

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

Fall 2003

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/

Annual Meeting & Reunion

The annual business meeting and reunion were held this year on August 2nd at the Broad Bay Congregational Church on Main Street in Waldoboro with a cemetery tour and church service at the Old German Church on the 3rd. Thirty members and guests attended the festive weekend. Helping to make the weekend a great success were Esther Dawson and Cathy Orne who manned the kitchen detail; many thanks to both of them. Attendees also enjoyed an excellent German dinner at the Pine View Restaurant in Damariscotta. Francys Sherwood Davis spoke on the Martin Sidelinger passport. The original was passed down to her and is in fragile condition. More information on this document will be told in the next issue of the newsletter.

Treasurer Bill Conary submitted his report for fiscal year 2002-2003: income was \$1,126.00, expenditures totaled \$927.48, the balance on hand as of 1 August was \$1,207.28. The election of officers was held with the following results: Randall Gross, president, Prentiss Alexander, vice president, Joyce B. Brown, secretary, and William R. Conary, treasurer.

Also at the business meeting, \$20 was donated to cover the cost of mailing the newsletter to libraries who were missing copies. Two members pledged funds (one for \$100 and one for \$200) to help pay for a plaque commemorating the early settlers who died that first winter, 1748-1749. More work is still to be done to bring this project to fruition. It was voted to donate \$50 to the Broad Bay Congregational Church in gratitude for the use of their facility.

Members also decided to send a copy of the membership list (sans phone numbers) to the entire membership. It was also decided to place a master set of the newsletter at the Waldoboro library and to write a letter to Will Whittaker regarding the old Bund & Blatt copyright.

Thanks go to Randy Bairnsfather of Winchester, MA, who donated a copy of the booklet *Customs and Practices of the Moravian Church* by Adelaide L. Fries (pub. 1973) to the Waldoboro Historical Society. The society has an excellent collection of books and papers on pioneer Waldoboro and area families. All OBBFHA members are urged to join and support the Waldoborough Historical Society [P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572].

A highlight of the weekend was a tour of the Mathias Benner homestead in Nobleboro. One of the oldest houses in Nobleboro (built about 1794), it remained in the Benner family until the late 20th century and is currently owned by Mark and Liz Ferrero who kindly welcomed us into their home.

Below is a reprint of an article handed out to those touring the house written by George F. Dow about 1975 and two shorter articles about other Benner properties. Mr. Dow's sources included Mrs. Ida Jackson Benner, widow of Otis Benner, Sr, who was a great-great-grandson of Mathias Benner.

The Old Mathias Benner Homestead in Eastern Nobleboro

by George F. Dow [written in 1975]

This is one of the oldest houses in Nobleboro. It was purchased by Mathias Benner in 1794 from Stephen Smith along with 300 acres of land. Mathias and his wife, Mary Catherine Waltz Benner were reported to have had 13 children, eleven of whom were listed in his will which was probated in 1813. He had previously resided in Waldoboro, at least from 1785 to 1794, before coming to Nobleboro. In the house can be seen the large hand hewed beams, wall paneling in the kitchen, and corner posts in rooms to support beams.

The homestead is located just west of the Nobleboro-Waldoboro town line, on the "old county road" which turns off from Rt. 1 to go southeast towards Waldoboro. Across the road, a little further eastward from the house, is the old Benner cemetery, GR-30, near which Mathias is reported to be buried by an old cherry tree. This was where the "old timers" and Indians were reported to have been buries in early days. Another Benner cemetery, GR-29, is located north of Rt. 1, just northeast of the current Katherine Henny home, where Daniel A. Benner (a grandson of Mathias) formerly lived.

The location of the Mathias Benner house is shown on the 1857 map of Lincoln County, under the name of "J. & W. Benner." "J" is for James who acquired the house from his father Mathias and "W" is for William M., a son of James, who also lived here all his life with his family.

Clarissa Seiders Benner, widow of William M., deeded the old homestead in 1910 to her son, Henry Edward Benner, who was a great grandson of Mathias. Henry and his family moved back to the homestead in 1911. (Previously, Henry had lived in the house on Rt. 1 by the Vannah Rd. His children were all from there.)

Obviously the house was rather fully used. Mathias had 13 children (11 living when he died); James had four children; William M. had seven children; and Henry Edward had nine of whom four survived.

