

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter



Volume 17 No. 1 Winter 2019

To Search and to Share

Portrait of the Five-Masted Schooner "Baker Palmer."

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Presidential Musings

Hello Friends, On behalf of the entire Board of Directors I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year! Here in New England winter is definitely upon us, so all we can do is grin and bear it. Winter is really a beautiful season here - as long as you don't have to shovel it, drive in it, walk in it, or pay the heating bill!

MISINFORMATION (?): In September I received a letter from OBBFHA member and indefatigable researcher Tracie Gross Ott. Tracie is from our West Coast contingent and she informed me that she had viewed an online conference sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The title of the conference was, **Researching 17th Century New England: Genealogy, History Legacy!** Tracie advised me that the second session of the conference was about the settlement of New England and the speaker was **David Curtis Dearborn, FASG, Senior Genealogist Emeritus**. At one point, Mr. Dearborn offered the following information: "*The Waldoboro Germans desire a mention, these are people who came from what is now the Czech Republic in the mid-1700s. Around the time of the Revolution about half moved down to North Carolina and settled in Guilford and Onslow Counties, North Carolina to settle with other Moravians, others stayed in Maine and their descendants are still there today.*" Mr. Dearborn went on to say that there were 1500 settlers who arrived in Broad Bay from Moravia in 1752-1753, that Broad Bay had previously been settled by Ulster Scots, and that "about half" later moved to North Carolina in the 1770's to join other Moravians because of threatened lawsuits over land titles.

To say the least I was surprised to read this information. I sent a very respectful email to Mr. Dearborn advising him that the three volumes of Waldoboro history that I was familiar with (The History of Waldoboro by Miller, The History of Old Broad Bay by Stahl, and Broad Bay Pioneers by Whitaker and Horlacher) recount quite a different history of the Moravians in Waldoboro. I advised him there is no record mentioned in these volumes about 1500 Moravians arriving in Broad Bay, or of 750 people leaving Broad Bay for North Carolina. While all three local histories offer *slightly* different numbers, the total count of the Moravian migration is at the most *approximately* 29 families, comprising *approximately* 100-125 persons. I also informed him that these histories

attributed the motivation of the Moravian migrants to the desire to live in the communal manner of the Moravians in North Carolina, and the desire to practice their religion free from persecution. Additionally, I informed him that the geographical parameters of the Broad Bay Settlement in the mid-1750's would not have supported 1500, or even 750 persons, in addition to the settlers who arrived from earlier migrations from Germany.

I have not heard back from Mr. Dearborn at this time. Perhaps he has some additional source, unknown to us, that will verify his figures and rewrite the history of Broad Bay and Waldoboro as we know it. If not, I hope my email will cause Mr. Dearborn and The New England Historic Genealogical Society to reassess the material they present regarding the "Waldoboro Germans."

WEBSITE: In the fall edition I informed all of you that our website was now back online after a hiatus of 10 months. The folks at the Rootsweb platform had taken down all the sites they sponsor to install new security protocols. Unfortunately, while our website is back up, our webmaster Fred Snell has been unable to access it for editing purposes. Fred and I have been trying for several weeks to have Rootsweb issue a new password to Fred. We have had no luck as of this time. We have been issued, via email, complaint numbers accompanied by the promise of someone responding "soon." Fred and I have also spent many hours on the telephone with the customer service people, all to no avail. We will persevere for the time being, but we may have to explore other options if we are not able to get Rootsweb to help us. Rootsweb has always provided a free online platform for websites like ours, so we would like to stay with them. However, we may have to explore a commercial option if this problem cannot be resolved.

QUERY: Fellow member John Roswell is searching for information about the Mills Family of Nobleboro. He has the names of three siblings (Christiana, Ruth, John) and the possible first name of their father as William (Mills). John is also wondering if there are any Waldoboro Town Directories in existence from the 1880's through the 1900's. The oldest directory I could locate online was 1906. John can be reached at jjroswell@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS: Our little group continues to grow! I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined our ranks since the Fall edition of this newsletter: **Ms. Lynn Settje Alperin**, a descendant of the Reed, Light, Welt, and Benner Families. **Ms. Susan Seigars** and **Mr. Charles R. Welfare**. Welcome aboard folks! I hope you will find our group fun and helpful as you proceed on your genealogical journey. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have. **We are always looking for new ideas!**

THE BROAD BAY CHURCH: The Broad Bay Church is one of the oldest and most historic structures in Waldoboro. It was built in 1838 on the corner of Pleasant and Main Street and is still a vital part of the Waldoboro community. The church sponsors a wide array of religious and secular community groups from throughout the area. The church originally housed a Baptist Congregation, it is now owned by the Congregational Denomination. In the Spring of 2018 the church community embarked on a capital campaign to fund a comprehensive renovation of the structure, as well as to improve points of access and egress, and to address a myriad of maintenance issues. If any of our members are interested in learning more about this project, or would like to contribute to the building fund they should go online to www.broadbaychurch.org, or contact the church directly at 941 Main Street, Waldoboro, ME 04572. Phone-207-832-6898.

The OBBFHA has no religious affiliations, however, I have brought this appeal forward to our group because of the historic nature of this structure and because the church is a venue for many secular community groups. Despite its age and historical value, it remains a vital part of the Waldoboro community. Because of its historical value, I thought our members might be interested in donating.

