

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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

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PL 601 (vital records access) update

A bill to amend Public Law 601 was submitted to the Revisor's Office shortly before Christmas by Representative Deborah Sanderson (R, Chelsea). Several state senators and representatives are aware of the proposed amendments and have voiced support. Once the Revisor's Office has prepared the formal bill, Rep. Sanderson will gather co-sponsors for the bill.

The amendment bill was written by Helen Shaw, CG, with the assistance of Pam Eagleson, CG, and Jan Meisels Allen. Helen is vice president of the Maine Genealogical Society; Pam is New England regional director of the Association of Professional Genealogists; Jan is chair of the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and is based in California.

When the Hessians Came to Maine During the American Revolution, Part 2

continued from the Fall 2010 newsletter

by Anette Ruppel Rodrigues

In April of 1783, talk of an end to the war and even through private letters Captain Cleve received from Broad Bay, prompted Major General von Riedesel to write to Captain Cleve to put the word out to deserters and paroled prisoners of war, that they would receive amnesty if they turned themselves in to Captain Cleve. From Cleve's letters we know that it was no secret in the area that there were German troops stationed at Fort George. He wrote about several former prisoners of war who came to him because they wanted to return to their units when the troops returned home. Heinrich Andreas Suthoff, who had worked for a Mr. Corlow in Kennebeck (near Machias) came to Captain Cleve. Suthoff had been captured on October 7, 1777 and placed on a prison ship. He thought of joining the American Army in order to go to the Royal army during a battle. But when he heard that the Americans hang anyone who did so, he instead hired himself out. Corlow's son, a sawmill owner, lived only eight miles away from Fort George and told Suthoff that German troops

were stationed there. Christian Elias Messing came to Cleve with his American wife; he had worked in Townsend not far from Falmouth for three years. And Jacob Schumacher, who had served with the 74th English Regiment for more than three years, came with his wife and two children.

Broad Bay and surrounding towns were specifically mentioned as places to send the amnesty fliers. Heinrich Suthoff, who knew the deserters at Broad Bay, strongly discouraged Capt. Cleve from posting the fliers there. He referred to the deserters as “scoundrels, who would return to Fort George in order to entice many others to desert with them.”

When Capt. Cleve and the new commander of the Ansbach-Bayreuth troops, Lieutenant Busch, were told that Fort George was to be evacuated and turned over to the Americans, Cleve gave official discharge papers to some of his soldiers.

Two examples:

“Musketeers Rosenhahn and Bogg have incurred suspicion of having broken into Lieutenant von Arnschild’s quarters. I am willing to take the two scoundrels’ on board, but shall send them back ashore as soon as possible and leave them to their fate. These are both young fellows, one a painter, the other a tailor; they can take care of themselves.” (Written April 24, 1783)

“A few days before embarkation, I have still seen myself compelled to chase from the detachment with a passport a bad scoundrel and a very wicked arguer by the name of Hummelmann, after having him run the gauntlet 12 times.” (written July 17, 1783)

Cleve could not discharge as many as he wanted to, it can therefore be assumed that some deserted at the last moment. [The names of those soldiers were included in the list published in the summer newsletter, vol. 7 #3.]

What may have become of the “Hessian” soldiers who stayed behind? They may have lead very productive lives. I mentioned Dr. Theobald who became a prominent citizen of Dresden, Maine. In the book *History of the Town of Union* John Sibley wrote for example about Heinrich Isense and Andreas Suchefort as having worked in the forest together and from their movements alone either should have known the other to be a Hessian. [16]

The Waldhornist, musician Conrad Edel, an Ansbach-Bayreuth soldier who was listed as missing after May 1, 1783, most likely is the same Conrad Edel who in 1793 sold land, according to Jasper Stahl. We can imagine what an achievement owning land would be, knowing he may never have been able to own land if he had stayed in Germany.

The Jäger Blasius Welt who was also listed as missing on May 1, 1783 from the Ansbach-Bayreuth roll most likely is the same as the Pleosus Welt in Jasper Stahl’s book. Welt appears again in the 1790 census as the head of a large family in Waldoboro.

