

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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

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Annual OBBFHA meeting

The annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association was held on Saturday, August 3rd.

Anette Ruppel Rodrigues gave a very informative talk on Fort George in Castine during the Revolution. Many members joined Mark Bisco for a walking tour of historic Waldoboro locations.

Once again we had a wonderful potluck lunch based on brats & sauerkraut from Morse's Sauerkraut. Many thanks to Morse's for giving us a discount on our purchases. The "surname" cake was once again a big hit with folks vying to find their ancestor's name and cut that piece out for themselves.

Election of Officers & Directors

The following slate of officers and directors was elected at the annual meeting. There were no nominations from the floor.

President: David Putnam

Vice president / secretary: Ruth Riopell

Treasurer: Deirdre Putnam

Directors: Helen Shaw, Dale Gunn, June Hussiere

New law protecting ancient burying grounds now in effect

LD 274, *An Act to Preserve and Protect Ancient Burial Grounds and Burial Grounds in Which Veterans Are Buried*, has gone into effect.

This bill separates ancient burying grounds (those established on private property before 1880) from public burying grounds. Under the revised law it is no longer necessary for a veteran to be buried in

an ancient burying ground for the property owner to be required to care for it or for a town to step in and care for it if the property owner does not or can not. Many ancient burying grounds are already cared for by family members or cemetery associations; many towns also care for ancient burying grounds within their borders. The revised law allows the town to appoint a caretaker for an ancient burying ground while maintaining oversight and continuity of care over time.

The revised law also removes the requirement that only the graves of veterans who served in a time of war be cared for in public burying grounds. Again, many towns and organizations already place flags and care for the graves of **all** veterans, not just those who served during a time of war.

Wilford Whitaker re-surfaces

Wilford Whitaker, co-author of *Broad Bay Pioneers*, made a surprise phone call to past-president Helen Shaw in mid-September. Seems his wife wants him to clean out the basement and get rid of the mounds of paper down there. He wondered if OBBFHA was interested in having all the notes, documents, and books used to create the book *Broad Bay Pioneers*. Of course the answer was a resounding yes!

The offer to help pay for the shipment of a reported two filing cabinets and many boxes of paper was waved aside, but is still open for discussion. There are also books, many in German, which will be coming. Nothing has arrived as yet, but the lines of communication are still open. Once material starts to arrive there will most likely be a need to inventory it and determine how best to make it available to researchers. The Waldoboro Library and the Historical Society will be included in the process. Anyone who would like to help should contact Helen Shaw by e-mail of phone [obbeditor@earthlink.net or 207-23602468].

2014 Stahl award

by David Putnam

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association of Waldoboro annually presents the Jasper J. Stahl Award to a deserving individual or group that has contributed to the discovery and preservation of the history and genealogy of Waldoboro. We are happy to announce that this year's recipient is The Ladies Auxiliary of the German Protestant Society. The Ladies Auxiliary is responsible for maintaining the Old German Meeting House in Waldoboro. The Ladies Auxiliary also provides volunteers to maintain visiting hours for the public at the Meeting House, and they annually sponsor a German language religious service on the first Sunday in August. The Old German Meeting House is a classic example of an 18th century Protestant meeting house and is the centerpiece of Waldoboro's historic legacy. On behalf of the entire OBBFHA I would like to congratulate the Ladies Auxiliary and express our admiration and gratitude for their excellent work.

Meeting House Cove Cemetery restoration

by Ruth Riopell

OBBFHA has proudly taken on the project of clearing and restoring the site of the Meeting House Cove church and cemetery (c. 1762) on the Dutch Neck Road in Waldoboro. This area was the home of the second Lutheran German Protestant Church prior to the German church which stands

today. The church was a log cabin with an adjoining cemetery. It is unknown how many graves are there and most stones have either fallen to the ground or were taken many years ago. The two stones of Cornelius Seiders & Elizabeth Leissner Seiders remain, but are in bad shape. We are in the process of getting those repaired and up-righted. Work will continue in the spring and summer with erecting a sign on the site and searching for more stones. Please respect the fact the cemetery is on private property. Photos will be posted on the OBBFHA website in the near future.

