

# Old Broad Bay Family History Association

## 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Incorporation of the Town of Waldoboro

NS Volume 21 No. 3 Summer 2023

To Search and Share



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### President Musings by David Putnam

Happy Summer dear friends! The calendar tells us that summer has arrived here in New England; however, the cloudy, damp, and cool weather of spring remains with us. Hopefully the weather will improve by Labor Day!

Despite clouds and occasional rain, the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of Waldoboro's incorporation as a town went off without a hitch. The 250<sup>th</sup> planning committee has been working for over a year to get ready for this two-day celebration, and no one let the rain interfere with the celebration. The OBBFHA was one of the sponsors of the celebration and we had a large presence during the weekend. It was my great honor to be one of the speakers at the opening ceremony, which was held in the Old German Meeting House. After the ceremony the OBBFHA had an informational table set up at the Waldoboro Historical Society Museum. Next to our table, Archeologist Harbour Mitchell also set up an informational table for his Waldoboro Origins Project, which we have been following in this newsletter. We greeted many friends, old and new, as well as many of our members. The number of people visiting the WHS museum exceeded all our expectations, and we had many interesting conversations about the history and genealogy of Broad Bay and Waldoboro. OBBFHA Vice President Renee Seiders, and Board of Trustee members Tracy Gross Ott and Deirdre Putnam were on-hand throughout the two days greeting visitors. Members Doug Ott, who accompanied his wife from Washington State, Pat and Mitch Kriso came from California

accompanied by their daughter Tracy and son-in-law James Campbell. Fred Snell and his wife Marjorie came up from Massachusetts, Randy Welfare (Wolfhart) and his wife Terri came up from North Carolina. Members Marilyn Burrill, Anette Rupel Rodrigues, Mark Benner, and Carolyn Harris all stopped by to say hello and enjoy the museum. OBBFHA member Bill Maxwell was Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. Bill is also a Trustee for the historical society and was instrumental in making space for our informational table.

**Annual Meeting:** I am looking forward to our annual meeting which will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Safe Harbor Community Chapel, 50 Mill Street, Waldoboro ME. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM with our customary meet-and-greet. The business portion of the meeting will be brief with reports from the Treasurer and Webmaster. There will also be an election for the Board of Trustees, as well as Treasurer, Vice-President-Secretary, and President. If you are interested in serving, please send me an email and I will include your name on the ballot. Our guest speaker, Heather Moran of the Maine State Archives, will begin at 10:00 AM. She will be presenting an overview of the state archives with special attention to genealogical resources. Snacks,

beverages, lunch, and dessert will be served. A five-dollar donation will be accepted at the door. The attendance for the meeting has been down since the pandemic, so I hope everyone who is in the area will try to attend.

**New Members:** I am pleased to welcome three new members: Ms. Rebecca Waters, of Iowa, a descendant of the Umberhend/Umberhine Family of Broad Bay; Elizabeth Combs of Washington State, a descendant of the Rominger, Anton, Reid, Volger and Seitz Families of Broad Bay; and Carol Simmons of Maine, a descendant of the Winchenbach, Creamer, Genthner, Sidelinger, Mank, Waltz, Seiders, Benner (and many more) Families of Broad Bay. Welcome ladies and thanks for sharing your genealogical journeys with us!

**Queries:** I received a query from member Margie Lamb about the location of the grave of her ancestor Hans Jerg Rominger b. 1680, d. 1742. I was unable to find any record for Hans, other than his name on the reconstructed passenger list for the 1742 voyage of the ship *Lydia*. If anyone has any information about this query, please contact Margie through our website.

Along with her application, Elizabeth Combs requested that we list her as a contact person on the Families page of our website for the following families: Rominger, Anton, Volger, Reid, Seitz. If you wish to be a contact person for people researching your various family lines, please contact our Webmaster Fred Snell and he will include your contact information on the link to your ancestral families.

**Donations:** I would like to thank Tracy and Doug Ott for their generous monetary donation. As always, I want to thank Pat Kriso for her great efforts putting the newsletter together. I also want to thank Pat and her sisters, Becky Boyd and Carol Thompson, for their generosity in paying for the printing and mailing of our newsletter.

