

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter



Volume 18 No. 02 Spring 2020 *To Search and to Share*

Post Card - Mailed June 29, 1922 from Waldoboro

Presidential Musings

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Dear Friends, I hope this newsletter finds all of you well. The weather of this past winter has been a tale of two New Englands. The dichotomy of weather within the New England region has been quite remarkable. Southern New England, particularly the coastal region, has enjoyed a very mild winter, while Northern New England has endured a typical winter of snow and cold. I cannot remember a winter when there has been such a contrast within the New England region. Deirdre and I were out walking yesterday and were amazed to see forsythias, daffodils, violets, snowdrops and crocuses blooming everywhere; and it is not yet April! I hope all our friends in northern New England soon enjoy the same blessings.

The plans for the annual meeting of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association of Waldoborough have been finalized. The meeting will be held on August 1st, 2020 at the Knox-Lincoln County Extension, 377 Manktown Road in Waldoboro. As I am sure you all know, this year is the bicentennial of Maine's statehood. Apropos of this historic anniversary, our featured speaker will be **Bernard Fishman, Director of the Maine State Museum** in Augusta. His presentation is entitled, "**The History of Maine in 112 Objects.**" We are also encouraging everyone who attends the meeting to bring along an artifact, family heirloom or picture to share with the group. As usual, snacks, beverages, lunch and desserts will be served. There will also be time after lunch for conversation and the exchange of genealogical information. A donation of five dollars will be accepted at the door. After the meeting has ended, Jean Lawrence will also open the Museum at the Waldoboro Historical Society for a private showing for our members.

The German Lutheran Society and Ladies Auxiliary will host their annual church service at the **Old German Meeting House** in Waldoboro on Sunday, August 2nd, at 3:00 PM. The service will be followed by a reception under the trees. This church service, held in the meeting house built by our ancestors as a place central to their religious and civic life, has long been a favorite of our members and an integral part of their visit to

Waldoboro. If you are attending our annual meeting please consider visiting the meeting house and, if you wish, attend the service.

The **Board of Directors of the OBBFHA** will hold its annual meeting on June 20th, 2020 in the conference room of the **Waldoboro Public Library**. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM. After the meeting Deirdre and I will be hosting an OBBFHA informational table at the Waldoboro Historical Society Museum. June 20th is also Waldoboro Day, the annual town celebration of its past, present and future. If you are in the area, please stop by and visit with us. My thanks to the library and historical society for allowing us to use their facilities.

Cold Case Squad DNA Investigation Update: I received quite a bit of feedback about my column in the Winter 2020 edition of the newsletter. Briefly, I explained that a Y-DNA test revealed that I had no discernable Putnam Family Y-DNA. I wasn't terribly surprised because after years of research I was skeptical about my Putnam roots. My Y-DNA results came back to the Rice Family that emigrated to Massachusetts in 1638. I was fortunate to find a very strong match with an elderly gentleman of the Rice Family. The match suggested that we shared a common ancestor within the last 2-3 generations. His grandfather came from Hopkinton MA, which is the town where my great grandmother was born and brought up. An interesting coincidence, to say the least. I also communicated with a woman whom I shared a strong autosomal DNA match. She was descended from the sister of the aforementioned Rice grandfather from Hopkinton. My grandfather Putnam always listed his birthplace as Lynn, MA. However, I was never able to find a record of his birth and I now suspect he was born elsewhere and was fathered by one of the Rice males who were contemporaries of my great grandmother. After 25 years of trying to break down this brick wall in my genealogy, I finally feel as if I am making some progress. I have gone over the whole generation of Rice males who were contemporaries of my great grandmother in hopes of finding a connection. So far, I have had no luck. I don't know if I will ever be able to pinpoint which Rice male is my great grandfather, but the list of suspects is getting smaller. I will keep you all advised of my progress. If you have any suggestions about how I should proceed, please forward them to me via email at dputnam925@msn.com.

Research Tip: I would like to call your attention to the resources offered on the website for the **Maine Maritime Museum** in Bath, ME. The museum's website offers several databases that may be helpful to your family research, particularly if your Waldoboro ancestors were involved in the maritime professions. The **Merchant Mariners Muster** is a database of information on mariners/sailors, primarily those involved in the maritime trade. This database is a work in progress and is being compiled from original documents and manuscripts in the museum's collection. The museum's website also offers access to their manuscript collection, as well as their collection of maritime paintings. The museum's website is mainemaritimemuseum.org

In closing, I think I can speak for all of us in saying that the Corona Crisis has hit us like a bolt out of the blue. Let us all hope that this is a brief crisis that will abate as quickly as it came upon us. I would like to wish all of you some serenity in these troubled times. As a nation we will come through this crisis as we have so many others. Remember to keep calm and carry on, this too shall pass. My warmest regards to all of you!

Keep on searching and sharing!