Fort George Penobscot 1779 to 1783; A safe haven for Loyalists close and far

by Anette Ruppel Rodrigues [Presented at the OBBFHA annual meeting, August 3, 2013]

After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, Great Britain gained control of Canada and the French Territories east of the Mississippi River. It would appear that with the British being in control of the new territory, as well as Nova Scotia and the thirteen British Colonies, a peaceful life and trade between North America and the mother country could continue, but being asked to help pay for the war debt did not sit well with many colonists. Communication in those days across an ocean took much time and discontent had opportunity to grow. Even after some taxes were removed, the rebellious population was not calmed and called for a break with the crown and total independence.

This presentation does not attempt to be a study on the American Revolution; instead it tries to find out what life was like for a limited number of Loyalists at the outer edge of the American colonies. Not everyone living in the North American colonies in the 1770s felt discontent with royal rule and it was often necessary to leave one's home and move to an area still under the protection of the crown. Fort George, Penobscot became such a safe haven after the crown troops defeated the colonial troops of the Penobscot Expedition in the summer of 1779. I tried to find evidence of how the Loyalists lived between 1779 and 1783.

Military life was intermingled with business and private life on this relatively small outpost on the Penobscot. Looking at Castine today, it is hard to imagine that Penobscot was known internationally and sometimes mentioned in correspondence in the same breath as Halifax, Quebec and New York – all places firmly in British hands. The area between the St. Croix River and the Penobscot was even intended to be established as the royal Province of New Ireland.¹

The question arises – how was Majabigwaduce (or Bagaduce or its many different spellings) at Penobscot Bay be chosen for a British post which became a destination for Loyalists? The region had an excellent supply of ships masts and lumber and it provided a harbor for the protection of Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the suggestion of John Nutting, who owned land at Penobscot, the British military chose Penobscot for the location of the fort by 1779. John Nutting was a very capable carpenter from Cambridge who built barracks for the British military in Boston, in Halifax and also in England before becoming master carpenter of Fort George under engineer Captain Hartcup. In exchange for his excellent services as Overseer of Works, General Campbell granted land to Mrs. Nutting² on the N.E. side of the road leading to Fort George, formerly the property of Joseph Pirkins now in rebellion.²² John Nutting later left again for England hoping to convince the British to establish New Ireland east of the Penobscot. Mrs. Nutting seemed to have made the best of her time at Penobscot as we will discover later.

Aside from John Nutting, Dr. John Calef, another wealthy local landowner originally from the Boston area, was instrumental in enticing the British to set up a military outpost at Penobscot. Dr.

Calef was a medical doctor as well as a religious minister. When the British military arrived at Penobscot he accepted the position of chaplain to the garrison.³

Who were the Loyalists being content living under British rule?

These Loyalist can be placed into 4 different groupings:

1. Those actually living within a short distance of the Fort when the British arrived
 2. Other inhabitants of the Maine District of Massachusetts loyal to the crown (example Waldoboro)
 3. Families fleeing to Penobscot due to fear of rebels – from Falmouth and Fort Pownal.
 4. Families with the British and German military – 74th Highland Reg. and 82nd regiment, and from 1782-1783 Braunschweig and Ansbach-Bayreuth troops.
1. Those actually living within a short distance of the Fort when the British arrived
General McLean had arrived with his troops at Penobscot on June 17, 1779 and shortly thereafter he sent out a proclamation to the public of a general amnesty if they all took an oath of allegiance to the King. About 500 settlers came from the surrounding area and as far away as Union River and Deer Isle. About 100 accepted work building the fort right away even before the American attack at the “Penobscot Expedition.”⁴
 2. Other inhabitants of the Maine District of Massachusetts loyal to the crown (example Waldoboro)
Of those living further away, we know for a fact that in the spring of 1780, “eighteen Dutchman from Broad Bay” were paid for “Work done in getting Lyme Stone and Loading the Brig Molly Transport & Cutting wood.”⁵ The document is dated Fort George, April 24, 1780. It also includes the name and signature of one of the German prisoners of war from the Saratoga surrender, Heinrich Isense.
 3. Families fleeing to Penobscot due to fear of rebels (example Fort Pownal and Falmouth)
Of those fleeing rebel persecution at Fort Pownal, the most prominent were the Goldthwait family. Thomas Goldthwait was commander of Fort Pownal at the mouth of the Penobscot before the rebels burnt it down in 1775. Of those Loyalists fleeing from Falmouth to Penobscot after it was bombarded by the British Captain Mowatt were prominent ship owners and business men like Thomas Oxnard, Jeremiah Pote, his sons-in-law Robert Pagan and Colonel Thomas Wyer. Jeremiah Pote was originally from Marblehead and traded with Penobscot where he eventually owned several mills.⁶
 4. Families with the British and German military – 74th Highland Reg. and 82nd regiment, and from 1782-1783 Braunschweig and Ansbach-Bayreuth troops.
By early 1783 there were 93 women and an unknown number of children with the Scottish regiments. The German Ansbach-Bayreuth regiment had eight women and five children and the Braunschweig regiment had three women.⁷