**One More Thought:** *“A life that is not documented is a life that within a generation or two will largely be lost to memory. What a tragedy this can be in the history of a family. Knowledge of our ancestors shapes us and instills within us values that give direction and meaning to our lives.”* Dennis B. Neuenschwander

***Keep on Searching and Sharing!***

## **Membership dues always due on July 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **OBBFHA Web Links and Contacts:**

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: [www.obbfha.org](http://www.obbfha.org)

Editorial comments & queries to [pmkriso@gmail.com](mailto:pmkriso@gmail.com)

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

Send general inquiries to [obbfha@gmail.com](mailto:obbfha@gmail.com)

**Masthead:** January 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 emailed message from Jean Lawrence, 250<sup>th</sup> Committee member



The five masted schooner has long been the town's logo. The committee charged Brian and Amanda of Medomak Design to come up with a more modern logo, and we are very pleased with what I have attached.

The theme for the celebration is “Coming Home.” We hope we will have many visitors and old family members joining in the fun. A pictorial memory book is being created and will be sold through the Waldoborough Historical Society. It is based on the 1973 book that is no longer in print and will feature the changes that have occurred in the last fifty years. LCTV -Vimeo will film the parade live and will also create an hour-long video offering of the entire event. We promise lots of fun.

## Waldoboro 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 1773-2023

June 17-18

Residents, neighbors and visitors to Waldoboro spent a long weekend celebrating the town's 250th anniversary in all kinds of weather and all-around town from Friday, June 16 to Sunday, June 18. Organizers and attendees brought dedication, a sense of humor, and a love for their town to carry them through the rain.

Source: Lincoln County News 6/22/23



### List of Events:

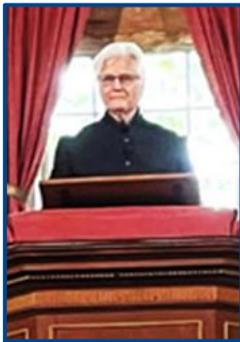
**1<sup>st</sup> day: Car show, Time Capsule, Bean supper, Pancake breakfast, 5k road race**

### Opening Ceremony at the Old German Church



#### Opening Remarks

**Bill Maxwell, Vice-chair of 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, president of the Waldoboro Historical, member of OBBFHA**



#### Invocation

**Bob Butler**



**Old German Church**

### Speakers:



**Tim Weston, Head Trustee, German Church Protestant Society**

**John Blodgett, Chair, Waldoboro 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

**David Putnam, President, Old Broad Bay Family History Association**

**Julie Keizer, Town Manager, Town of Waldoboro**

**Bob Butler (above), Invocation in German**

**Andrew Lawrence, Son of the late Jean Lawrence, who was the immediate past President of the Waldoborough Historical Society**

### **David's Opening Speech:**

Good Morning, My name is David Putnam and I am a descendant of the Welt and Benner Families of Broad Bay and Waldoboro. I am also the President of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association of Waldoboro. We are a genealogy group dedicated to discovering and preserving the genealogical history of all the 18<sup>th</sup> century settlers of Broad Bay and Waldoboro. It is a great honor for our group to be one of the sponsors for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. It is also a great honor for me personally to speak to you in this building. This historic meeting house has a large place in my family history. My fourth great grandmother, Sedony Benner Welt and her children, attended religious services in this building; my great grandfather Herman Welt signed his name in pencil on the wall in the hallway of the choir loft; his Uncle Isaac, a bolder boy, carved his name in one of the pews. So, my roots here run deeply, if not always devoutly.

Religion played a great part in the lives of our ancestors. They were not just devout on Sundays; holy scripture informed every day of their lives and guided every decision in their lives. This building is the embodiment of their great religious faith. That great faith was not just a touchstone for living, but also the well-spring of another kind of faith—a civic faith, that was manifested by a faith in themselves, a faith in their friends and neighbors, a faith in their dreams of a better life in the new world, and most of all a faith in the future.

Cities and towns rise and fall throughout history. The communities that endure are the places where the people have that civic faith that helps them endure in the face of the natural and manmade deprivations and disasters. Our ancestors' civic faith is like a chain they forged that links them with the present-day residents of Waldoboro, as well as with their many descendants worldwide.

As you enjoy this celebration, look around and you will see that civic faith and pride shining in the faces of the town residents and all the participants. They are still bound together by that ancient chain of civic faith forged long ago in the wilderness outpost of Broad Bay.