The Brunswick Carl Ludwig Schilling had deserted on Oct. 26, 1782 and married Hanna Blagdon in Woolwich, Maine. (Supposedly jumped of the ship and swam ashore - hidden by the Blagdon family and fed through the floorboards.)

The Brunswick soldiers, Hyronimus Ritter and Carl Dupenack received their release from military service on July 14, 1783, just before the ships sailed to Germany. Ritter and Dupenack joined the Penobscot Association of Loyalists and moved to Canada with them. They were granted lots in St.

Stephen and St. Andrews. So if we want to find the so-called Hessians who originally had connections to Maine, we have to search not only in our state, but have to consider looking for them in the loyalist settlements of what later became New Brunswick.

Perhaps the reason we do not know much about the soldiers who stayed may have to do with what was written in a small Schoppe family publication about their "Hessian" ancestor: "Hessians were German soldiers hired of petty German princes by Great Britain.to come to America and butcher her children." [17] It can be assumed that some just couldn't deal with that label and did not let anyone know how they came here.

References:

[16] *History of the Town of Union* by John Langdon Sibley, 1851, p. 449.

[17] *The Schoppe Family Genealogy 1782-1932*, by Mary Coffin Schoppe, Feb. 22, 1932.

Publication by OBBFHA member

Overlock-Petersen History: A Union of the Daring Danes and the Gutsy Germans by Isabelle Overlock Hallam, published 06/01/2010; 192 pages. Includes introduction and appendices, a chapter on each generation set in historical background, many photos (most in color), and several pages on Waldoboro.

Starts with the original Overlock settler, John Godfrey Overlock, and his wife, Maria Susanna Benner, who arrived in Waldoboro 1752. Son John Joseph, children from two wives, follows son Godfrey to Jefferson and Stockton Springs, ME, and down in direct line to the author.

Sources furnished on request. Surnames appear on the web site. Available to download (\$30) from the web site www.Overlock-Petersen.com.

Search for photo album

A query has come in from Cheryl Lang regarding a family photo album she and her daughter brought to the OBBFHA reunion about five years ago. Photos in the album were, for the most part not labeled. One photo was of a young woman with hair to the floor. The album cover was maroon velvet and the book was falling apart. Mrs. Lang left the album with people at the reunion in hopes someone could identify the people in it. She never heard anything more about the album and would like to have it back. If you know where the album is, please contact the Association via the PO Box or editor Helen Shaw at obbeditor@earthlink.net.

Trip to Germany?

By David Putnam

At our last annual meeting one of our members suggested that we explore the possibility of sponsoring a trip to Germany. Ms. Anette Ruppel Rodriguez, a native of Germany and a faculty member at the University of Maine, has stated that she may be available to act as a guide. I would

like to hear from members who might be interested in such a trip. I would also like to hear some suggestions as to the appropriate length of the trip and possible destinations within Germany. I would think that our group would like to visit the areas where their ancestors emigrated from, but I am certainly open to other ideas. Please contact me with your thoughts and suggestions: David Putnam, 17 Bush Hill Rd, Ipswich, MA 01938, or at DPutnam925@msn.com.

Query: Pracht, Prock, Stimson, Wagner

Edward Kelley is seeking any information about the Pracht, Prock and Wagner Families. He is also looking for information regarding Susanna Catharina Wagner who married a Charles Stimson sometime before 1791. Mr. Kelley can be reached at ek387@hotmail.com.

Every name index to vol. 7 (new series) 2010 OBBFHA Newsletter

The following index includes cross-references between the maiden name and married name for women when both are known. Names transcribed from original documents are spelled as they appeared in those documents.