Finding the information on what everyday life was like for the families at and around the Fort required a great deal of detective work. I hope by adding up the clues I am not coming to a wrong conclusion.

In order to have a well functioning community there needs to be: Legal authority, a school, religious authority, a hospital, employment opportunities, stores, and cultural entertainment.

Legal Authority

The different military officers in charge of Fort George were well aware that their authority was limited in relation to civil authority and hoped that civil authority would soon be established. In the meantime, provisional order was created as a letter of 14 June 1780 between Brigadier General John Campbell and Brigadier General Francis MacLean shows: "Application being made to me by James Collins for a Quantity of Land to settle upon in consideration of his attachment to his Majesty's Government. I hereby agree to give undisturbed Possession to James Collins and his heirs. When civil government takes place he will receive a gracious grant he or they paying rent if any is demanded by government a certain quantity of Land formerly the property of Stover Perkins now in Rebellion..."⁸

Law and order, nevertheless, was upheld as is shown in a remark by the Brunswick officer Captain Henrich Urban Cleve in the letter to his Duke: "In case of big and criminal offenses by my men, which are related to the government here, I always turn to Brig. Gen. Campbell, who is in command here. He ordered the garrison courts-martial in these cases. My officers and I adjudicate the criminals of the 74th Regt. in similar cases in just the same way as those of the other detachments at this post as well as the inhabitants here."⁹

In London, attempts to turn the area east of the Penobscot into the new province of New Ireland were continuing even to a point of naming possible candidates for different positions if the province were indeed to be established: "Its governor was to be Thomas Hutchinson, its chief justice Daniel Leonard, its clerk of the council John Calef, the leading local Tory, and its bishop (for *this* colony was to have a bishop willy-nilly) Dr. Henry Caner, formerly of King's Chapel, Boston"¹⁰

A School

According to a listing of properties in a settlement known by the name of Majorbigwaduce there had been a "School Lot" of 100 acres with date of Settlement 1761 settled by "Inhabitants."¹¹ There was no additional information, no location, no names of teachers – nothing. But in a document of June 10, 1780 there is an interesting note tying Broad Bay and Bagaduce together. George Cly (Cline) and his son had been on a ship captured by Americans. They were interrogated by Joseph Greenleaf, Justice of the peace at Suffolk, who wrote the following: "I have also examined Josef Cly, son of George, a lad of about twelve years of age, who appears to have been a mere passenger, who was going to Bagaduce to be put to School by his father."¹² Could another proof of schooling be found in the ledger for Robert Pagan's store? There is an entry on September 24 1783 which reads: Posted – Jn. Lee, Debtor. 1 Spelling book, 2.6."¹³

Religious Authority

The aforementioned property listing also shows a lot of 200 acres as the "Minister's Lot" settled in 1761 by "Inhabitants." There is absolutely no proof that there was a church in the area as early as 1761, but we know that Dr. John Calef was offered the position of chaplain to the garrison and held divine service for the soldiers as Sergeant William Lawrence wrote in his orderly book written 1779-1780. "Maje Bigueduce, 11th September 1779: To-morrow forenoon at 11 o'clock. Divine service will be performed in the Fort. The General expects the garrison will attend."¹⁴

When the Ansbach-Bayreuth troops arrived in 1782, their field chaplain Georg Christoph Elias Erb was housed with the Braunschweig senior officer Captain Henrich Urban Cleve. We know Erb baptized the children born to the German soldiers' wives and it can be assume he provide protestant church service.