In other business, the plans for our annual meeting on Saturday, August 3rd, 2019 have already begun. I hope all of you can attend. We are also hoping to establish a secure Facebook page for the sharing of genealogical information between members. The Board of Directors will also begin discussing ideas for our 2019 Jasper J. Stahl Award.

In closing, I will leave you with the words of Marcel Proust, a fellow who thought a lot about personal history and the passage of time:



“When we have passed a certain age,
the soul of the child we were and
the souls of the dead from whom we
have sprung come to lavish on us
their riches and their spells...”



In Search of George Kaler from Waldoboro, Maine

By Herbert C. Kaler

A few years ago, I was tracing my family tree and looking for George Kaler from Waldoboro Maine. My 2nd Great Grand Father Samuel J. Kaler (1830-1904) was born in Camden, ME and his death certificate listed his father as George F Kaler from Waldoboro, ME. While searching the Family Search and Ancestry web sites I found a Samuel J Kaler from Camden, ME whose parents were George Kaler and Mary W. Hosmer. Family Search also had baptismal records for Samuel and his 2 brothers and 2 sisters, so it was easy to trace the whole family to the Rockport/Camden area. From additional web searches I also found out that George and Mary lived in Camden from their marriage in 1825 until Mary died in 1837. George Kaler purchased land on High Street in Camden and built a house there in 1829. Luckily the house still exists and is part of the historical section of Camden.

George and Mary W are buried together in Mountain View Cemetery, Camden with three of Samuels siblings.

With the basic information from George’s gravestone I went looking for George Kaler from Waldoboro.



Name	Dates	Father	Mother	Wife	Reference
George Kaler	b. 1800 d. 1888			Mary W b. 1800 d. 1837	Dates from Gravestone in Mountain View Cemetery, Camden Me

I bought a copy of Whitaker and Horlach’s Broad Bay Pioneers from Picton Press, because the book documented all the families who came to Waldoboro from Germany in the 1740’s and 1750’s and their families. As I went through the book, I found out that there were a number of George Kaler’s living in Waldoboro in the early 1800’s.

From the Broad Bay Pioneer book, I found five Georges from the Waldoboro area who could possibly be my ancestor.

I also looked at other historical references to validate the information. The combined information from the book and other sources is synopsized in the table below.

The **bold** info has multiple sources:

#	Name	Dates	Father	Mother	Wife	BBP Ref	Other Refs
1	George Martin Kaler	B. 7 Apr 1773 <i>D. Aft 1850</i>	William Ernst Kohler	Eva Catherine Kuhn	Elizabeth	Page 382	1,2,3
2	George Martin Kaler	B. 7 Apr 1773 <i>D. Aft 1850</i>	<i>Jacob Wilhelm Kaler</i>	Eva Catherine Kuhn	Elizabeth	Page 555	
3	George Kaler Jr	B. 25 Mar 1789 <i>D. 1856</i>	Charles Carl Kaler	Anna Elizabeth Weber	“Polly” Mary Ludwig	Page 554	1,2,3
4	CAPT George Kaler III	B. 28 Oct 1789 D. 1861	Charles Ludwig Kaler	Mary Genthner	Lucy Miller	Page 383	1,2,3,4, 5,6
5	George Kaler Jr	B. 25 Mar 1789	Jacob Kaler	Barbara Orf	Mary W	Page 383	
6	George F Kaler	B. 1800 D. 1888			Mary W Hosmer		6,7,8, 9,10
7	George Kaler				Eleanor	Page 539, 558	

Other References:

1. Maine Birth Records 1621-1922
2. Maine Marriage Records 1705-1922
3. 1850 U.S. Federal Census
4. 1860 U.S. Federal Census
5. Maine Death Records
6. Find a Grave records
7. Hosmer genealogy, descendants of James Hosmer who emigrated to America in 1635 and settled in Concord, Mass. (page 97)
8. Vital records of Camden/Rockport, Maine Pg. 63
9. Death Record for Samuel J Kaler 1904 (son of George F Kaler)
10. Dates from Gravestone at Mountainview Cemetery, Camden, ME

From the table above and the referenced documents, it is obvious that George Martin Kaler is the son of William Ernst Kaler and not Jacob Wilhelm Kaler. Also, the George with Jacob Kaler and Barbara Orf as his parents and Mary W. as his wife, looks to be a match for the George Kaler I was looking for. The birth date for this George is incorrect, but since it is a duplicate of the George Jr. in row 3, it has to be in error. So, if the information in rows 5 and 6 are combined, it would look like the table below. This is a minimal connection, so I am still looking for more information to further confirm this connection.

Name	Dates	Father	Mother	Wife	Reference
George Kaler	b. 1800 d. 1888	Jacob Kaler	Barbara Orf	Mary W	BBP Page 383 and 6,7,8,9,10

Now that I was able to identify a George Kaler who fit my information, I proceeded to research more information from his life. Below is a narrative I wrote for the family to document the life of George Kaler based on the documents above and many other documents I have discovered from my research.

