

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

New Series Volume 1 No. 4 – Fall 2004

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ – Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

Report of the annual meeting and reunion

The annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association was held Saturday, July 31, with about 75 people attending. Before and after the business meeting attendees spent their time researching their families in Randy Gross' extensive collection of books, documents, and notes. Many attendees brought family material they had collected to share with others and the photocopy machine was kept humming all day. Unfortunately the dinner planned for Morse's Sauerkraut did not occur due to some mis-communications, but several association members did go to the restaurant for lunch. Several new association members joined Randy Gross and Fred & Marjorie Snell for a tour of the Benner and Achorn cemeteries Sunday morning.

During the business meeting a lively discussion ensued over the need for a constitution and by-laws. The editor, Helen Shaw, presented a draft of such documents and a motion was passed to set up a committee to look into the matter and to present a formal proposal to the membership at the next annual meeting. Apparently a constitution and by-laws had been written many years ago, but had never been formally adopted or distributed to the membership. Renee Sieders was able to go to her home and pull a copy of these documents from her files and bring them to the afternoon session.

Randy Gross briefly told of his latest work on the Waltz funeral home records for 1925-1940. Randy photocopied these records and bound them then presented a copy to the Waldoboro town office, the library, and the historical society. A motion was passed to have the association reimburse Randy for his expenses. The original records of this important Waldoboro company are now Waldoboro Historical Society.

Richard Castner informed the members that discussions with the local utility company have resulted in permission for the association to erect a monument to the seventeen original settlers who died the winter of 1753 on the company's property near the Main Street bridge over the Medomak River. This location is very near the site of the original burial ground for the settlers which is believed to be under Route 32. [A map of the proposed location is on page 7.] Talk was of having a large boulder with a commemorative plaque. A motion was passed to appoint a committee to coordinate this effort and to decide what should be on the plaque. Input from the members would be appreciated and should be sent to the association postoffice box.

Following the election of officers, incoming president Richard Castner, presented Randy Gross with a certificate of appreciation for his long service to the association.

An overview of the reunion crowd.



Richard Castner (left) presents Randy Gross with a certificate of appreciation.



New officers and directors elected

The final action for the business meeting was the election of officers and directors. While a motion was made from the floor to nominate Randy Gross for another term as president, it was determined after much discussion that he was in-eligible under both the original or the newly proposed constitution and by-laws as he had already served two terms at that post. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the other officer positions. A motion was passed to elect the slate of officers and directors as published in the summer issue of the newsletter.

One director, Marjorie Freeman, was listed on the slate in the summer issue of the newsletter. Bill Conary (past treasurer) had submitted his name in writing for a director's position. Joyce Bell Brown, Arlene Stetson, and Renee Seiders were nominated from the floor. Since there were only three openings for directors, it was decided to include all five nominees in a vote. The names of the five were posted on the chalk board and slips of paper were distributed to the members to vote. Three association members not involved in the election or currently holding an office were chosen to tabulate the ballots.

Officers and directors for the next three years are:

President: Richard Castner

Vice-president: Rob Clark

Treasurer: Jan Rickermann

Secretary: Helen Shaw

Directors: Bill Conary, Marjorie Freeman, Renee Seiders.

Thank you

Thank yous are due to Esther Dawson and Arlene Stetson who once again did a wonderful job setting up the morning refreshments and cleaning up the area after the event.

Randy Gross handled local arrangements with the Extension Service and brought a tremendous number of books, family files, and other research material for members to use.

Old German Church service

The annual service at the Old German Church was held on Sunday, August 1, with about fifty attendees and twenty choir members. The English liturgist was the Reverend Margaret Payne, Bishop of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. [photo below] This is the first time a bishop has participated in the service. The German liturgist was the Reverend Michael Murphy, pastor of the West Waldoboro Community Church. The English sermon was presented by the Reverend William Luger, retired pastor of the Water of Life Lutheran Church in Newcastle. Reverend Murphy presented the sermon in German. The German lector was Ruth Cleaves, a member of the Water for Life Church. Following the Trinity Sunday service, an all German communion service was celebrated.