After Henry Edward died in 1928 his widow, Emma A. Sprowl Benner, continued to live here with her son, Otis Benner, Sr. who operated the farm. Also in 1924, Otis, Sr. had married Ida Jackson, and they lived on the place until 1930 during which time two of their children were born. Otis, Sr. was a hard worker and an early riser. He would get up as early as 4:00 A.M. to mow grass with the team while it was still cool and more comfortable for the horses. Otis' mother stated that his new wife Ida was no more successful than his mother in getting him to leave his work to eat meals at a regular time!

In 1930, Henry D. Benner assumed responsibility for his widowed mother's care and his brothers and sisters signed off their rights in the old homestead. At this time, Otis, Sr. (brother of Henry D.) moved his family to nearby Waldoboro. But Otis, Sr. received for his previous care of his parents about 10 acres of land in Waldoboro purchased by James Benner (son of old Mathias) in 1823 from Timothy Hall for a sheep pasture. Otis also received the ell of the old Benner homestead containing a portion of the old living room, pantry, summer kitchen and woodshed, a finished bedroom and an upstairs attic. These facilities were moved across the Waldoboro town line by Otis, Sr. and formed a part of the house occupied by him and now by his widow, Ida Jackson Benner and her son Robert and family.

The old Mathias Benner homestead is now owned by Mrs. Linda Creamer Benner, widow of Henry D. Benner, the third son of Henry Edward. The original house still stands although some further changes were made. Henry D. renovated a bedroom and a piazza was added to the house. Mrs. Linda Benner has the Plan of Survey by John Martin in 1794 for the equal division of 700 acres of land between David Genthner and Mathias Benner.

The twelve known children of Mathias, all lived and died in Nobleboro or nearby Waldoboro. Most of them had large families and numerous kinships. Several sons were very active in the First Baptist Church of Nobleboro and were frequently listed as the homes visited by the Rev. Phineas Pillsbury as reported in his diaries. Son James served briefly in the War of 1812. Both were in the State Militia. Ida Benner has the bounty and pension applications for James' services.

Nearby Benner homes, as shown on the 1857 map of Lincoln County, were those of Joshua Benner (son of Mathias) who lived in the last house in Nobleboro on the south side of Rt. 1 before coming to the Waldoboro town line, and Daniel A. Benner who inherited the bulk of his father's estate (John Benner, another son of Mathias) and whose house was on the north side of Rt. 1 before coming to the Waldoboro town line. The former house is now utilized by Mrs. Laura Hall and Mr. Carl Sims as a summer antique business and is known as the "Old Haunted House." The latter house is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Katherine Henny.

The Old Benner Saw Mill, Eastern Nobleboro

by George F. Dow [written in 1975]

The deed to Mathias Benner when he purchased his house and farm from Joshua and Stephen Smith in 1794 included the acquisition of "one undivided fifth part of a saw mill." This saw mill was shared with neighbors Hall and Genthner and widows. This mill was located on the Benner brook which is shown on the 1857 map of Lincoln County as flowing southerly across Rt. 1. It is presumed the mill was located on this brook close by Rt. 1.

In 1868 Joshua Benner, a son of Mathias, gave a lease on this mill property to Henry Hall and William Benner. This William was the son of James and grandson of Mathias who lived on the old Mathias Benner homestead with his father. This lease stated that the mill privilege was on Benner Mill Stream where Joshua Benner and others had a shingle mill which had burned down that year. [Information for this article came from Mrs. Ida Jackson Benner who has a copy of the lease.]

The Old Joshua Benner Homestead in Eastern Nobleboro

by George F. Dow [written in 1975]

Joshua Benner and his wife, Olive Moody, raised a family of ten or eleven children in this house which is now know as the "Old Haunted House." This name was used as a gimmick to help promote a summer antique business now operated by Carl Sims and Mrs. Laura Hall. The location of the house is shown on the 1857 map of Lincoln County under the name "Josh. Benner." This was the last house on the south side of Rt. 1 before coming to the Waldoboro town line (currently it is the next to last house.)

Joshua Benner lived to the age of 92, from 1791 to 1883 and in 1883 was the oldest man living in Nobleboro. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Nobleboro and was often visited

by the Rev. Phineas Pillsbury as reported in the Pillsbury diaries.