-?- , Philip....#1pp3-4	Brown, Carrie A....see Sidelinger, Carrie A. (Brown)
Acorn, Charles....#1pp5-6	Brunswick/Braunschweig, Duke of....#4p4
Acorn, George....#1pp5-6	Bryant, Agatha....see Winslow, Agatha (Bryant)
Acorn, Jac?....#1pp5-6	Bryant, Deborah (Barstow)....#3p5
Acorn, Jacob....#1pp5-6	Bryant, John....#3p5
Acorn, John....#1pp5-6	Buckley, Katherine....see Gibson, Katherine (Buckley)
Ahrend, Johann Friedrich....#3p3	Burgoyne, General....#4p5
Allen, Jan Meisels....#2p5	Burkit, John....#1pp3-4
Alstine, -?-....#1pp3-4	Busch, Lt....#3p3
Ansbach-Bayreuth, Margrave of....#4p4	Campbell, Colin....#4p8
Ashner, Rosemary....#2p4	Campbell, John (Brig. General)....#4p7
Bailey, Jacob (Rev)....#4p5	Carlow/Corlow, Mr....#4p5
Baldacci, Governor....#2p7	Carlton, General....#4p6
Barker, Lucy (Williams)....#3p5	Castner, Anthony....#1pp3-4
Barker, Rebecca....see Snow, Rebecca (Barker)	Castner, Frederick....#1pp3-4
Barker, Robert....#3p5	Castner, Geo....#1pp3-4
Barnard, Ezk....#1pp3-4	Castner, Ludwig....#1pp3-4
Barstow, Deborah....see Bryant, Deborah (Barstow)	Chapman, Jeffrey....#1p8
Bartholomaei, Johann....#3p3	Chapman, Sarah....#1pp3-4
Bartlett, Mary (Warren)....#3p5	Church, Elizabeth (Warren)....#3p5
Bartlett, Robert....#3p5	Church, Richard....#3p5
Benner, Charles....#1pp3-4	Clark, John....#1pp5-6
Benner, Jacob....#1pp3-4	Clarke, John Jr....#1pp5-6
Benner, John M....#1pp3-4	Clements, Archibald Anderson....#3p6
Borneheimer, Jacob....#1pp3-4	Clements, Lucinda Andrew....see Sidelinger, Lucinda Andrew (Clements)
Bornehumer, Christian....#1pp5-6	Clements, Margaret (Sullivan)....#3p6
Bornehumer, Jacob....#1pp5-6	Cleve, Urban (Captain)....#3p3, #4pp5-8
Borneman, John G....#1pp3-4	Clouse, George....#1pp5-6
Borneman[n], Johannes Gottfried (John Godfrey) (Dr)....#3p3, #4p5	Cole, Isiah....#1pp3-4
Bramm/Pramm, Johann Baptist....#3p3	Conary, William....#1p1, #2p1, #3p1, #4pp1-2
Brannigan, Senator....#2p7	Cook, John....#3p5
Broadman, Charles....#1pp3-4	Cook, Sarah (Warren)....#3p5
Brooks, Robert....#3p2-3	Cooke, Francis....#3p5
Brown, Benj....#1pp3-4	Creamer, Carlton....#1p8