Life story of George Kaler (1800-1888) from Waldoboro Maine

Not much is known about George Kaler's early life in Waldoboro. According to the Broad Bay Pioneer book he was one of twelve children born to Jacob Kaler and Barbara Orf in Waldoboro, ME. He was born in 1800, according to the inscription on his grave stone, but there is no other record of his birth. The first official record we have of George is his marriage to Mary W. Hosmer in Camden, ME on 28 May 1823. George and Mary had six children: Julia Ann in 1824, Thomas Hodgman in 1825, Margaret Jane in 1828 (died at 2 years old), Samuel Jacob in 1830, George F. in 1834, and Nathaniel C. in 1836. George and Mary W. probably lived with Mary's Father Asa in Camden, ME until they were able to afford to build their own home. In 1826 George purchased a parcel of land on High Street in Camden, ME from Joseph Eaton, Jr. Then he bought two smaller parcels of land in 1829 from the same owner. A house was built on the land in 1829 in order to house his growing family. Since George was a blacksmith, he also built his shop behind the house. The town of Camden started to grow during this time because of the shipping industry and there was plenty of work for blacksmiths in Camden to support making fasteners and other metal products for ships. The location of the house on High St, just above the harbor and the shipyard, was ideal for delivering fasteners and metal products to the shipyard.

The house that George had built on 24 High Street is part of the Camden High Street district in the National Register of Historic Places. The research for the National register states:

"George Kaler House c. 1829
24 High Street



Current picture of the house

The George Kaler House is a one-and-a half story five bay brick cape with a frame ell. It was apparently built about 1829 for Kaler, a blacksmith by trade. Its prominent features include a federal style doorway with an elliptical louvered fanlight, a trio of dormers on the front elevation and four interior chimneys. Long nine-over-nine windows are employed throughout the first story. " The house still exists today and is owned by the Ornes family. It is also known as the "Waterbury Place" because Mrs. Waterbury owned the house from 1920 to 1959. The house can be seen on the tour map of Camden.

It is also known as the "Waterbury Place" because Mrs. Waterbury owned the house from 1920 to 1959. The house can be seen on the tour map of Camden.

Mary W. Hosmer (1800 – 1837) from Camden, ME is the daughter of Asa Hosmer and Nancy Eaton. The Hosmer family were early settlers in Camden, and her father Asa was the first school teacher. There is an extensive genealogy on the Hosmer family and George Kaler is listed there as Mary W's husband.

George, Mary, and the family lived in the house while George continued his work as a blacksmith. The 1830 census shows 8 people living in the house. In addition to George's family there was an older woman and an additional child living with them, but since the old census only show numbers of people by age groups it is difficult to say who they were. When Mary died in 1837 the family continued to live in the house on high street. The 1840 census shows 7 people living in the house with one person being a worker for George. On 26 Sep 1840, George married Sophia E. Sweet from South China, ME. Then, in 1844 Julia Ann died and was buried in Mountain View cemetery joining her mother and sister Margaret Jane. In 1845 George and Sophia welcomed their son Edward P into the world. They also decided to sell the house in Camden for \$1400 and moved to Sophia's home town of South China, ME (about 12 miles from Augusta). In 1848 their son John Abbott was born.

Starting in the 1850's the children started to leave to seek their fortunes. Samuel and Thomas left for Boston, MA to seek their fortune while George Jr. went to Rockport to work in the shipping business. George Jr. was president of a wood lathing business at 18 Sea St, Rockland, ME and later was President of G. F. Kaler Pump and Block Company. He had a patent approved in 1886 for a Lifting Jack to lift a carriage body at one time so that the wheels could be easily changed. Samuel and Thomas were Piano Makers and worked together at the Kaler and Shaw Piano Forte Factory in Hudson Massachusetts where Samuel was part owner and foreman.

There is not much information about where George and his family lived when they first moved to China, ME, but in 1863 George purchased 3 parcels of land near the south end of the lake with a building for \$1775. George continued to work as a blacksmith to support the family and built a new home and blacksmith shop. The land was on the stage coach road from Augusta, ME to Belfast, ME.

The 1870 Census shows that George owned real estate valued at \$1800 and had an estate of \$700. In comparison to other people living in China, George seemed to be well off. The tax documents also show that George had to pay taxes (\$1 a year) on a carriage valued at \$65. On April 29, 1872 George's house burned down during the great conflagration but the blacksmith shop was saved. The house was insured for \$1000, so George had the house rebuilt. Then, in 1872 J Abbott and Edward left to start the Kaler Brother's Dry Goods store at 145 Water St in Augusta, ME. During 1873 and 1874, George and Sophia sold 2 parcels of land for \$1240 and moved to Melville St in Augusta, ME. The family was united again and Edward and J Abbot (with family) moved in with George and Sophia.

In 1875 the Kaler Brothers Dry Goods store went through bankruptcy. J Abbott and Edward continued to live with George and Sophia as they all moved to 85 Chapel St, August, ME (near Melville) while J. Abbott and Edward were going through bankruptcy. Edward was sick during this period of time and went to Colorado in

pursuit of his health. He died in 1882 in Colorado. Not much is known of where J Abbott went after the bankruptcy, but his family re-appeared in Brunswick, Me in the 1890's and at his daughter's wedding J Abbott was noted as being deceased. George died in Augusta in 1888 and was buried in the Kaler plot (plot 13, section 5) in Mountain View Cemetery, Camden, Maine with his first wife Mary W and daughters. His son Nathaniel C is also buried there. Sophia survived George and remained in Augusta until she died on 18 January 1898. She was also buried in Camden, ME.



“Waldoboro Ships” 18 months calendars 2019-20 are still for sale.
Great Christmas gift! Order WH Society, PO Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572.
\$10 each plus \$3 for mailing.