Joshua also had ownership of the Benner sawmill which operated on the nearby mill stream. His father, Mathias Benner, had previously purchased a one-fifth interest in this mill from Stephen Smith in 1794. Joshua leased this mill property to Henry Hall and William Benner. The lease for the mill privilege was for 25 years at \$6.00 a year beginning in 1868. This lease is in the possession of Mrs. Ida Benner and stated that his privilege on Benner Mill Stream was where Joshua Benner and others had a shingle mill which had burned down that year.

Land for the Methodist Camp Meeting on the north side of Rt. 1 adjoining the Glendon Railroad Station was provided by Joshua and his nephew, Daniel A. Benner. Joshua's land was the eastern part of the camp meeting property and was leased on August 12, 1873 by Joshua and James for a right of way across their land for entrance to the Camp Ground at a cost of \$12 to be paid yearly and included use of water from the spring and mill brook.

Waldoborough Historical Society and Waldoboro Library

Two resources to put on your list of places to visit when you are next in Waldoboro are the Waldoborough Historical Society and the Waldoboro Public Library. Both have excellent collections of material on Waldoboro and Lincoln County.

You may contact the Waldoborough Historical Society at P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572. Annual membership dues for the society are as follows: individual \$5, family \$10, donor \$15, patron \$25, sustaining patron \$50, and benefactor \$75. Included in their collection is a 3-ring binder with a copy of the births, deaths, and marriages as copied from the Waldoboro Town Reports. Many thanks to Bill & Effie Conary and Joyce Ball Brown for producing this valuable resource.

The Waldoboro Public Library is located at 908 Main Street; their mailing address is PO Box 768, Waldoboro, ME 04572. The library is on-line at <http://www.waldoborolibrary.org>.

Information Exchange (queries, lines being researched, newly found data & connections)

Ulmer, Richards, Farrand: Cheryl Patten (1161 East Pond Road, Smithfield, ME 04978-9514) is working to verify the line of her great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Ulmer Richards (wife of H. H. Farrand). Cheryl thinks Elizabeth's line of ascent is: Eliza Ulmer, Mathias Remely Ulmer, Capt. John Ulmer, Johannes Ulmer, Georg Ulmer.

Vannah/Werner/Warner, Bowman: Judith Rhodes (521 East Grove, Rantoul, IL 61866; jbowrho@mchsi.com) is working on her late husband's Vannah/Werner/Warner line which goes through James (b 1806) the son of John Henricj of Old Broad Bay. James (wife Mary) had a daughter Eliza J. (b 9 Dec 1829) who married John Bowman in Washington, ME, 13 June 1847. Judith's husband was Minot Bowman.

Burckhardt, Winchenbach, Benner, Keyser, Feiler, Fahs: Raymond K. Lovell (7 Riverside Drive, C203, Exeter, NH 03833) is researching his line of descent from Johann H. Burckhardt and Catherine E. Winchenbach. His line includes Mary "Molly" Benner (daughter of Jost Henrich Benner &

Margareta Keyser), and Christopher Feiler (son of Gottfried Feiler and Regina Fahs). Raymond has parental lines for most of these people.

Waldo, Whipple: Nancy Gavin has discovered she and her sister are third cousins seven times removed from Lucy Wainwright, wife of Sam Waldo through their 9-great-grandfather, Matthew Whipple who was also Lucy's 2-great-grandfather.

Achorn, Sherman: New members Peggy Murray and father Dr. William L. MacVane, Jr, are researching the line of Dr. MacVane's grandfather, Alden Achorn, son of Isaac Achorn and Sarah Rebecca Sherman. Peggy may be reached at 69 Allen Ave. Ext, Falmouth, ME 04105 or at pmurray@maine.rr.com.

Waldoboro petition: Ann Flwelling (118 Brunswick Ave., Gardiner, ME 04345) wants to know if any Germans signed the petition for the charter for the town to be incorporated as Waldoboro. The Massachusetts Archives has a copy of the 29 June 1773 document.