Creamer, Charles....#1pp5-6
 Creamer, Charles Ju....#1pp5-6
 Creamer, Christopher....#1pp3-4
 Creamer family....#1p8
 Creamer, Frederick....#1pp5-6
 Creamer, Jacob....#1pp3-4
 Creamer, John....#1pp5-6
 Creamer, Peter....#1pp3-6
 Cushman, Jonasa....#1pp5-6
 Dawson, Carroll C....#2p4
 Dawson, Harold E....#2p4
 Dawson, Rebecca (-?-)....#2p4
 Demuth, Martin....#1pp3-4
 Dole, George....#1pp5-6
 Dupenack, Carl....#3p3
 Eagleson, Pam....#2p5, #3p4
 Edler, Johann Conrad....#3p3
 Easley, Michael....#1pp3-4
 Esena/Easinsy, Henry....see Isense, Heinrich
 Eugley, Barnard....#1pp5-6
 Eugley, Daniel....#1pp5-6
 Eugley, John....#1pp5-6
 Ewell, Charles....#1pp3-4
 Farley, ?Joseph?....#1pp3-4
 Farley, Joseph....#1pp3-4
 Faucitt, William (Colonel/General)....#4pp4,7
 Faunce, Priscilla....see Warren, Priscilla (Founce)
 Fielhorer, Widdow....#1pp5-6
 Filer, Charles....#1pp3-4
 Filer, Christopher....#1pp3-4
 Filer, Godfrey....#1pp3-4
 Filer, John....#1pp3-4
 Fish, Samuel....#1pp5-6
 Flanders, Daniel....#1pp5-6
 Flanders, Enoch....#1pp5-6
 Flanders, Ezekial....#1pp5-6
 Freeman, Barnabas....#1pp3-4
 Fricke, Johann Heinrich....#3p3
 Gemmel / Gömmel, Carl....#3p3
 Genthner, Jacob....#1pp5-6
 Genthner, James....#1pp5-6
 Genthner, John....#1pp5-6
 Gibson, Daisey Evelyn (Sidelinger)....#3p6
 Gibson, George Albert I....#3p6
 Gibson, Katherine (Buckley)....#3p6
 Gibson, Thomas Alfred....#3p6
 Görsch/Gorsch, Johann Andreas....#3p3
 Gross, Alice (Hatch)....#2p4
 Gross, Bartram....#1pp3-4
 Gross, Carlton H....#2p4
 Gross, Jacob F....#1pp5-6
 Gross, Juanita M....#2p4
 Gross, Lawrence....#2p4
 Gross, Maxine B....#2p4
 Gross, Percy....#2p4
 Gross, Randall "Randy" Irving....#2p4, #3p1, #4pp1-3
 Gross, Roger P....#2p4
 Groton, William....#1pp5-6
 Gude, Georg....#3p3

Gundling, Daniel....#3p3
 Guth, Friedrich....#3p3
 Hall, Ja's....#1pp5-6
 Hall, Seth....#1pp5-6
 Hartwick, John Christoph....#4p5
 Hatch, Alice....see Gross, Alice (Hatch)
 Head, John....#1pp3-6
 Head, Joshua....#1pp3-6
 Heavner, Charles....#1pp5-6
 Herbst, Adam....#3p3
 Hesse-Cassel, Duke of....#4p4
 Hesse-Hanau, Duke of....#4p4
 Heyer family....#1p8
 Hier, Charles....#1pp3-4
 Hildebrand, Andreas Rudolf....#3p3
 Hoch, George....#1pp5-6
 Hoch, Jacob....#1pp5-6
 Hoch, Michael....#1pp5-6
 Hofses, Anthony....#1pp5-6
 Hohn, Jacob....#1pp3-4
 Hopkins, Geo....#1pp5-6
 Howard, Joshua Ju....#1pp5-6
 Hussiere, June....#4p1
 Hyenne/Hyene, Johann Anton....#3p3
 Isense, Heinrich....#3p3, #4p5
 Jellison, Elana....#4p2
 Judd, Richard....#3p2
 Kalar, Charles....#1pp5-6
 Kalar, George J....#1pp5-6
 Kalar, Jacob....#1pp3-6
 Kalar, John W....#1pp3-4
 Kalar, John....#1pp5-6
 Kalar, Joseph....#1pp3-4
 Kalar, Paul....#1pp5-6
 Kalar, Peter....#1pp5-6
 Kavanaugh, James....#1pp5-6
 Kayser, Johann Wilhelm....#3p2
 Kelley, Shirley A....#2p4
 Kennedy, James....#1pp5-6
 Kennedy, Nathaniel....#1pp5-6
 Kennedy, Thomas....#1pp5-6
 Kennedy, William....#1pp5-6
 Kensel, Frederick....#1pp5-6
 Kensel, John....#1pp5-6
 Khun, George....#1pp3-4
 King George III....#4pp4,6
 Kinsel, Bernhard....#1pp1-2
 Kinsell, Jeff....#1p1
 Krähan, Christian....#3p3
 Kuhn, -?-....#1[[5-6
 Kuhn, George....#1pp3-4
 Lash, Jacob....#1pp5-6
 Lash, John....#1pp5-6
 Leisner, Charles....#4p8
 Leisner, Georg....#4p8
 Lemieux, Don....#3p4
 Light, Geo....#1pp3-4
 Light, John....#1pp5-6
 Light, Peter....#1pp5-6