MEMBERSHIP DUES TEMPORARY ADDRESS CHANGE: Please note that the address has changed to send in dues – Deirdre Putnam 55 Linebrook Rd. Apt. 1, Ipswich, MA 01938

MAINE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1820 STATE SEAL SIGN COMMEMORATION

Lincoln County News

The Trustees of the Waldoborough Historical Society are pleased to announce that we have been designated to receive funding from the Maine 200 Bicentennial Commission for a sign to commemorate the 1820 State Seal Visual gift of Bertha Smouse. The Society will oversee the creation of the sign and its erection on the Reed Mansion site. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Derby, owners of the mansion site, have kindly given permission for the sign to be placed at the foot of the stairs facing Jefferson Street. Plans are to dedicate it on Waldoboro Day. The grant application was written by Jean Lawrence with assistance from Waldoboro Town Planner Max Johnstone, David Putnam and others. The memorial sign is funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

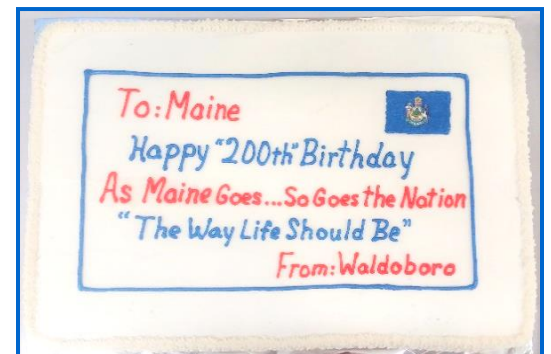
Bertha Smouse was seventeen years old and living in the Reed Mansion when she created the needlework visual from the list of suggestions brought to her by her stepfather Col. Isaac Reed, a member of the Constitutional Committee on the creation of a seal for the new state. The seal has been used on State documents for 200 years, and while at the time Bertha received little or no credit for her work, it has stood the test of time and has been on the Maine Flag for 109 years.

The Society would like to thank the Waldoboro Public Library, Friends of the Library, and staff for hosting the Bertha Smouse program on Saturday, March 14. We appreciate the cooperation of the Soule Shuman VFW Post members and their leader John Blodgett for the efforts that they gave to make the Bicentennial Supper a success that evening. Thanks also go to Dan Beck and Moody's Diner for the containers of coleslaw and to all the cooks who baked the beans and made the casseroles. We appreciate the two cakes that Karen Davis created for dessert.

For those of you who have Facebook, you may check the Waldoborough Historical Society site to see the copy that Bill Maxwell filmed and posted.

Don't let anyone say that Waldoboro did not celebrate the Bicentennial of our State! We certainly did!

Jean Lawrence, President W.H.S.



Cakes by Karen Davis



Masthead: Paragon Button Factory in August 2019.

Until the late 1980s, a button factory, housed in a historic mill in Waldoboro, was owned and operated by S.N.S. Plastics. The factory was one of a series of companies that manufactured buttons in the mill. In an earlier incarnation of the factory, the Paragon Button Corp. produced buttons made from shells. Paragon began making buttons of plastic in the late 1950's when that material was just becoming widely available and shells were becoming difficult to get. Before it produced button's, it was a whaling factory and then a shoe factory.

Error correction: The Winter edition of the newsletter was incorrectly numbered and dated. The correct date is NS V 18 No 01 Winter 2020

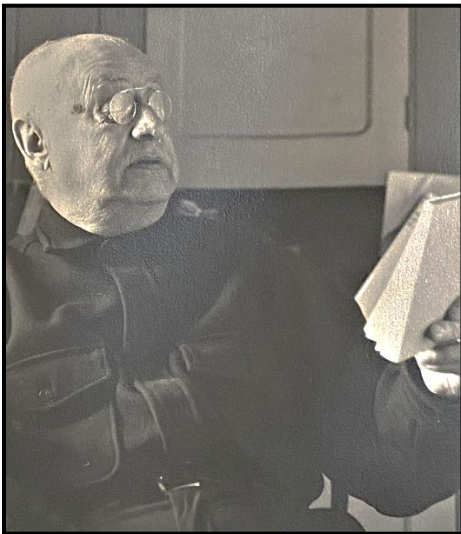
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“Jabez, Isaiah, and Jasper”

Jean M. B. Lawrence

In 1781, Jabez Cole migrated to Waldoboro from Massachusetts and purchased from land speculator Anthony Thomas the old David Rominger broad farm (1742-1769) which Rominger sold when he moved his family to North Carolina with other Moravians. Cole's eldest son had already married and purchased 72 acres in East Waldoboro bordering Vogler Pond, which today is called Sidensparker Pond. Jabez' youngest son Isaiah, who had served with George Washington from 1775-1780 and had spent the winter at Valley Forge with Conrad Heyer and other Waldoboro sons, returned from the war to his father's farm. In 1782, Jabez deeded, for 80 pounds, land from his own acreage plus the northern half of his pasture and an adjoining woodlot. It was here that Isaiah built his home, the house which has stood on the same site for close to 225 years.