The Gravestone Mystery

Everyone enjoys a mystery and one developed in Lincoln County recently. Thanks to four women who love the history of our area, the mystery was unraveled, almost!

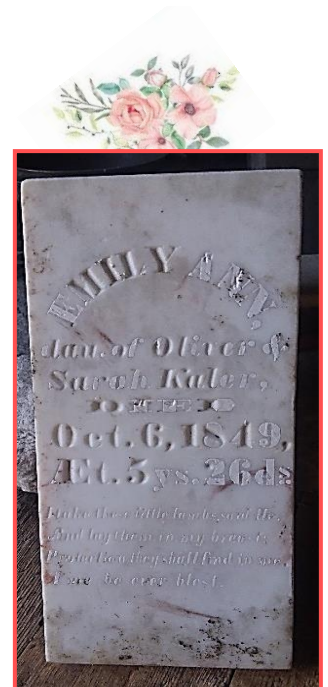
Barry Howell, manager of the Nobleboro Transfer Station, this past month found what appeared to be a gravestone in a load of refuse. He checked with the driver and was convinced that the driver had no idea that the stone was a part of his load. Barry saved the piece and stood it up by his station.

Next, three women became aware of the stone and tried to solve the puzzle of where the stone belonged. Nobleboro Historical Society President Mary Sheldon, Laurie McBurnie, editor of the Nobleboro Cemetery Book, and Patti Whitten of Damariscotta began to research the name. They found no listing in Nobleboro and little information on Find a Grave. So, finding no concluding evidence and before notifying the sheriff, they thought that perhaps the stone was connected to Waldoboro. Mary contacted me, and again, the search resumed now in Waldoboro.

There are a many Kalers buried in the German Cemetery. In checking Maine Tribal Pages, I found that the death of Emily A. Kaler, age 5, from dysentery, was listed and that she is recorded as buried in the German Protestant Cemetery in Waldoboro. No parents' names were listed; yet, the stone records her parents as being Oliver and Mary Kaler. Emily died in October 6, 1849. Now the research's next step began. Oliver and Mary Kaler are listed on the Maine Tribal Pages along with their offspring: all sons. No mention of Emily. Was she from a different family? Could the parents' names be in error?

At this point, Richard Wallace, whose memory of Waldoboro history is excellent, reminded me that many gravestones have been found in refuse over the years in Waldoboro. Several have been traced to Glidden Monuments located years ago on Glidden Street. Discarded stones were often used in the making of hearths, and history tells us that the hearth for the home which now is True Value Hardware on Jefferson Street was made from such. They were turned upside down and cemented into place, thus making a neat and even surface for a hearth. In recent times, error stones from an engraver in Union were found along the railroad tracks in Waldoboro.

Richard also reminded me that we have several of these “errors” at the Museum and that because people, upon seeing them asked if the museum was built on a cemetery site, we moved them to the back of the



Emily A. Kaler, age 5

gardens. Hopefully, one day when our trees are completely cleared, we will be able to establish them with their error story in a group on our property.



At this point in the search, with the blessing of the ladies involved, Trustees **Bill Maxwell** and **Roy Hatch** drove to Nobleboro to see **Barry Howell** and to get the stone. Barry asked that they take a photo of them receiving the stone. Emily's stone is now at rest (no pun intended) at the Museum. The men feel there is an error on it and that it was used in a hearth or foundation as remnants of cement are still attached. It is resting in our barn until spring when the search, hopefully, will be concluded by my viewing of the German Church Cemetery Map residing in the Church in the now closed cemetery. This will lead to the correct Kaler site and, hopefully,

I will find Emily's finished and perfect stone. Photo by Bill Maxwell. Thanks to the Mary, Laurie and Patti whose interest began this search. If anyone has information on Emily's history, I may be reached at 832-4421 or jeanlaw@roadrunner.com. -Jean Lawrence, President Waldoborough Historical Society



Brief Genealogy of Albion Parris OAKES, Respected Teacher of Waldoboro

By Tracie Gross Ott

Mark Briscoe writes an OBBFHA newsletter series about Albion OAKES, teacher and his wife Ella CLARK, teacher and writer of Waldoboro. The following is a brief genealogy for Albion, beginning with the original immigrant to New England.

Nathaniel OAK, OAKE1 b abt 1645 England or Wales d 17 Feb 1721 Westboro, MA₁
m. 2nd wife: **Mary HOLLOWAY** b 25 Dec 1681 Concord, MA² d Aft. 1733 Northboro, MA¹

His own statement--handed down to his grandchildren and by the son of one of them John Conant inscribed in the family Bible: "The grandfather of my mother was a cabin-boy on an English vessel bound to Boston", (p.7).¹

Capt. Jonathan OAK, OAKS2 b 17 Aug 1717 Marlborough, MA^{1,3} d. Dec 1784 Skowhegan ME
m. 4th wife: **Abigail RAND** b 14 Nov 1736 Stow, MA d 1813 Amestown, now known as Sangerville, ME¹

Housewright. Captain Jonathan OAKS, for so he wrote his name later in life being first of the family to change the form-- There has been a prevalent idea -- that he was given, or promised, a large reward by the BRITISH government; and whenever in the early years any OAKS changed his residence so as to be lost track of by a portion of the family he was generally supposed to have somehow appropriated more than his share of the bounty and gone to dwell in some very distant part of the world, (p. 12).¹

***Elder William OAKES3**, Farmer and Baptist preacher, b 7 Jun 1774 Skowhegan, ME d 1851 Sangerville, ME m. **Susan ORR** b 1773 Harpswell, ME d 10 Apr 1833 Sangerville, ME (p. 24)¹

Col. William OAKES4 b 8 Nov 1795 Canaan, ME d 12 Apr 1873 Sangerville, ME
m. **Mary WEYMOUTH** b 20 Mar 1791 Sangerville, ME, (p. 44)¹ d 29 Apr 1887⁴

Letter from Honorable Stanley Plummer

Dear Mr. Sprague: --

Dexter, Maine, June 15, 1914.