Hospitals

Hospitals were a necessity, and were one of the first buildings in any settlement. Even during the Penobscot Expedition, while the settlement was under siege, the hospital was a safe place. In a letter attributed to Jane, youngest daughter of Colonel Thomas Goldthwait, written from Majabigwaduce Hospital at Headquarters August 20, 1779 to her half-sister Catherine Goldthwait we read the following: "... (on) the 25 July, when it was thought most advisable for us to leave our watery habitation for one more secure on Terra firma but even this (...) had nearly proved fatal to us, although an hospital with flags of truce at all doors, and notwithstanding General McLean had wrote a genteel Card to Gen. Lovell to recommend the hospital as sacred objects on both sides."¹⁵

When the Braunschweig troops arrived in 1782, the British requisitioned a hospital for them immediately since many of them suffered from scurvy. With the troops was Surgeon Hölder, of which Captain Cleve later wrote to his Duke on March 6, 1783: "Brig Gen. Campbell is so satisfied with Hölder and his positive qualities that he treats him with distinction and often invites him to his table. The officers and affluent inhabitants of this place are also Hölder's good and useful friends."¹⁶

Employment opportunities

Employment opportunities seemed to have been available in abundance. Working on building the fort seemed to have been well paid for years. Even when the German troops arrived in 1782 they were employed in the construction of the fort and new barracks. New arrivals after 1779 swelled the local population to over 200 families not including the military, which at the end accounted for 1000 to 1400 soldiers. Men able to build houses always had work. Some women earned money by washing, as Sergeant Lawrence wrote in his Orderly Book on September 11, 1779.

Clothing needed to be sewn. In her letter, Jane Goldthwait worried: "Betsy & I long to know about the fashions for we fancy to ourselves that we look as if we come from Noah's Ark." In the ledger for January 3rd through October 16, 1783 attributed to Robert Pagan's store at Penobscot there are many entries related to yard goods of different type – cotton, muslin, linen, silk, velvet, and to ribbon, also needles and thread.

In the ledger we also find that Mrs. Nutting shops in the store quite often buying great quantities of food – for example: 20½ lbs Mutton, a few days later 10½ lbs. Pork, a few days later 57 lbs. Beef, then 7¼ lbs. Cheese, and often several dozen eggs. Could she have been a well liked hostess, or might she have owned an inn? I have not been able to find the answer.

There is proof that the McPhail family ran the Mess Hall. Their "McPhail Coffeehouse" was located on Green Street. This ledger even mentions that the Wider Davis was able to purchase items in exchange for doing washing.¹⁷

Stores

The settlement seemed to have had several stores, the best documented so far is the store attributed to Robert Pagan at least through most of 1782. It appears just about everything could be bought there – food items, dishes, sewing needs, window panes, candles, wood, powder, gloves – the sky seemed to be the limit. Even chamber pots were sold. The ledger lists as one of his customers on February 12 a man named John Hancock who paid for the balance left in a chamber pot. On May 1st, John Hancock is a customer again and paid for 2 Qt. Rum and 2 lbs.

Tobacco. He was one of the few people who did not post his purchases, but paid for them. This most likely is not the well-known John Hancock, but a member of the Hancock family, which were early settlers in Orland. Many names of customers in the ledger are those of known Loyalists – Mrs. Nutting, Mr. Oxnard, Mr. Goldthwait, and many others. Members of the military are also shopping at the store.

Captain Cleve looked for other less expensive places to shop and wrote to his Duke on March 6, 1783: “About 4 weeks ago, I was very happy to have found the first source where I could buy shoes and leather for soles at a price at least a fourth as expensive and making a very advantageous contract with a shoemaker from Broadbay, which I was officially permitted to do.”¹⁸ But unfortunately the Scots confiscated the material as contraband.

Cultural opportunities

Cultural opportunities may have involved formal or informal parties. The purchase of tea pots and tea, and cups and saucers, as well as glasses makes me think that entertaining guests was done at the settlement. Silk, and velvet cloth most likely was turned into dresses worn at festive events. Jane Goldthwait in her letter referred to impromptu musical entertainment while the family was housed in the hospital: “There are also two Doctors, which keep with us here, good clever Scots gentleman, one blows the German flute very prettily and the other the Clarinet – an exceeding fine instrument, there are 2 fiddles, which two of the officers are practicing, and a third, a Mr. Stewart plays on most divinely, so once in a while we make believe we sing a song, and they compliment us with a clap & upon the whole you see, we can’t but spend some time pleasantly tho we are shockingly crowded for room...”

