

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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The Old Broad Bay Family History Association,
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfa/ – Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

To Search and To Share

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Dues are due

Dues are due! The last page of the newsletter has the renewal form. Please cut it out, print it out, or make a copy and send it with your check to treasurer Deirdre Putnam before July 1st. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

President's comments

by David Putnam

Your continued support made the year 2013 a very successful year for the OBBFHA. We awarded the Jasper J. Stahl Award to the Ladies Auxiliary of the German Protestant Society in recognition of their work in maintaining the Old German Meeting House in Waldoboro. Additionally, we donated to the Waldoboro Public Library a one-year membership to the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The membership includes a subscription to *American Ancestors Magazine*, as well as access for library patrons to the genealogical society's research website.

We also began a new historical project in the community. With the generous consent of the property owner, we were able to clean out an overgrown cemetery located on the site of the second meeting house (Meeting House Cove). Our Vice President, Ruth Riopell, and her sister June Hussiere, who are descendants of persons buried at the site, were able to repair and reset two headstones still standing on the site. We hope to do further research at the site to see if there are any other forgotten graves. We will also hope to erect a sign to inform visitors of the history of the site. It is our hope in the future to be able to locate and clean up other cemeteries within the town that have become overgrown and fallen into disrepair.

The Board of Directors has already begun to plan for our annual meeting on Saturday, August 2, 2014. We are in the process of selecting a speaker(s) for the meeting. When we have finalized the plans you will be notified in the newsletter and on our website. Please keep the first Saturday in

August open on your calendar and plan to attend the meeting. I guarantee you will enjoy the speaker(s), food, exchange of genealogical information and fellowship.

I enjoyed a serendipitous bit of luck recently at my town library. Quite by accident I came across a book entitled *White Pine and Blue Water: A State of Maine Reader*, edited by Henry Beston and published by Downeast Magazine (1950). The book is a collection of essays, short stories and historical pieces about Maine from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. I had never heard of the book, but I decided to take a chance and was well rewarded for my effort. The late Mr. Beston, a noted regional author and resident of Damariscotta, compiled the writings of early explorers, soldiers and missionaries who brought back to Europe tales of the bounty and dangers of the area we now know as Maine.

Maine's seafaring legacy is vividly depicted in essays by authors Edward Arlington Robinson and Rachel Field. The beauty and loneliness of island life, as well as the arduous lives of Maine's farmers and woodsmen are brought to life in a series of fictional and non-fictional stories by a virtual pantheon of great American writers with ties to Maine. Pieces by Thoreau, Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sarah Orne Jewett, Robert Lowell, and Robert P. Tristram Coffin are all included next to lesser known regional authors. Beston even included the action report that Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain sent to his commanding officer describing the pivotal actions of his 20th Maine Regiment (which included several men from Waldoboro) at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Three essays will be of particular interest for people who study and enjoy the history of Waldoboro: "The Launching of the Rainbow" by Rachel Field vividly portrays the great social event that accompanied the launching of a new ship in a Maine seacoast town. As you read the essay you can easily imagine the same community celebration taking place whenever a new ship was launched in Waldoboro. An essay entitled "Parson Bailey, Loyalist and Churchman, Sails to Halifax" is a bittersweet remembrance by the Tory Parson Bailey of his flight from persecution by colonial revolutionaries in 1779. Parson Bailey describes stopping at Broad Cove and offers a quaint description of the village, farms and people. "The Headless Man of Damariscove Island" by Harold W. Castner is an old fashioned ghost story set on a nearby island well known to most local residents and sailors. The author was a Damariscotta resident and historian, and the Castner family was one of Waldoboro's founding families.

I want to heartily recommend this book to all of our readers. It deserves an honored place in the home library, camp or cottage of any person who loves the history of Maine. It is a book that can be picked up and put down as you please, and provides the reader with entertainment and insight into the history, people and places of Maine.

Amended cemetery bill passed to be enacted by state legislature

LD 1662, "An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing the Maintenance of Veterans' Graves" which came before the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs in late February as an emergency bill sponsored by Senator Chris Johnson on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association was referred to the State and Local Government Committee when it was realized during the public hearing the issue was not veterans, but municipal responsibility.

After many discussions and e-mail exchanges by representatives from the Maine Genealogical Society, Maine Old Cemetery Association, Maine Municipal Association, and Veterans Services

with input from Senator Johnson, LD 1662 was heavily amended and was unanimously voted out of the State and Local Government Committee as “ought to pass” on Monday, March 17. On April 2 it was passed to be enacted by the Maine House and Senate. The new law will go into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

The bill defines public burying grounds as “...a burying ground or cemetery in which any person may be buried without regard to religious or other affiliation and includes a cemetery owned and operated by a municipality, a cemetery corporation or a cemetery association.” This means not just towns, but cemetery corporations and associations must meet the care standards for veterans’ graves.