Newbert, Pillsbury, Rokes, Sidensparker, Simmons, Roden, Watson: Sue Donovan (30066 Marr, Gibraltar, MI 48173) is researching her line of descent from John Newbert (son of Zacharias) which is as follows: Elizabeth "Betsy" Newbert m. Isaac Rokes, Daniel Rokes m. Adeline Pillsbury, Phineas Rokes m. Mary Sidensparker, Beatrice Rokes m. Charles Simmons, George D. Simmons m. Gertrude Roden, Priscilla Simmons m. George Watson.

Tinges: Pat Tinges (10310 E. 2100 North Rd., Pontiac, IL 61764; bptinges@route24.net) is interested in hearing from anyone with the surname Tinges.

Winslow, Benner, Kennedy, Butler: Edith Winslow Bourne (PO Box 1594, Tarboro, NC 27886) is researching her father's family. Willis Stone Winslow was the son of Willis "Willie" Winslow and Nettie Benner (daughter of James and Mary Ludwig). Willis' senior was married first to Annie S. Kennedy who died young. Ms. Bourne is also interested in identifying Cassie (surname not mentioned) who married Sam Butler and lived in Waldoboro. Was Cassie Willis & Annie's daughter?

Wichenbach, Kaler, Studley, Wallace, Schwartz: Joyce Higgins (730 Kennedy Ave., Duncanville, TX 75116; mike.joyce@sbcglobal.net) is researching her ancestral lines which include Robert Wichenbach (b. 1811) and wife Henrietta Kaler (b 1827), Oliver J. Studley (b 1850) and wife Addie Wallace (b 1872), and John Studley (b 1770) and wife Molly Schwartz. She is particularly eager to hear from those with information on the Studley family.

Schwartz, Black, Taylor: Patricia DeCiccio (822 W. Bonnie Brae Ct, Ontario, CA 91762-1503; deciccio3@netzero.net) is seeking the parentage of Catherine Schwartz (aka Catherine Black) b 25 February 1789 in Waldoboro, m. John S. Taylor 3 March 1808 in Waldoboro. Headstone in Linneus, ME gives death date of 4 April 1879, age 90 yrs.

Luce, Carlton, Ford: Andru Carr (Box 471, Edgartown, MA 02539; feb7@capecod.net) is researching his great-grandfather, Captain William Henry Luce who was noted in his obituary as being the Collector of Customs for the Waldoboro District starting in January 1891. He was born 1 October 1839 and married Eliza Ulna Carlton of Rockport in Warren 1 January 1865. He died 6 December 1894 and is buried in the Achorn Cemetery. Mr. Carr is also tracing William and Eliza's daughter Harriet C. Luce and son William Andrew Luce and his wife Olive Chandler Ford.

Vannah Bible

Joyce Brown has a photocopy of the Vannah family Bible from Betsey Vannah Carr. A copy is also available at the Maine State Library. While many of the Bible records are in English, much is in German. Anyone who can read old German script and who is willing to help translate and transcribe this Bible should contact Joyce (206 East Neck Road, Nobleboro, ME 04555-2915). Also, this photocopy is missing one page; anyone who could help persuade the State Library to let us have a copy of the missing page should also contact Joyce.

Shuman Bible

Joyce Brown has a photocopy of the family record pages from the Bible of Jacob Shuman, published in New York in 1814. The writing is very light. The transcription below was done by Helen Shaw.

Inside cover page: Jacob Shuman Waldoboro Maine

First page, col. 1

Jacob Shuman was born, -----

Mary M. Shuman was born, Apr. 30th 1781

Jacob Shuman and Mary M. Shuman was Married June, 21,st 1806

First page, col. 2:

Children's Births

Isaac Shuman was born Monday Oct. 26,th 1807

Voloman Shuman born, Sunday, July, 30,th 1809

Louisa Shuman born, Thursday, June 15,th 1811

Mary Ann Shuman born, Monday, June 14,th 1813

David Shuman born, Thursday, March 14,th 1816

Julian Shuman born, Sept. 21,st 1818

Second page:

Children's Births

Elsy Shuman born, March 8,th 1821

Samuel D. Shuman born, Sept. 11,th 1824

Sarah R. Shuman born Monday May 17th 1830

Third page, col. 1:

Children's Deaths

Isaac Shuman Died, May 1810

Elsy L. Shuman Died Oct. 24,th 1842

[there is another line of letters and numbers, but they make no sense]

Third page, col. 2:

David Shuman Died July 18, 1897 at 9-15 AM.