**Deirdre visiting before the service**

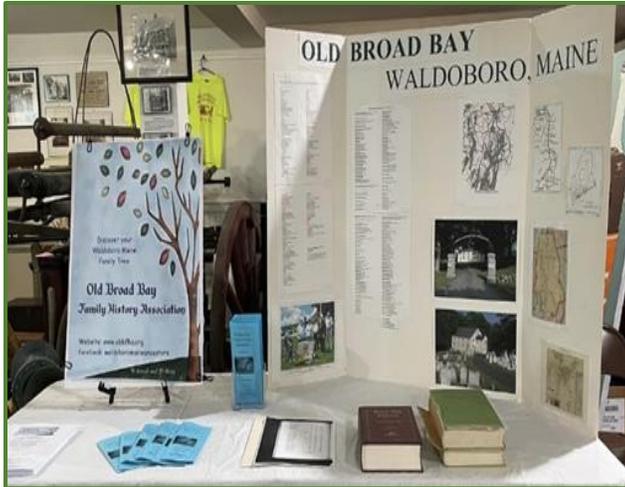


**Doug and Tracie Gross Ott visiting from Pt. Townsend, Washington**

# Waldoborough Historical Society Open House



Sue Bett, reception desk



Fred and Marjorie Snell from Andover, MA  
Deirdre and David Putnam from Ipswich, Mass.

David Putnam, Pat Kriso from Redlands, Calif., Doug and Tracie Gross Ott and Renee Seiders from Jefferson, Maine



Deirdre Putnam welcomes members Anette Ruppel Rodrigues of Bangor and Marilyn Burrill of Brewer, Maine



The Waldoboro Origins Project



Harbour Mitchell, with Deirdre and David Putnam, has been an archeologist for the last 30 years, has worked for the University of Maine, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and professional archaeological contractors throughout the region.



Randy and Terri Welfare



Jimmy and Tracy Campbell, Pat and Mitch Kriso

Parade:



Maine Sea Goddess Olivia Dougherty



U.S. Senator Susan Collins

Art & craft show, and games and food, Movie, Animated movie, Bingo games, fireworks  
**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Waldoborough Open House, Cornhole tournament, Chicken BBQ, Home run derby,  
 Church service open house Old German Church, Closing ceremony and tree planting

For more photos and stories, visit  
[Facebook.com/waldoborough250th/](https://www.facebook.com/waldoborough250th/)  
 and

OBBFHA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/waldoboromaineancestors>



### Direct Ancestral Line from our Original German Settlers

#### Hans Jerg Rominger ancestor of Margie McKnight Lamb

Jakob Rominger 1623-1696 m. Barbara Koch 1620-1683

Son: Georg Jerg Rominger January 18, 1655-May 6, 1739 m. Anna Maria Bauman 1656-1704

**Hans Jerg Rominger** October 10, 1680-1741 m. Elisabeth Odelin 1685-1741 (Came to Broad Bay, Lincoln, Maine)

Son: Michael Rominger 1709-1803 m. Anna Catharina Anton 1717-1794

Son: Michael Rominger August 9, 1759-June 5, 1818 m. Anna Maria Fischel abt1754-1816

Son: John Martin Rominger (went by Martin) June 5, 1787-February 5, 1868 (Tombstone below) m. Rebecca Greter

2<sup>nd</sup> m. Emma Jane Davis in 1863.

Daughter: Harriet Almira Rominger 1866-1894 (Tombstone below) m. Snider Alexander Schott (Shutt) 1854-1940

Daughter: Flora Rosema Shutt July 4, 1883-October 1973 m. William Albert McKnight about 1881-August 1948

Son (6<sup>th</sup> of 7 children): Bruce Wall McKnight October 29, 1915-June 28, 1989 m. Elizabeth Harriet Blevins November 2, 1918-September 28-1997

Daughter: Margie Lorraine McKnight February 2, 1948 m. George Lee Lamb September 4, 1947

Sons: Matthew Shutt Lamb February 12, 1972, m. Robin Leigh Dryer January 26 1970



John Martin Rominger



His daughter: Harriet A. Rominger



Her daughter: Flora Shutt McKnight



**Mother: Elizabeth Blevins McKnight**



**Father: Bruce W. McKnight**



**Aunt: Evelyn McKnight**

Parents of:

**Barbara Koch** m. Jakob Rominger: Casper and Anna Koch

**Anna Maria Bauman** m. Georg Jerg Rominger: Michael and Anna Bauman

**Elisabeth Odelin** m. Hans Jerg Rominger: Michael Odelin and Anna Bihler

**Anna Maria Fischel** m. Michael Rominger: Wilhelm and Dorothea Fischel

Siblings of **Hans Jerg Rominger**

Michael Rominger 1683 -1724

Anna Rominger 1685 - 1686)

Christianus Rominger 1687-1688

Solomon Rominger 1689 -1690

Phillipons Rominger 1696 -1704

Other Children of **Hans Jerg Rominger** and Elizabeth Odelin:

Johanes Rominger 1711-1713

Mathais Rominger 1713-1737

Johannes Rominger (2) 1714-1798

David Rominger 1716-1777

Jacob Rominger 1717-1717

Phillip Rominger 1721+1762

Other Children of **Bruce Wall McKnight** and Elizabeth Harriet Blevins

Evelyn Oneida McKnight (Robert Sellers) August 4, 1941-October 2018

Frances Carolyn McKnight (Ralph Barrow. Jr.) October 25, 1943-May 2012

Other Children of **Margie Lorraine McKnight Lamb** and George Lee Lamb

Mark Andrew Lamb November 14, 1977, m. Whitney Hahn July 24, 1977 div.

m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Vassar February 5,1985

John Wilson Lamb November 17,1979 m. Kathryn Ellis Snider December 5, 1983

## WALDOBORO GERMAN CHURCHES

Few people today realize that Waldoboro had four organized German churches.

From roughly 1742 to 1762, the earliest German immigrants to Broad Bay first held religious services in the colony's garrisons or inside the larger colonial cabins later, of which there were very few to hold everyone; (usually a **Eugley** home). Few people today realize that there were FOUR German churches that existed at various times in Broad Bay, (today's Waldoboro), history. Each time a new German church was built, disputes and flareups escalated to the point where families either relocated to another section of town or moved away to a neighboring town. We are slowly discovering the reasons in the old documents in Lincoln County courthouse.

**The first German church** was that of the **Lutheran Church**, which was constructed by the early German immigrants at Meeting House Cove. It was a log meeting house that was completed about 1762 on the west side of the Medomak River. It was located on the mainland end, (northwest), at Meeting House Cove on Dutch Neck. It was not till after the peace treaty between France and England had been signed in Paris in 1763 that the scattered population at Broad Bay dared to leave their homes and garrisons to assemble together in their house of God. Indian attacks were still occurring occasionally and were unpredictable.

The dimensions of this meeting house were about 28 feet by 36 feet and built of all local materials of hewn spruce and hemlock logs. The floor was of hewn planks and the roof made of long slabs lined with strips of birch bark to make it weather tight. Pews were crude and hand-hewn benches. It had a raised semi-circular pulpit, and the windows of this church were of sheepskin. A graveyard was established to the east where many of the deceased were buried. (This is not the same location as the **Cornelius and Elizabeth Seiders** cemetery; more on that later.)

This was the worship place of the German Lutherans those who lived in cabins built on the shoreline of Dutch Neck or came over by way of Waterman's ferry from the east side of the Medomak River. Two of these known commuters would have been schoolmaster, **Jacob Ludwig**, and **Rev. John Martin Schaeffer**, as they lived on the east side of the Medomak. Note that at this time the residents on Dutch Neck were living on lots from this meeting house and all the way to the end of the Dutch Neck peninsula at **Havener's Point**. There were no roads here until about 1779 - just a footpath winding from dooryard through to the next dooryard along the shore.

No one was living on what today is called Gross Neck at this time. The church was situated where they could watch members walking from the village direction and toward those at the church.

**Rev. John Martin Shaeffer** assumed the pulpit on that first crowded opening service. It was all spoken in the German language, and he read from the 137th Psalm.

It is thought that an unexplained rift in the community occurred after the native Indians destroyed much of this building in repeated attacks and it was abandoned. At this time the **Castners, Storers, Ludwigs, and Feylers** left Dutch Neck and moved to the east side, **Martin Benner** sold out and moved to South Waldoboro, and an **Achorn** left for Prince Edward Island. These were some of the more educated and business-oriented people. Others, like **Mathias Benner, the Sidelingers, and some Eugleys**, headed westerly into the neighboring town of Nobleboro.