?Light?, Peter....#1pp5-6
 Little, Ann (Warren)....#3p5
 Little, Henry....#1pp5-6
 Little, Thomas....#3p5
 Lowell-Simison, Julia B....#3p5-6
 Ludwig, Godfrey....#1pp5-6
 Ludwig, Jacob....#1pp3-4
 Ludwig, Jacob Ju....#1pp3-4
 Ludwig, Joseph....#1pp5-6
 Martin, Rebecca....see Meservey, Rebecca (Martin)
 McClean, Archibald (Lt)....#4p7
 McCobb, General....#4p5
 Meservey, Adeline....#3p6
 Meservey, Adeline (Shuman)....#3p5
 Meservey, Alden....#3p6
 Meservey, Caroline....#3p6
 Meservey, Elsie....#3p6
 Meservey, Jane R....#3p6
 Meservey, Jane....#3p6
 Meservey, John....#3p6
 Meservey, Laura A....#3p6
 Meservey, Lorenda B....#3p6
 Meservey, Mary (Ring/Wring)....#3p6
 Meservey, Mary R....see Sidelinger, Mary (Meservey)
 Meservey, Nancy....#3p6
 Meservey, Nathaniel I....#3p6
 Meservey, Nathaniel II....#3p6
 Meservey, Nathaniel III....#3p6
 Meservey, Rebecca (Martin)....#3p6
 Meservey, Ruth (Winslow)....#3p6
 Meservey, Sally....#3p6
 Meservey, Samuel Liscoe....#3p6
 Meservey, Samuel....#3p6
 Meservey, William S....#3p6
 Meservey, William....#3p6
 Miles, Lion G....#3p3
 Miller, Charles....#1pp3-6
 Miller, Faith....see Winslow, Faith (Miller)
 Miller, Frank....#1pp3-4
 Miller, Frank Ju....#1pp3-4
 Miller, George....#1pp3-4
 Miller, Jacob....#1pp3-4
 Minck, Philip....#1pp3-4
 Moody, Levi....#1pp5-6
 Morse, Saml....#1pp3-4
 Müller, Andreas....#3p2
 Müller, Johann Heinrich....#3p2
 Nash, Abel....#1pp5-6
 Nash, Samuel....#1pp5-6
 Nash, Widow....#1pp5-6
 Newbert, Philip....#1pp3-4
 Orff, Frederick....#1pp5-6
 Orff, Henry....#1pp3-4
 Orff, John....#1pp5-6
 Overloch, George....#1pp5-6
 Overlock, Charles....#1pp5-6
 Overlock, Henry....#1pp5-6
 Overlock, Susan or Ruth....see Welt, Susan or Ruth
 (Overlock)
 Perry, Representative....#2p7
 Pramm....see Bramm
 Proch, George....#1pp5-6
 Proch, John....#1pp5-6
 Putnam, David....#1p1, #4p1
 Putnam, Deirdre....#1p1, #3p1, #4pp1-2
 Raye, Senator Kevin....#3p4
 Reed, AR....#1p1
 Reed, Isaac....#1pp3-4
 Reed, Jacob....#1pp5-6
 Reinhard, Carl Friedrich....#3p3
 Rice, David....#1pp3-4
 Ridchefskey, Wilhelm....#3p3
 Ring/Wring, Mary....see Meservey, Mary (Ring/Wring)
 Riopell, Ruth....#3p1, #4p1
 Ritter, Hieronymus....#3p3
 Robbins, Philip....#4p5
 Robinson, -?-....#1pp5-6
 Robinson, Robert....#1pp5-6
 Rode, George....#1p2
 Rodrigues, Anette Ruppel....#1p8, #2p3, #3p2, #4pp2,4
 Schaffer, John Martin....\$3p5
 Scheel, Friedrich....#3p3
 Schenck, Andrew (Captain)....#4p5
 Schilling, Carl Ludwig....#3p2, #4p7
 Schmalenberg/Schmalenberger, Peter....#3p3
 Schwartz, Jacob....#1pp5-6
 Schwartz, Peter....#1pp3-4
 Schwatz, Frederick
 Segeriz, Michael....#3p3
 Shaw, Helen....#2pp5,7, #3pp2,4, #4p3
 Shepard, John....#1pp3-4
 Shuman, Adeline....see Meservey, Adeline (Shuman)
 Shuman, George....#1pp5-6
 Shuman, Jacob....#1pp3-6
 Shuman, John....#1pp3-4
 Shuman, Philip....#1pp3-6
 Sidelinger, Abby A....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Adeline Mary....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Amasa C....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Angeline Susan....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Arvine E....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Carrie A. (Brown)....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Clayton Clement....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Daisey Evelyn....see Gibson, Daisey Evelyn
 (Sidelinger)
 Sidelinger, Daisy Evelyn....#3p5
 Sidelinger, Dorean F....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Edith E....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Elijah C....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Emma E....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Ethel Granville....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Experience (Sweetland/Sweatland)....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Jane A....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Lucinda Andrew (Clements)....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Mary R. (Meservey)....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Martin....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Minnie Viola....#3p6
 Sidelinger, Remley Samuel....#3p6

