday, November 19, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (cost \$10). Persons signing up for this class must have experience with genealogy and basic genealogical research in traditional venues.

To sign up for classes at Medomak Valley call (207) 832-2280. To sign up for classes at CHRHS call (207) 236-7800, ext 5.

Castner Bible returning to Waldoboro

Richard Castner was recently the successful bidder on eBay for a family Bible which once belonged to Gorham Castner of Waldoboro. While the Bible itself was published in 1854, it contains family information from the mid 1700s to about 1960. This exciting data will be made available to all in the winter issue of this newsletter. Eventually the material will be incorporated into the pages of the forthcoming Waldoboro vital records book, presently being compiled by Marlene Groves for Picton Press.

Newsletter index on-line

The every surname index for the New Series newsletters (2004 - 2006) is now up on the OBBFHA web site. The index for 2007 will be merged in early next year. Work is on-going to create a topic index as well and to expand the surname index to earlier issues. Anyone who would like to help with this project should contact OBB editor Helen Shaw at obbeditor@earthlink.net or in care of the Association PO box.

Constitution draft and items to be voted on

The following is a draft Constitution for the Association. Those parts marked by bold type need to be voted on by the membership. A discussion of each of these points follows this text.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I : ORGANIZATIONAL NAME

The name of this organization shall be Old Broad Bay Family History Association.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be to unite people who are descended from the founders of Old Broad Bay (now known as Waldoboro), Maine to:

- (1) preserve the memory of the German founders of the community
- (2) work with the town, county, and state to preserve the original records of the area
- (3) undertake research on the founding families and the community in general

ARTICLE III: DURATION

The Association shall be of perpetual duration or until dissolved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: LOCATION OF ASSOCIATION

The address of the Association's office shall be PO Box Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572, unless otherwise voted on by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association shall be open to A member shall remain on the rolls, and be entitled to all prerogatives and rights of membership, provided that the individual has met any requirements for maintaining membership as may be established hereunder.

There are three types of membership: individual, family, and library..... A library membership is solely for the purpose of allowing distribution of the newsletter to libraries and historical societies and confers no right to vote. Those members able to cast votes shall be referred to as qualified members in the remaining portions of this document and in the by-laws.

ARTICLE VI: ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

The affairs of the Association shall be managed by..... This management shall be subject to, and directed by, action properly taken by the membership at duly called meetings.

ARTICLE VIII : AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws shall be made in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Robert s Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws will be presented to the Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Reunion and Membership Meeting. Amendments, if approved by the majority of the Board of Directors present at this meeting, will be submitted to the membership of the Association. Notification will be made by mail or through the publication of amendments in the Association s newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual membership meeting. Qualified members will cast votes for or against said amendments at the Annual Reunion and Membership Meeting. If approved by the majority of qualified members, the adopted changes will be incorporated into the Constitution and By-laws.

Discussion

Article V: Membership

Discussion at the annual meeting and comments sent in by members concerning paragraph one centered on whether or not OBBFHA is a lineage society solely for descendants of the German immigrants who arrived in the mid-1700s or does it need to expand to a general genealogical society allowing anyone to join. Five options for membership criteria were published in the Summer 2007 newsletter and were discussed at the annual meeting. Two of those options were voted to be presented to the full membership for consideration:

1. Membership in the Association is open to anyone descended from, or related to a person descended from, a person living in Old Broad Bay (Waldoboro) prior to the commencement of Maine statehood in 1820.
2. Membership in the Association is open to anyone interested in Waldoboro genealogy and history.

The reason for the addition of the word or related to a person descended from is because two of the most active members of the Association are not themselves descendants, but are the spouses of descendants.

Paragraph two under membership sets up the types of membership. Discussion here focused on the fairness of having the same dues for an individual member who gets one vote and a family which gets two votes. The following dues schedules are submitted to the membership:

1. Dues remain as they are now: \$10 for an e-mail newsletter and \$15 for a hard copy newsletter with an individual member having one vote and family members having two votes. Library memberships would continue to be \$15 with no voting privileges.
2. Set up a two-tier system based on the number of votes. An individual e-mail membership with one vote would continue to be \$10 and an individual hard copy membership with one vote would continue to be \$15. A family e-mail membership with two votes would be \$15 and a hard copy family membership with two votes would be \$20. Library memberships would continue to be \$15 with no voting privileges.

Article VI: Association Business

The discussion here revolved around how to define the Board of Directors. Given the Association is so small and has so few active members, there are two options:

1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors which shall consist of the duly elected officers and directors.
2. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

By-Laws vote & discussion to come

The by-laws of an association is a boiler plate document for the basic day-to-day conduct of the organization, covering, among other things, how often meetings are held, what constitutes a quorum, how officers are elected, duties of the officers, how committees are formed, and specifying the fiscal year.

In the case of OBBFHA there are few issues of argumentative importance in the by-laws. The discussion at the annual reunion and meeting focused on lessening the problems due to so few active members. Specifically, it was recommended that the number of directors be three rather than four and that the offices of vice president and secretary be combined into one. The officers would be president, vice-president/secretary, and treasurer. A related problem is the number of members required for a quorum to conduct business at the annual meeting.

Since many of the OBBFHA members are related to one another, albeit often distantly, it was felt that wording restricting family members from serving concurrently as officers and/or directors might severely cut the number of those eligible to serve.

The draft by-laws will be presented in full to the membership in the next newsletter, along with a more detailed discussion. Members should read the by-laws carefully. If you have suggestions for changes in the wording of the by-laws they should be forwarded to president David Putnam at dputnam925@msn.com or send them in care of the Association PO box.

BALLOT FOR CONSTITUTION

There are two options for submitting this ballot.

1. You may photocopy or print off the ballot and send it to OBBFHA, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572-1242. Please write Ballot somewhere on the envelope.
2. You may open the separate Word file named ballot, fill it out, and e-mail the completed ballot to obbeditor@earthlink.net.

Whichever option is chosen, the ballot must be postmarked or e-mailed before midnight, Friday, November 2, 2007.

Please check one response for each article.

Article V: Membership, paragraph 1 (eligibility)

1. Membership in the Association is open to anyone descended from, or related to a person descended from, a person living in Old Broad Bay (Waldoboro) prior to the commencement of Maine statehood in 1820.
2. Membership in the Association is open to anyone interested in Waldoboro genealogy and history.

Article V: Membership, paragraph 2 (dues)

1. Dues remain as they are now: \$10 for an e-mail newsletter and \$15 for a hard copy newsletter with an individual member having one vote and family members having two votes. Library memberships would continue to be \$15 with no voting privileges.
2. Set up a two-tier system based on the number of votes. An individual e-mail membership with one vote would continue to be \$10 and an individual hard copy membership with one vote would continue to be \$15. A family e-mail membership with two votes would be \$15 and a hard copy family membership with two votes would be \$20. Library memberships would continue to be \$15 with no voting privileges.

Article VI: Association Business

1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors which shall consist of the duly elected officers and directors.
2. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

Check yes to approve, or no to disapprove, all other wording in the Constitution:

Yes No