**The second German church**, the **Moravian Mission**, was proposed for security from the marauding Indians and those who preferred the Moravian faith over Lutheran. It was built on Lot # 9 on a shoreline property on the east side of the Medomak River donated by Philip Fogler who, in his youth, practiced the Moravian faith but converted in early adulthood to Lutheran. It was diagonally across and upstream of the Meeting House Cove church which was abandoned at this time.

Some of the builders of the Mission were **David Rominger, Michael Rominger, Georg Hahn, David Holzapfel**, and the blacksmith, **Willibaldus Castner**, assisted by **Philipp Christoph Vogler, and Nicklaus Orff**. The building was 22 feet by 26 feet and was used for church, school, and the personal residence of **George Soelle** from 1762 to mid-September of 1770.

**George Soelle** came here for a brief visit to the Broad Bay community on August 22, 1760, and came back to establish himself here as their Moravian two years later in August of 1762.

On December 12, 1762, Soelle delivered his first sermon in the new meeting house; on December 17th he moved into the house; and on December 20, Soelle started a school here."

Most of the congregation abandoned their Mission in 1769 and relocated to the Moravian settlements of North Carolina and a few to Pennsylvania before the end of 1770.

Note: Some of these Moravians came back to Broad Bay to purchase lots and live out their remaining days.

**The third German church**, the **Reformed Lutheran Church**, was built about 1770 near the shore of the Medomak River on Lot #10, the next lot north of the newly abandoned Moravian Mission. The property was a small, donated portion of the 100-acre lot donated by **Christopher Newbert**. This church was located here

because it was, more or less, more centrally located to the current population center of Broad Bay at this time and also its close proximity of Light's ferry. Also, the younger generation wanted less strictness and restraint in their beliefs. People from the west side of the Medomak River could easily use the newly finished ferry to cross and attend church services. A burial ground was established on the same site.

"The first Town Meeting of the town was held in the first church at Meeting House Cove on September 21, 1773, and the second town meeting at "this, easterly church" on **Castner's** shore on October 19, 1773. Thereafter the town meetings were held alternately in each of the two churches until the new courthouse on **Kinsell's Hill** was displaced around 1788, at "the westerly meeting house" as the scene of such Town Meetings as were held on the west side of the river." (**Stahl**, vol. one, Religious Life, page 341)

The church sat here for over twenty years but was never fully completed. The walls were not plastered, the seats were rough benches, the present pulpit had not been installed and the galleries, (pew boxes), did not form a part of the interior.

Another rift amongst the congregation occurred during this time, **John H. Benner** left and died shortly after. He was buried on Route 220 in the Benner Family Cemetery. Then **Christopher Newbert** and his family sold their property and moved to the Hope-Appleton area, and **John Newbert, the Sidelingers, Manks, and Martin Benner** moved to northern Waldoboro, **Sides** went to Nobleboro and Bristol, **Michael Newbert, John Christopher Walleazer, along with Mank, Demuth, Fogler, and Weller**, all went to East Waldoboro-Goshen area.

**The fourth German church** is the **German Protestant Church**, as we know it today. It was built on the west side of the Medomak River using the pieces of the former German Lutheran Church from the east side. In the fall and winter of 1795, the Lutheran Church on the east side of the Medomak River was dismantled, taken to the river's edge, and carried or dragged on the frozen river ice to almost one mile upstream, then taken up the very steep bank on the west side of the Medomak River, and reassembled to become the German Protest Church that it is today. It was fitted with enclosed pews, a raised pulpit in the front, glass in the windows, and a stove for heat. Many of the graves and gravestones from the former location, (but not all), were exhumed and reburied in the newly formed German cemetery.

A few years after the completion and incorporation of the German Protestant Church on the west side, (where it sits today), many families of the congregation left around 1820 to join up with the village's Congregational, First Parish Church, **Eugley, Castner, Feyler, Warner, Smouse, Demuth, Hahn, Levensaler, Walter, Schenck, Prock, and Comery**.

Eventually, there came into being nine organized churches in Waldoboro. Though there was never a Catholic church building, a small group of Catholics in modern day Waldoboro gathered for a time in the village at the church on Friendship Street. Sadly, that church was disbanded due to a dwindling congregation and increasing operating and maintenance costs and the building was sold about a year ago.

*Submitted by Mark Benner*



**September 4**



**1<sup>st</sup> Day of Autumn Sept 23**