Siders, Henry...#1pp5-6
 Siders, Jas...#1pp5-6
 Sides, Loren Ju...#1pp3-4
 Sides Loren...#1pp3-4
 Sidlinger, Daniel Ju...#1pp3-4
 Sidlinger, Daniel...#1pp3-4
 Sidlinger, George...#1pp5-6
 Simmons, Alton W, Jr...#2p4
 Simmons, Dorothy...see Winslow, Dorothy (Simmons)
 Simmons, Kenneth...#2p4
 Simmons, Linda (-?-)...#2p4
 Simmons, Mercy (Simmons)...#3p6
 Simmons, Nathaniel...#3p6
 Simons, Zebediah (heirs of)...#1pp3-4
 Smouse, heirs of...#1pp5-6
 Snow, Abiah...#3p5
 Snow, Abigail (Warren)...#3p5
 Snow, Abigail...#3p5
 Snow, Alice...#3p5
 Snow, Anthony...#3p5
 Snow, Bethia...#3p5
 Snow, Deborah...#3p5
 Snow, Josiah...#3p5
 Snow, Lusannah...#3p5
 Snow, Lydia...#3p5
 Snow, Lydia...see Winslow, Lydia (Snow)
 Snow, Mercy...#3p5
 Snow, Rebecca (Barker)...#3p5
 Snow, Rebecca...#3p5
 Snow, Sarah...#3p5
 Sprague, Michael...#1pp5-6
 Sprague, Nathan...#1pp5-6
 Sprague/s, Spooner...#1pp5-6
 Sprague, William...#1pp5-6
 Sproul, Wm...#1pp3-4
 Städtler, E...#3p3
 Stahl, Jasper...#3p3, #4pp5-6
 Steirück/Steinreich, Michael...#3p3
 Stoll, Christian...#1pp3-4
 Stolt, John...#1pp5-6
 Storer, Andrew...#1pp5-6
 Storer, Charles...#1pp5-6
 Storer, Christian...#1pp5-6
 Storer, George...#1p2
 Storer, Henry...#1pp3-4
 Storer, Paul...#1pp5-6
 Storer, Zachariah...#1pp3-4
 Suchfort/Sukeforth, Andreas...#3p3, #4p5
 Sullivan, Margaret...see Clements, Margaret (Sullivan)
 Suthoff, Heinrich Andreas...#4p5
 Sweatland/Sweetland, Experience...see Sidelinger,
 Experience (Sweetland/Sweatland)
 Talheme, Charlotte...#1pp5-6
 Teague, Daniel...#1pp3-4
 Theobald, Ernst Friederich (Frederik) Philip...#3p3
 Theobald, Philip (Dr)...#4p5
 Treu, Johann Carl...#3p3
 Varney, Isaac...#1pp3-4
 von Gall, Colonel...#4p5
 von Massenbach, Julius (2nd Lt)...#4p7
 von Riedesel, Major General...#4p6
 von Wurmb, Ernst Friedrich (Captain)...#4p7
 Wagner (Waegener?), Johann Heinrich...#3p3
 Wagoner, Andrew...#1pp5-6
 Walder, Christian...#1pp3-4
 Walder, Peter...#1pp3-4
 Walder, Peter Ju...#1pp3-4
 Walhs, Charles...#1pp5-6
 Walhs, Christopher...#1pp5-6
 Walhs, Daniel...#1pp5-6
 Walker, Augustus...#3p5
 Walker, Elizabeth...see Warren, Elizabeth (Walker)
 Walker, Robert...#1p2
 Walker, Sarah...see Warren, Sarah (Walker)
 Walter, Johannes (John) Peter...#3p3
 Walter, Johannes Peter...#4p5
 Waltz, Daniel...#1pp5-6
 Waltz, Michael (heirs of)...#1pp5-6
 Warren, Abigail...see Snow, Abigail (Warren)
 Warren, Ann...see Little, Ann (Warren)
 Warren, Elizabeth (Walker)...#3p5
 Warren, Elizabeth...see Church, Elizabeth (Warren)
 Warren, Joseph...#3p5
 Warren, Mary...see Bartlett, Mary (Warren)
 Warren, Nathaniel...#3p5
 Warren, Priscilla (Founce)...#3p5
 Warren, Richard...#3p5
 Warren, Sarah (Walker)...#3p5
 Warren, Sarah...see Cook, Sarah (Warren)
 Washington, General...#4pp5-6
 Watermann, Thomas...#4p5
 Weaver, John...#1pp3-4
 Weaver, Joseph...#1pp3-4
 Wellman, Benjamin...#1pp5-6
 Welt, Charles...#1pp3-4
 Welt, Cyrus...#1p8
 Welt, John...#1pp3-4
 Welt, Mathias...#1pp3-4
 Welt, Susan or Ruth (Overlock)...#1p8
 Welt/Weld, Blasius/Pleosus...#3p3
 Wenning (Venning?), Johann Jacob...#3p3
 Williams, Lucy...see Barker, Lucy (Williams)
 Winchapaw, Godfrey...#1pp5-6
 Winchapaw, Isaac...#1pp5-6
 Winchapaw, Jacob...#1pp5-6
 Winslow, Agatha...#3p5
 Winslow, Agatha (Bryant)...#3p5
 Winslow, Deborah...#3p5
 Winslow, Dorothy...#3p6
 Winslow, Dorothy (Simmons)...#3pp5-6
 Winslow, Edward...#3p5
 Winslow, Ezekial...#1pp5-6
 Winslow, Faith (Miller)...#3p5
 Winslow, Gilbert...#3p5
 Winslow, John II...#3p6
 Winslow, John [I]...#3pp5-6
 Winslow, Joseph...#3p6
 Winslow, Josiah...#3p6