Summary

There is much that needs to be researched about everyday life at Penobscot. The Pagan ledger of 1782 may hold a key to some of the questions about life at a settlement where the inhabitants thought they found a new home protected by the crown. They most likely did not expect that within a year they have to decide to move again, this time to the St. Croix River or remain in the new United States. Perhaps those who decided to stay may have shared the same uneasy feeling as William Reidhead, one of the Scottish soldiers who married Olive Banks, the daughter of a Loyalist who remained near Bagaduce. Reidhead became a cooper in Penobscot and lived among the “cowardly rascals” for 28 more years.¹⁹

Endnotes:

1. Samuel Francis Batchelder, *Bits of Cambridge History*, (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1930) pg. 312. William Knox in London, had been most interested in creating a province between New England and New Scotland (Nova Scotia) named New Ireland. More information on the scheme and the involvement of John Nutting in Loyalist history is found in the book’s chapter “Adventures of John Nutting,” pgs. 282-349.

2. Information on John Nutting is gathered from the chapter “Adventures of John Nutting” in *Bits of Cambridge History*, by Samuel Francis Batchelder, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1930, pgs. 283-349.

3. James S. Leamon, *Revolution Downeast – The War for American Independence in Maine*, The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, published in cooperation with Maine Historical Society, 1993, pgs. 105, 107.

4. James S. Leamon, *Revolution Downeast*, pg. 107.

5. Document courtesy of Robert C. Brooks, original UK/TNA, AO 3/ 141.

6. Roger P. Nason, Meritorious but distressed individuals (microform).

7. From The Baunschweigers at Penobscot – Correspondence and Reports of Captain Henrich Urban Cleve, transl. Dr. Helga Boie-Doblin, Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, 2001, 2002.
8. Letter from Brig. Gen. Campbell to Brig. Gen. McLean, June 21, 1781, public records Office 12/94/34 AO 13/73 (?) 144750 Kew, Copy in Perkins folder at Castine Historical Society museum.
9. The Braunschweigers at Penobscot, 1782-1783, Correspondence and Reports of Captain Henrich Urban Cleve, Part I – 1782, Translated by Dr. Helga Boie-Doblin, Annotated by Lt. Col. Donald M. Longdahl-Smidt, USAF-Ret. Printed in *Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association*, Vol.6,No.4, 2000, pg.20. Originals of letters are at the Staatsarchiv Wolfenbüttel, Germany.
10. Samuel Francis Batchelder, *Bits of Cambridge History*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1930, pg. 312: “Its governor was to be Thomas Hutchinson, its chief justice Daniel Leonard, its clerk of the council John Calef, the leading local Tory, and its bishop(for *this* colony was to have a bishop willy-nilly) Dr. Henry Caner, formerly of King’s Chapel, Boston.”
11. Copied from the Records in State Department, Boston, by Dr. J.F.Pratt, Chelsea, included in *History of Castine* by George A. Wheeler, M.D.
12. Documentary History of the State of Maine, Vol. XVIII containing the Baxter Collection, Published by the Maine Historical Society, Portland, Lefavor-Tower Company, 1914, pg. 302.
13. Micro film of an account book kept by Loyalist merchant (possibly Robert Pagan) who ran a store in the area 1782. Penobscot Settlement (Castine) Maine. Original ledger at New Brunswick Museum, St. John, N.B, microfilm at Harriet Irving Library UNB, Fredericton.
14. The Bangor Historical Magazine later the Maine Historical Magazine 1885-1894, Maine Genealogical Society Special Publication No. 14. Volumes 4-6, edited by Joseph W. Porter, Picton Press, Camden, Maine, pg. 1124.
15. Letter reprinted in Wilson Museum Bulletin, Fall 1975, Vol. 2 Number 4. Original of letter among the Samuel Adams Papers in the Archives Department of the New York Public Library.
16. From The Baunschweigers at Penobscot – Correspondence and Reports of Captain Henrich Urban Cleve, transl. Dr. Helga Boie-Doblin, Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, 2001, 2002.
17. Robert C. Brooks, *Downeast Ancestry*, page 130.
18. From The Baunschweigers at Penobscot – Correspondence and Reports of Captain Henrich Urban Cleve, transl. Dr. Helga Boie-Doblin, Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, 2001, 2002.
19. Text on an exhibit label for a Castine Historical Society summer exhibit.