Besides being many years Colonel of a militia regiment, Justice of the Peace, Selectman, and Trustee of Foxcroft Academy, was a member of the State Legislature, and High Sheriff of Piscataquis County. But of greater credit and honor to him than any office he ever held was the fact that ... with strenuous effort and much self-sacrifice he was enabled to send four of his sons to college. ... Albion, who graduated from Waterville (pp. 152-153)⁵

Albion Parris OAKES⁵ b 14 Aug 1826 Sangerville, ME d 21 Jun 1859 Waldoboro, ME⁶

m. **Ella A. CLARK** b Dec 1833 d 30 Mar 1904 Waldoboro, ME⁷

Albion Parris OAKES & Tracie GROSS Ott (on her maternal side) = 2nd cousins, 5x removed

Tracie's Line: ¹Abel OAKS³ (brother of *Elder Wm OAKES) m. "Betsy" HAMBLEN

Sources:

1. Oak, Henry Lebbeus, Ora Oak. *OAK-OAKS-OAKES. Family Register Nathaniel OAK of Marlborough, Mass. And Three Generations of His Descendants in Both Male and Female lines.* Out West Company Print, 1906.
2. CONCORD BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS 1635 – 1850. Concord Registers – Book I. p. 25. Concord, Massachusetts: Printed by The Town. Beacon Press: Thomas, Todd, Printer: Boston (persi.heritagequestonline.com).
3. Vital Records of Marlborough, MA to the end of the year 1849, were copied from original records, and prepared for the press by Miss Mary E. Spaulding, of Worcester. MARLBOROUGH BIRTHS. Vol. 1, Page 142. CR1 = First Church. The Massachusetts Vital Records Project. C 2005-2018. (www.ma-vitalrecords.org/MiddlesexCounty/Marlborough/BirthsHtoO.html#p142).
5. Sangerville, Maine, 1814-1914: Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration, June 13, 1914. Sangerville (Me.) Dover 1914. Reprinted from *Sprague's Journal of Maine's History*, Vol. II, July 1914, No. 3. *Sangerville Centennial.*
6. Source Citation: Maine State Archives; Cultural Building, 84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084; Pre-1892 Delayed Returns; Roll Number: 81 Source Information: Ancestry.com. Maine, Death Records, 1761-1922 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Maine Death Records, 1761-1922. Augusta, Maine: Maine State Archives. Maine Death Records, 1761-1922, Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine, USA.
7. Ancestry.com. U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Original data: Find A Grave. Find A Grave. (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>).

Correction: Fall 2018 newsletter article, Immigrant Gross/Grosz Family of old Broad Bay, under the heading, The Children of Johan Georg Gross and Anna Catharina.

2d child. John Peter Gross. ... He was probably the soldier in the Revolutionary War. [Tracie believes the John, Whitaker and Horlacher refer to is probably John Gross of Camden, (correct = son of Ebenezer, not Joseph, as written) Gross and Abigail Treat.]

Masthead: Portrait of the Five-masted Schooner "Baker Palmer."



The coal carrying schooner **Baker Palmer** was built and launched c. 1901 in Waldoboro, Maine. It was named after a benefactor, Captain L.D. Baker from the Boston area. It was the largest five-masted schooner in existence in 1901. Her first assignment was to sail to Newport News, Virginia to take a load of coal up to Boston. She was in service for fifteen years before she was lost at sea off Bermuda. Her crew and Master, Captain Perry Denton, were rescued and carried safely to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Presidents Day February 18

The Penalty for Truancy, 1894: The Trials of Guy and Ernest Crouse

by David A. Crouse

Records of the Town of Cushing, Maine for the year 1896 [as reprinted in *Records of the Lower St. Georges and Cushing, Maine; 1605-1896*; transcribed and edited by Ruth J. Aiken; 1987.], includes the following on page 162:

"...On complaint of Joshua Daggett, truant officer, Guy M. Crouse and Ernest Crouse, minor children of Mark B. Crouse, a former resident of this town, were arrested for truancy by deputy sheriff John S. Smalley of St. George, and brought before Trial Justice David J. Starrett of Thomaston and by him committed to the state reform school on a mittimus dated the 6th day of October, 1894."

Events leading up to these events, and the subsequent outcome, are as follows:

Records of the Town of Thomaston, Maine, indicate that on December 1, 1892, Eldora (Marshall) Crouse, wife of Mark B. Crouse, died of tonsillitis at the age of 31 years, 2 months, 5 days. Eldora left a family that included her husband and five children: Guy M. (age 10); Ernest C. (age 9); S. Jessie (age 6); Mark L. (age 4); and Mildred L. (age 9 months). Just how long Mark B. Crouse attempted to maintain his family intact is uncertain. What is certain, however, is that the youngest child, Mildred Crouse, was taken very early by her aunt Alwilda Crouse Davis in Cushing and remained with her until grown. The other children apparently were put in the care of various other families at some point.