Winslow, Kenelm....#3p5
Winslow, Lydia....#3p5
Winslow, Lydia (Snow)....#3p5
Winslow, Nathaniel I....#3p5
Winslow, Nathaniel II....#3p5
Winslow, Nathaniel III....#3p5
Winslow, Nathaniel Oliver....#3p6
Winslow, Oliver....#3p5
Winslow, Oliver [II]....#3p5
Winslow, Patience....#3p5
Winslow, Rachel....#3p6
Winslow, Ruth....#3pp5-6
Winslow, Ruth....see Meservey, Ruth (Winslow)
Winslow, Sarah....#3p6
Winslow, Snow....#3p5
Winslow, Thankful....#3p5
Wooten, Rebecca....#2p3, #3pp3-4
Wring....see Ring
Wuth, Johann Michael....#3p3

Picture of Old German Church

Mark Benner recently acquired an oil painting of the Old German Church and cemetery, but is unable to determine the identity of the artist. The only clue is the "C. G. '92" in the lower left corner. Mark says the picture was likely framed in Camden and hung temporarily in the gallery of Allen Fernald of Down East Magazine.

The picture is a winter view down the hill with the church in the center background and a large tablet stone and American flag in the foreground. There is snow on the ground and a large set of bare tree branches across the sky in the upper right half of the picture.

If anyone has information about this painting or knows who the artist is, please contact Mark at boatbuilder23@comcast.net.