The choir was composed of choir members from the West Waldoboro Community Church and the Water of Life Church as well as one lady who came all the way from Nebraska to sing at the service. Unfortunately the scheduled organist did not arrive so a plea was made to the congregation for someone who could play the pump organ and Jay Peterson of Jacksonville, Florida came to the rescue.

Refreshments were provided outside under the shady trees by the Ladies Auxiliary of the German Protestant Society. The only sad note of the day was the injury of one lady who tried to open a window and cut her hand. She was assisted to the local fire station where the EMT on duty determined that stitches were required.



Surname and Lineage Index

Pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter are a form for collecting information on OBBFHA members' research interests. Similar forms have been distributed in the past, but many have been lost and the contact information is long out of date. Please feel free to photocopy the form. Only association members may submit forms. When a significant number of forms are returned, a surname list will be published in the newsletter and will be updated as necessary.

Maine Genealogical Society

Would OBBFHA members who are also members of the Maine Genealogical Society please identify themselves (and their MGS membership number) to Richard Castner by sending a letter to him in care of the association or by e-mailing him directly at richercastner@netscape.net. The association can be recognized as an affiliate of the Maine Genealogical Society if at least ten members of OBBFHA are also members of MGS.

New England Regional Genealogical Conference, April 2005

The Eighth New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held March 31 to April 3, 2005 at the Holiday Inn By-the-Bay Hotel and Convention Center in Portland, Maine. Featured speakers will be Elizabeth Shown Mills and Tony Burroughs; both will also speak at evening banquets and will host small lunches. Other lunch hosts will be Marcia Melnyk, Walter Hickey, Cyndi Howells, Craig Scott, Maureen Taylor, and Dick Eastman.

Conference registrations are now being accepted. For more information, go on-line to www.NERGC.org or call 609-924-9742. An online conference E-zine is also available by sending a message to john@konvalinka.com, placing "NERGC" on the subject line and "subscribe" in the body of the message.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel by calling 207-775-2311 or toll free 1-800-345-5070. Be sure to mention the NERGC in order to get the special rate of \$114.00 plus tax per night.

A New Book About Waldoboro

The Waldoborough Historical Society has just published *Merchant of the Medomak* by Mark W. Briscoe. According to Mr. Briscoe, this book "contains a series of essays written for the Lincoln County News, along with over 150 contemporary photographs, maps, and other visual evidence of the late 19th century when Waldoboro - and Maine - were on top of the maritime world."

Merchant of the Medomak may be purchased for \$35 (including postage) by writing to Mr. Briscoe at 622 West Main Street, Waldoboro 04572; checks should be made out to the Waldoborough Historical Society. If the book is picked up in person, the cost is \$31.50. It will be available at the Maine Coast Book Store in Damariscotta later this year for \$31.50 plus tax.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association
Surname & Lineage Submission Form

The purpose of this form is to collect information which will allow association members to network with others who are working on the same family lines. The first part asks for the surnames you are researching or are interested in; these may be Old Broad Bay families or not. The second part asks for an outline of your Old Broad Bay family line(s) so people can tell how closely they are related to you. When a significant number of forms are returned, a surname list will be published in the newsletter and will be updated as necessary. The lineages will be published as they arrive and as space allows in the newsletter. **Please print in dark ink or type all information.** You may make copies of this form. Please return the completed form(s) to: Sandy Stratton, The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

Submitter's name: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____ Date form was submitted: _____

Surnames

Old Broad Bay surnames: _____

Other surnames; please provide geographic location and a range of dates:

Old Broad Bay lineages

Please give the full name of each person and any nickname the person may have used. If a woman's maiden name is not know, write –?– after her given name. Also please provide the year of birth and death for all persons where known, for example (b 1790, d 1864). Use question marks where you do not know a year, for example (b ??, d 1798). **Do not provide birth information for anyone who is still living.**

Please highlight, circle, or otherwise mark the person through which the line ascends. If you have more than one line of ascent, use the columns on the back of this form to record all lines, indicating with numbers or some other mark which names go with which line.