Municipalities may adopt care standards for veterans’ graves above what is specified in the bill. Those standards “..at a minimum must detail how to maintain the grave, grass and headstones.” If the municipality does not write its own standards, then the standards listed in the bill apply:

1. Ensuring that grass is suitably cut and trimmed
2. Keep a flat grave marker free of grass and debris
3. Keep the burial place free of fallen trees, branches, vines and weeds

There is nothing in the bill or current state law which prohibits a municipality from adopting standards for the care of non-veteran graves or for ancient burying grounds. Since municipalities are supposed to write the town standards for veterans’ graves “...in collaboration with veterans’ organizations, cemetery associations, civic and fraternal organizations and other interested persons...” it is hoped these groups and town residents will encourage (even demand) there be standards for care of all graves, especially in ancient burying grounds.

A very important amendment to LD 1662 was added to Section 1101-B subsection 2 Maintenance by landowner, which gives municipalities the right to “...access any ancient burying ground within the municipality in order to determine if the ancient burying ground is being maintained in good condition and repair.” If it, or a veteran’s grave in the ancient burying ground is not being cared for, the town may take over care or appoint a caretaker.

LD 1662 retains the option in current law allowing a municipality to designate a caretaker for veterans’ graves or for an ancient burying ground. There is no argument that many municipalities need help paying to restore, repair, and maintain veterans’ graves, much less ancient burying grounds and public cemeteries. Spring in Maine brings town meetings and town meetings bring budgets for the coming year. Many of those town budgets will include funds for the repair and maintenance of veterans’ graves and/or cemeteries, but just as many will not.

Do you know how many cemeteries are in your town? Do you know how many of them are ancient burying grounds? [An ancient burying ground is a private cemetery established prior to 1880.] Do you know who is taking care of them? Are you willing to stand up in town meeting and ask these questions? Are you willing to find the answers before hand and present them to residents at town meeting? If your town has already had its town meeting, you can still present your case to the town select board or town council.

Many towns cannot afford to budget the money necessary to clear their ancient burying grounds of brush and weeds. They may not know who to ask for help and may not think residents care. Members of the Maine Old Cemetery Association, Maine Genealogical Society, veterans groups, lineage societies, scout troops, and private citizens are ready, willing, and able to help towns care for **all** their cemeteries with donations of money, physical labor, and materials. Are you willing to volunteer your time or money?

An excellent example of how residents can get involved in cemetery care can be seen in a link on the Damariscotta town website for a restoration fund managed by the Damariscotta Historical Society: [http://www.townofdamariscotta.com/sites/townofdamariscotta.com/files/auction adoption brochure 2013.pdf](http://www.townofdamariscotta.com/sites/townofdamariscotta.com/files/auction%20adoption%20brochure%202013.pdf).

Most ancient burying grounds are small and caring for them between May 1st and September 30th requires only a modest effort of time and physical labor. If you or your group are already caring for an ancient burying ground, thank you! If you or your group knows of an ancient burying ground or public cemetery that needs care, please go to the town office and register your willingness to care for it. If you cannot offer physical service, consider making a donation to the town for cemetery maintenance.

Over the summer an ad hoc committee with members from Maine Genealogical Society, Maine Old Cemetery Association, Maine Municipal Association, and Veterans Services will be reviewing all laws pertaining to cemeteries and will be offering further legislation giving municipalities more power to preserve and protect cemeteries, clarify definitions of cemetery and veteran, and address issues of ownership, vandalism, and responsibility for cemetery care.

Upcoming events

Southern Maine Genealogy Conference, **Saturday, May 31**, at Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Ave, Portland. The conference is being organized by the Greater Portland and Pejepscot chapters of the Maine Genealogical Society. Joe Anderson, editor of *The Maine Genealogist*, will be the featured speaker. The registration fee will include lunch. For more information contact Paul Doucette at pdoucette3@gmail.com or (207) 899-9640.

Maine Old Cemetery Association cemetery preservation workshop, Wiley's Corner Cemetery, St. George, **May 30 - June 2**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day, rain or shine! To download the Registration & Waiver Form go to the MOCA Facebook page. Once Cheryl Patten has received your form she will send a confirmation form and details of when and where and what you should bring.