Mink - Newbert Bible

Joyce Brown has a photocopy of a transcription of the family record page(s) of a Bible that in 1983 was in the possession of Kenneth Mank of Gardiner, ME. The following information was recorded in the Bible:

William A. Mink, b. March 22, 1823

Nancy C. Mink, b. Feb. 28, 1825

Hesekiah J. Mink, b. Apr. 27, 1827

Otis F. Mink, d. Nov 30, 1848

Hesekiah J. Mink, d. April – 1894

Warren T. Mink, d. May 25, 1901

Warren T. Mink, b. Dec. 4, 1829
John E. Mink, b. March 2, 1832
Lorenzo C. Mink, b. May 21, 1834
Alanson R. Mink, b. Nov. 6, 1838
Otis F. Mink, b. June 14, 1841
Lucy A. Mink, b. Nov. 22, 1843
Arthur T. Mink, b. July 8, 1846
Roscoe O. Mink, b. June 7, 1851

Wm. A. Mink, d. Oct. 23, 1827?
Marcus R. Mink, d. April 30, 1842

Henry Mink and Eliza Newbert, m. July
25, 1822

Lonrenzo C. Mink, d. Sept. 1, 1902
Nancy Mink Winslow, d. Dec. 25, 1895
Henry Mank, d. Apr. 30, 1885
Eliza Mank, d. Jan. 10, 1889
Arthur T. Mank, d. Nov. 8, 1921
Wife of Lorenzo, Lucy S. Mink, d. Jan. 1, 1922
Millard T. Mank, son of Leavritt and Sadie
Burrows Mank, b. Dec. 28, 1895, d. Apr. 22,
1965

Henry Mink, b. April 30, 1799
Elisa Newbert, b. August 25, 1802

Maine Families in 1790

Waldoboro is sadly under-represented in the series *Maine Families in 1790*. If you have not yet submitted your ancestors, please consider doing so in the coming year. Information needed for each household includes:

- (1) 1790 census information; page & column number; number of people in the household; name of the town & county of residence
- (2) head of household: full name; date & place of birth; parents' names; date & place of death; marriage date & place; name of spouse
- (3) spouse(s) of head of household: date & place of birth; parents' names; date & place of death
- (4) biographical data: may include information such as occupation, probate records, land records, places of residence, civil and/or military service
- (5) children (list in birth order), for each give: date & place of birth; date & place of death; date & place of marriage; name of spouse; spouse's date & place of birth; spouse's parents; spouse's date & place of death
- (6) your name and address

The source for each piece of information needs to be cited. You may cite contemporary records or a published record. In the latter case, give author, title, date of publication, and page number. Send your material to: Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor, *Maine Families in 1790*, 5337 Del Roy Drive, Dallas, Texas 75229. [Additional information on this project will appear in the next newsletter.]

New Editor

Helen A. Shaw has volunteered to edit the newsletter. Helen is a professional genealogist specializing in census records and US military history. Her newsletter experience comes from editing and publishing a bi-monthly newsletter for a community organization in Chicago. Her husband William "Bill" Chapman is a descendant of Martin Sidelinger and Martin Heyer.

The plan for the newsletter is to return to quarterly publication in 2004. If you have material of interest to members, new data about your Waldoboro family, or a query you wish to post, please send or e-mail the item(s) to Helen Shaw at: 77 Pascal Avenue, Rockport, ME 04856; hashaw@earthlink.net. Please do not send dues checks or other membership items.

Membership

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the German families who settled what is now Waldoboro, Maine in the mid-1700s.

If you are already a member, thank you for your support. We would ask that you please pass a photocopy of the membership form below on to others you know who have connections to Old Broad Bay or to Lincoln County.

If you are not a member, please photocopy the membership form and join us. (Italicized portion for research facilities only.)

Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.): We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out the form except for "Name" and the list of ancestors, but including the italicized portion.

Dues for both individuals/families and research facilities is \$10 a year. Mail application to O.B.B.F.H.A., P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Spouse/significant other: _____

Your Broad Bay Ancestors _____

Name of research facility _____

Contact person _____ *Title* _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Are you interested in obtaining back issues of the newsletter? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, you will be contacted for further information.