According to Ramona Carle Woodbury (grand-daughter of Mark B. Crouse's sister, Nancy Crouse Bushnell), the youngest son, Mark L Crouse, lived with Waldo Page of Cushing, although in the 1900 census, he was living with his father and step-mother in Thomaston.

A tin-type taken about 1894 shows Jessie and Laura Freeman, whom Jessie claimed she lived with at the time. According to Mrs. Woodbury, Jessie lived at one point with her cousin, Effie (Davis) Gidney in Massachusetts. However, Jessie was listed in her father's family in the 1900 census of Thomaston. In 1907, Jessie married Walter Sampson and lived the remainder of their lives in Stow.

Ernest and Guy initially lived with their grandfather, Edward Crouse in Cushing. Edward was a man in his seventies at the time, and these young boys were apparently more than he could manage, even though he is said to have been a strict disciplinarian. Presumably, it was this very quality of their grandfather that frequently caused the boys to run away and stay with other families in the area, such as their aunt Wildie, their aunt Nance in Thomaston, and others. Roving about in this fashion for nearly two years ultimately resulted in the boys being absent from school. Consequently, the authorities took the action described earlier, and sent the boys to the State Reform School in South Portland. The Cushing record cited above indicates that at the time of their arrest the boys were living with their aunt Alwilda Davis in Cushing.

It is uncertain just how long Guy and Ernest stayed at the Reform School in South Portland. According to Guy's son, Rodney Crouse, their confinement there was only for a short time; and then first Guy was put in the care of Ira Augustus "Gus" Andrews, a farmer in Stow, Maine, where he lived until he married in 1905. Guy was instrumental in getting his brother Ernest out of the Reform School and put in the care of Charles Chandler, a farmer in North Chatham, New Hampshire (which was only a few miles from where Guy was living in Stow, OBBFHA Newsletter: Vol. 17, No 1 Winter 2019

Maine). Ernest lived with the Chandlers until he married Gus Andrews' daughter in 1904. He then moved to Stow and lived with Gus Andrews at the old stone farmhouse at North Stow.

Although the duration of their stay at the Reform School in Portland is uncertain, it is certain that Guy and Ernest were not totally free until they reached age twenty; for Guy's son, Harry Crouse of Chatham, New Hampshire, has the original copy of his father's honorable discharge from the State Reform School, dated July 19, 1902. Included with the discharge is a letter written to Guy from Edwin P. Wentworth, superintendent of the Reform School. This letter is reprinted in full, as follows [apparently there was some confusion over Guy's birth date, –as to whether he was born in 1881 or 1882]:

State Reform School
Portland, Maine
E. P. Wentworth, Superintendent

Portland, Me., July 19, 1902

Mr. Guy M. Crouse
Care of Ira A. Andrews
P.O. North Chatham, N.H.

My dear Guy:

I send you herewith your Honorable Discharge from this Institution. I think you have by your good conduct and faithful attention to business fairly earned this Honorable Discharge, and it affords me pleasure to send it to you. Although now your own man and no longer under the care of the School I shall continue to have a deep interest in your welfare, and it is my earnest hope that you will ever be a credit to yourself and to this School which was for a time your home, and to Mr. Andrews under whose care you have been during the past few years. Our records here make you twenty years old this month; and we must go by the determination of trial Justice Starrett unless his findings are reversed or overcome in some way by some competent legal authority. The only way this will affect you is by making the deposit to your credit in the Maine Savings Bank payable next July. So long as it is safe and drawing interest you may well be content to have it where it is until July 1903.

So far as other people are concerned, if you are really twenty-one years of age you are entitled to all the rights of a native-born adult. If only twenty you can have nearly all the rights of an adult but cannot of course vote in municipal and state elections. In either case you are entitled to earn your living, working wherever you can make a satisfactory arrangement, and using your wages for your own maintenance. In other words, you are "your own man."

In thus taking upon yourself the duties and responsibilities of manhood I hope you will give serious thought to what it means for you. I trust you will strive to make the most of yourself and of your opportunities. Aim high. Strive to be manly. Let your thoughts as well as your words and your deeds be pure and noble. Make a character for yourself that will win the regard of all who know you.

It is very gratifying to me that you have done so well. You have been laying the foundations of a noble character and I have confidence that you will continue the good work so well begun. I will not write more now, but I shall always be glad to hear from you, and if at any time you pass through Portland do not fail to call to see me. Do not hesitate to write me if at any time you want advice or if I can be of any service to you. always be glad to hear from

you, and if at any time you pass through Portland do not fail to call to see me. Do not hesitate to write me if at any time you want advice or if I can be of any service to you.

I will only say in conclusion that I trust you will make it plain to Mr. and Mrs. Andrews how much you appreciate what they have done for you. Sometimes people feel deep gratitude to others but fail to show it, and so those who ought to know of that gratitude remain in ignorance of it forever. As you grow older you will realize better how much of a debt of gratitude you owe them. That Mr. Andrews and his family have a very high regard and a strong and deep affection for you I know perhaps better than you do, for possibly they have expressed their feeling to me more freely than to you; but certainly you must have some knowledge of it from the consideration with which they have treated you and the confidence they have ever shown you even if they have never said anything directly to indicate it.