OBBFHA annual meeting: **Saturday, August 2** at the Knox-Lincoln County Cooperative Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. More details to come in the summer newsletter.

Annual service at the Old German Church: 3:00 p.m., **Sunday, August 3**.

MGS Annual Meeting & Conference: **Saturday, September 13**, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. The keynote speaker will be Tom Jones, Ph.D., CGsm, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS. For more information check the MGS website <http://www.maineroots.org>.

Vital records rules

Due to weather issues, the stakeholders for vital records access did not meet until March 11 to go over revisions discussed at the December 12 meeting. Further tweaking was done and a draft of the revision to the combined chapters 4 & 8 should be ready for a public hearing sometime in late April or early May.

Once the rules have been approved, the document *Accessing Vital Records in Maine* will be updated and re-posted on the Maine Genealogical Society website [<http://www.maineroots.org>]. No date has been set for a discussion on the state researcher identification card or the fee(s) for it. More information on the rules and fee(s) should be available in the summer newsletter.

Queries

Bernd Koch of Winterlingen Germany is seeking information about his ancestor Hans Jerg (Johann Georg) ROMINGER b. 21 Oct. 1680 in Winterlingen and his descendants in the United States. Hans Jerg emmigrated to Broad Bay in 1742 along with other family members. Most of the Rominger family left Broad Bay c.1770 for the Moravian Settlements in North Carolina. Mr. Koch is interested in any information about their descendants in the United States, particularly any in Maine, as several female members of the family married men from Broad Bay and did not go to North Carolina. Mr. Koch can be contacted at bktrulla@yahoo.de

Maria Wallace is seeking information about her ancestor Jane Ann DIAL b.1827 (Waldoboro, Lincoln, Maine) d.1897 (Washington, Knox, Maine). Jane Dial's father was a William SNOWDEAL of Waldoboro. Ms. Wallace would like to find out the name of Jane's mother, as well as any other information about the family. Please contact her at mia@metrocast.net.

Susan Pitcher Haines is seeking information regarding the location and occupants of the PITCHER CEMETERY in Waldoboro. Please contact her at sehaines42@gmail.com.

Sara Crespi is seeking information on a Catherine MILLER (daughter of Frank Miller and Anna Mayer), who married Andrew GENTHNER Senior. She is also interested in finding a Genther Family Bible listed in Andrew Gentner's pension papers. If you have any information please contact her via US mail at 25 The Flume, Amherst, NH 03031.

Photo preservation tips learned from Maureen Taylor

Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective, gave a wonderful workshop on photo identification and preservation for MGS on April 5 before an enthusiastic crowd. We learned a lot, so here are some of the tips:

1. Do not take old photo albums apart! If they are falling apart, wrap them in archival paper (acid free & lignin free) or clean, unbleached muslin, or a clean sheet or pillowcase. Place all this in an archival box ifpossible.
2. Never clean the glass of a framed photo; chemicals can get under the glass and damage the photo.
3. Never put glass directly on a photo; it can stick to the photo and damage it.
4. Never glue or stick a label on the back of a photo.
5. Never touch (or try to clean) a photo, especially a daguerreotype.
6. If your photos have mold on them, separate them from all other photos and each other. Store them individually. Likewise get rid of any storage boxes that have mold & get new ones. Plastic bins are okay for short-term storage.
7. The plastic photo sleeves from the office supply store are okay for photo storage.
8. The best place to store photos is a windowless, interior closet away water pipes, fireplaces, and doors; also under the bed. The ideal ecosystem is 70 degrees at 50% humidity.
9. Label photos in soft pencil (#6) along the top or bottom of the photo back with the full names of people. Adding when and where the photo was taken is a good idea.

Membership

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the founding families, and in particular the founding German families, of what is now Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine.

There are three types of membership: individual, family, and library. An individual membership confers the right to one vote. A family membership confers the right to two votes. 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.

The membership year is July 1 to June 30. The newsletter is issued three times a year, in April (Spring), July (Summer), and October (Fall) with a fourth (January / Winter) issue when there is enough material.

Membership checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to: Deirdre Putnam, OBB Treasurer, 17 Bush Hill Rd, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Date _____

Name _____

Second member in the household: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

How do you want to receive the newsletter?

Individual membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$10 _____ US mail \$15 _____
Family membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$15 _____ US mail \$20 _____

Please attach a list of your Broad Bay ancestors or write the list on the back of this form.

Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.): We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out this portion of the membership form. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal invoice by mail each year. **Subscription: \$15 per year.**

Name of research facility: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person: _____