Your parents: _____

Grandparents: _____

Great-grandparents: _____

2-Great-grandparents: _____

3-Great-grandparents: _____

4-Great grandparents: _____

5-Great-grandparents: _____

6-Great-grandparents: _____

7-Great grandparents: _____

8-Great-grandparents: _____

9-Great-grandparents: _____

10-Great grandparents: _____

Additional Lines; please use number or a symbol (*, #, etc) to link these to a name above:

A Letter from president Richard Castner

Little did I think when I founded this organization, back in 1992, that I'd be back on deck after the turn of the millenium! So thanx are due to all those who've done yeoman work to make a success of our efforts.....in particular to Randy Gross, who has invested immense amounts of time to keep things going in recent years.

Thanx also to all those dedicated people who attended the 13th annual meeting this past July and so helped to effect a smooth transition to a new slate of officers.

My wife monitors my movements as a good spouse should; in doing so she frequently reminds me that in my professorial way I tend to be pedantic, ponderous and pontifical. So here is my promise to try not to be that way within these pages. Rather, please permit me to share with you a few of the ideas that hopefully will become realities during the months ahead.

*Let's each of us who answer to a surname which appears in the 1790 census make a real effort to compile our family history. Your association stands ready to assist you in preparing your materials for publication.

*We have begun a project which seeks to identify and mark the oldest extant buildings in Waldoboro. See the Lincoln County News of 30 September 2004 for our initial attempt in that direction.

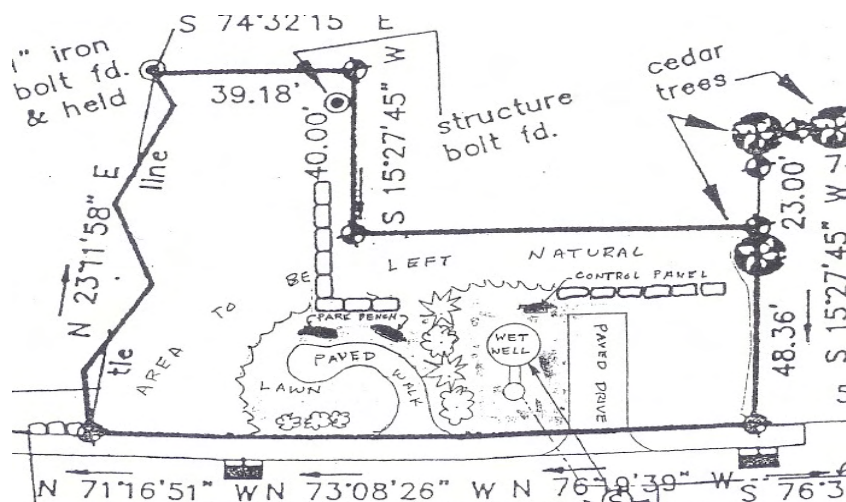
*Another project already under way involves creating a pocket park by the Medomak River which will feature a monument dedicated to the 17 martyrs who died during that first dreadful winter of 1753/54. [see map below]

*In connection with that, Sandy Stratton has courageously volunteered to go through such of the early records as still exist in an attempt to identify as many of these pioneers as possible.

*And there are a number of other ideas in the planning stages. Please share your hopes and ideas - after all, the OBBFHA is your organization; it can only be successful if you participate!

.....selah, rlc

Map of proposed location for memorial to the settlers who died the winter of 1753. Main Street is at the bottom with the Medomak River to the left.



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. Checks should be made out to the Old Broad Bay Family History Association. Mail application & check 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.