Please give my kindest regards to Mr. Andrews and his family, also to Ernest and to Mr. and Mrs. Chandler.

With the best wishes for your future success and happiness, I remain, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

E. P. Wentworth

Supt.

Illustrating that the above letter was not merely a "form" letter, Mr. Wentworth regularly visited Guy Crouse in the years between 1902 and Wentworth's death. They often went fishing together in the White Mountain region where Guy grew up. Wentworth's obituary (which was found with Guy's personal papers after he died in 1961) includes the following:



Edwin Parsons Wentworth

...His [Wentworth's] death removes a man whom hundreds of boys now grown to manhood revere for the influence which he exerted over their lives ...

...It was, however, the expression of a personal interest in the individual boy and in the wholesome atmosphere which both Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth gave to the school that the greatest contribution was made to the lives entrusted to them. The trustees stated in their resolutions at the time Mr. Wentworth retired: "With the skill of a trained specialist he labored to give every boy in his charge the best training of hand and brain for life's duties, which his Christian sympathy and devotion to the moral welfare has made his personal influence a great power for the moral uplift of the boys, and toward their useful and honest manhood..."



Brick house at North Stow

Edwin Parsons Wentworth was obviously a great influence in the lives of Guy and Ernest Crouse, for both grew up to become productive and respected members of their communities. As noted previously, Ernest married Gus Andrews' daughter, Bessie, and they lived for a while with the Andrews family at the original Andrews farm (locally known as the stone house). When Guy married in 1905, he bought the old Gus Andrews farm (locally known as the brick house), where he had lived when he first came to Stow. Several years later Guy sold the brick house to Ernest, who lived there several years before moving to North Fryeburg, then later to North Waterford, Maine, where he worked much of his life as a millman and farmer. Guy owned several places in Stow, and in

1921 bought a farm in nearby Chatham, New Hampshire, where he lived the remainder of his life. A photograph of the brick house in North Stow (now in the possession of Guy's grandson, David Crouse) is inscribed on the back as follows: "To Guy and Ernest Crouse; Best wishes of Edwin P. Wentworth".

A related issue of some interest is the fact that in 1896, the Town of Cushing brought suit against the Town of Friendship to recover money paid for the support of Guy and Ernest at the State Reform School. Records of the Town of Friendship indicate that an amount of \$232.58 (covering the period of January 1895 to January 1897) was at stake in the suit. The case was tried at the March term, 1896, of the Superior Court of Knox County, Maine. The following are excerpts from pages 163 and 164 of Ruth Aiken's book cited above [note: the plaintiff is the Town of Cushing; the defendant is the Town of Friendship]:

...The plaintiff claimed that the pauper settlement of the father [Mark B. Crouse] was in Friendship at the time of the commitment, but the defendant denied this and contended that neither of the boys had been lawfully convicted and sentenced to the reform school. The plaintiffs offered in evidence the mittimuses [a warrant of commitment to prison] upon which the boys were committed to the reform school with the officer's return thereon. The defendants reasonably objected to the introduction of the mittimuses as proof of the conviction of the boys, or either of them, or of any purpose other than to prove the fact and date of commitment. The presiding Justice admitted the mittimuses without qualification. The plaintiffs offered no other proof of the conviction and sentence of either of the boys.

The defendant's counsel requested the presiding Justice to instruct the Jury that the plaintiffs had introduced no sufficient evidence that the boys had been legally convicted of the offences mentioned in the mittimuses. The presiding Justice refused to so instruct the Jury and instructed the Jury that mittimuses could not be impeached by defendant and would entitle the plaintiff to recover if the fact of settlement was established.

It was admitted by the plaintiff that no extended record had been made up of the proceedings before the trial Justice in the cases against the boys upon which the mittimuses were issued, although the plaintiffs insisted that such fact was inadmissible. The defendant offered in evidence the complaint and warrant in the cases against each of the boys, together with the officer's return thereon, and the docket entries in each case, for the purpose of proving that neither of the boys had been lawfully convicted and sentenced for the offense mentioned in the mittimuses upon which they were respectively committed to the reform school.

The plaintiffs' counsel objected thereto, and the presiding Justice excluded the evidence and the defendant seasonably claimed exceptions. The plaintiffs contended that the boys had a settlement in the defendant town derived from their father Mark B. Crouse, who, the plaintiffs claimed, acquired a settlement therein by having had its home in the defendant town for five successive years, commencing in December 1882, and continuing until the spring of 1890. It was in evidence, and was admitted by the plaintiff, that in June, 1887, Mark B. Crouse took his family and a large portion of his household goods and furniture from Friendship, leaving a portion of his household goods in his house in Friendship, to the town of Thomaston and lived in Thomaston with his family in a house hired by him for several weeks, when he returned with his family to his house in Friendship which he and his family had previously occupied.

The defendants contend that by such removal to and living in Thomaston, Crouse's home in Friendship was abandoned, and that his home was in Thomaston during the time when he and his family were so living there.

The plaintiffs contended that Crouse's leaving Friendship and going to Thomaston with his family for a temporary purpose without any intention on his part to abandon his home in Friendship, and that at the time that

he remained in that town it was his intention to return to Friendship when such temporary purpose was accomplished.

There was evidence tending to prove that in the fall of 1889 Crouse and his family again went to Thomaston and kept house in that town until the spring following. The contention of the parties as to this last-named absence was the same as in the former instance.

Mark B. Crouse was a witness called by the plaintiff, and, against the defendants objections seasonably made, was permitted by the presiding Justice to testify, under the examination of the plaintiff's counsel that when he took his wife to Thomaston it was his intention to return to Friendship after his wife recovered from a maternal sickness, and that at no time had he any intention of abandoning his home in Friendship, the verdict being for Cushing, the defendant filed exception to the admission of testimony, exclusion of testimony, refusal to instruct and instructions to the Jury by the presiding Justice, which were allowed and the case taken to the law court where it was duly argued by counsel.

The opinion of the court drawn by Justice Haskell, was announced February 8, 1897, in which all the exceptions filed by the defendants were overruled, and Judgment ordered on the verdict.



**Guy Crouse, age 28,
in 1910**

The issue in the above-cited trial was limited to determining the residency of Mark B. Crouse; –whether he was a resident of Friendship or of Cushing at the time his sons were sent to reform school. Whether the boys had been legally convicted was not at issue in the trial. However, in reading the above material there clearly seems to be a question as to whether the sentencing of the boys to reform school was done completely legally. One suspects that this was not the case; –that perhaps people in the community felt the need to do something about two essentially



**Stone house built by Abel Andrews at
North Stow**

homeless, roving boys and found a means to accomplish this through a somewhat trumped-up charge of truancy. That the court system went along with this rather severe solution perhaps does not speak so well of the system in place at the time. Fortunately, however, the reform school program in those days was obviously very effective; and one suspects that trial Justice Starrett realized this would be the best solution, even though the means used to accomplish it were not completely legal.

Family of Abel Andrews of Stow, Maine. Compiled by David A. Crouse, 1999; from information of Elliott Morrison Andrews, 1961; and other miscellaneous sources.

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Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/

Editorial comments & queries to pmkriso@gmail.com

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

Workers begin cutting trees beside the Boggs Schoolhouse

Bright and early on Monday, January 14, workers began cutting the trees all around the buildings of the Waldoborough Historical Society. This Tree Project is coming to completion through the many donations of friends and community members who responded to the call to protect the buildings and pound from the many trees that were endangering the buildings. The support of the 2018 Tree Fundraising made it possible for the Society to raise \$6000 in its 50th Anniversary Year.

With a swath around the pound, the movement of the stones by the frost will be lessened. As the brush around all the buildings is cut and chipped, it will be easier to keep growth down for at least six years. The cutting of the tall trees will keep them from falling on the buildings and doing damage to the roofs.

All trees felled will be placed beside the school to await movement to a local mill site. More photos of the felling process may be seen on the Facebook page of the Historical Society.

-Jean Lawrence, President Waldoborough Historical Society 832-4421 Photo by Bill Maxwell



Waldoborough Historical Society - 2019 Program Schedule

April 10, Wednesday, Broad Bay UC Church Vestry, 5:30 P.M. Pot Luck Supper and guest speaker Valdemar Skov, local artist in wood. He will begin his presentation with the process used in his first hand carved wooden spoons. The public is invited to attend; bring a casserole or salad to share. Utensils, dessert and beverage will be supplied.

April 23, Tuesday, Waldoboro Public Library/Friends of the Library Speakers' Series. Time 6:45 P.M. cookies and beverages, Pat Kristiansen and Sue Betts, co-chairs; 7 P.M. *Father's Farm: Reminiscences of Life in Early 20th Century Waldoboro, Maine*, by Esther Gross. Jean Lawrence, presenter.

May 26, Sunday, VFW Hall, 3 P.M. "Second Military Salute to Veterans: Waldoboro Women Who Served." Local women past and present will be honored.

June 15, Saturday, Waldoboro Day. "Trolley Rides Around Waldoboro" with Mark Biscoe and Jean Lawrence, narrators. Times and Site Pick Up TBA. Reservations for seats on the trolley will be required. Register with Bill Maxwell 790-1307.

June 16, Sunday, Noon – 3 P.M. Museum Opens for the Season.

July 10, Wednesday, at the Museum; 6:30 P.M. for ice cream sundaes; 7 P.M. Annual Meeting and "Chimney Flue Covers" with Mrs. Eric Norden.

July 21, Sunday, at the Museum. Time: TBA. Les Fossel, "Old Barns and Houses."

August, Date and time: TBA; "Appraisal Day" Guest appraiser of public's antiques.

September 22, Sunday, 1 P.M. "Wood Harvesting Celebration" Guest representatives of the wood harvesting industry. Bill Maxwell, chair.

October 6, Sunday, All Play Entertainment, 2 P.M. "Bowling in Waldoboro Over the Years."

October 20, Sunday, 1 P.M. at the Museum. "Salute to Morse's Sauerkraut." Guest speaker from Morse's.

November, TBA at the Museum. Recognition of WWI Armistice and Veterans with Revere Bell ringing.

December 1, Sunday, 1-4 P.M. At the Hauck/Bailey Building. Holiday Open House; Christmas artifacts, exhibits, carol singing, refreshments.

Each second Saturday, June through October, the Society will support ArtWalk by remaining open noon until 6 P.M. Look for the red balloons!

All presentations are free and open to the public.



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

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The membership year is July 1 to June 30.

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