While Jabez slowly sold off more and more of his land after taking care to provide for his daughters Abigail and Ruth, the farm that Isaiah created was not changed until years later when it was divided into three parts. The northern part was purchased by the Fred Scott Estate as it bordered their blueberry fields. The middle part with the house was purchased in 1931 by **Jasper Stahl**, and the southern part which ran from Friendship Road down to the Medomak River was purchased by Ralph Hoffses.



Stahl retired to the old Isaiah Cole Homestead on Friendship Road in 1947, after his career which first began in education, moved to military service and ended in education when he served as Director of Studies at the The Hill in Pottstown, PA. His two volumes of *Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* were written in his retirement while he served as a trustee of the Waldoboro Public Library and president of an early Waldoborough Historical Society which he created to support his 1953 publication and then disbanded. Over the years, many of us in the OBBFHA have turned to Stahl's definitive history for background on Waldoboro and its past, and all who study the history of our town revere the work and the man who worked on his project for close to twenty years.

This month Jasper's property has changed hands, and, in the process, the Waldoborough Historical Society's museum has received gifts; a Stahl Bible, two of Jasper's pipes and a sign. (see photo) We look forward to exhibiting these gifts, along with some delightful photos and Stahl family artifacts, in our Richard Wallace Barn display. Please plan to come by to visit; it's free.

(These lines are a slice of what will become a longer article by the same title. Sources: *Maine Gazetteer*; *Stahl's Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*; "Maine Family Connections"; W.H. Society archives.)

OBBFHA Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: www.obbfha.org

Editorial comments & queries to pmkriso@gmail.com

Visit the OBBFHA Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wasdoboromaineancestors>



May 10



One Hundred & Eighty-Two Years Ago

Tracie Gross Ott

Thursday Morning, April 12, 1838

As the years sail by my bounty of *free* websites continue to grow as does my knowledge from reading the historical newspapers found in the database *Chronicling America (1798-1963)* (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>).

These newspapers supply a wide variety of information about our ancestors thus, giving a broader picture of their lives, such as: their occupations, military service, organizational memberships, church affiliations, friends, family, neighbors, period-specific health cures, types of clothing, modes of transportation, and much more.

Knowing that I planned to write an article relating to our Old Broad Bay ancestors, I started searching and browsing Maine newspapers and decided on the year 1838 after I read an original poem, *The Seaman's Soliloquy*, revealing the author's innermost thoughts.

The 1840 U.S. Federal Census began asking about types of employment within the household. Many of my family and their respective neighbors are included in the category *Navigation of the Ocean*: Gross, Mink, Simmons, Kaler, Stahl, Wallace, Storer, Winchenpaw; seamen whose thoughts might have been like this unknown author's. See the 1850 census for each person's occupation.

Related notifications printed in the weekly newspaper, Lincoln Telegraph (Bath):

MARINE LIST, JUN 14, 1838, VOL. III, NO. 11.

Arrived Port of Boston: [date] 7th, sch [schooner] Proxy, Hatch [owner] of Waldoboro, [port] N. Orleans.

Arrivals, Clearances, &c.: Ar at Mobile 31st sch Waldoboro, Small, Thomaston; Ar at N. York, Benjamin, Jameson, Waldoboro.

MARINE LIST, JUL 5, 1838, VOL. III, NO. 14.

Arrivals, Clearances, &c.: Edgartown...Sailed sch Vesper, Waldoboro'; In port [N. Orleans], Waldoboro', Small for N. York.

MARINE LIST, OCT 4, 1838, VOL. III, NO. 27.

Spoken: 19th lat 35 42 lon, sch Waldoboro', 4 days from Thomaston for Mobile.

MARINE LIST, OCT 25, 1838, VOL. III, NO. 30.

Arrivals, Clearances, &c.: Ar at Sydney 6th, brig Richmond for Waldoboro.

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ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Telegraph.

THE SEAMAN'S SOLILOQUY.

'Tis midnight—at meridian height,
The Cross upright appears—
And distant planets roll around
Their course of lengthened years.
Unnumbered lights beam brightly forth
In the clear vault above—
Formed, placed, and still controlled by Him
Whose dearest name is Love.

The sea is dashing round our prow—
Its billows gaily dance,
Borne by the favoring gale, to meet
"The full moon's earliest glance."
As her soft radiance gently falls,
The waters brightly gleam,
As if a shower of pearls were thrown
Around—so fair they seem.

Each object lovelier is than when
In Sol's bright beams it lay—
"The night brings light and beauty forth,
We cannot see by day."
The southern skies and southern lands
Have beauties rich and rare—
But to my heart my woodland home
Is far more dear and fair.

For years I've wandered far and wide—
And sea and land roved o'er—
But yet no sight creates such joy
As my native rock-bound shore.
And all abodes of human kind,
The peasants quiet cot—
Or monarch's stately palace—fair
As my own home are not.

The low-roofed cottage, decked with vines—
The spreading elm's cool shade—
Beneath whose boughs, at summer eve,
We jointly knelt and prayed—
My mother's dark calm eye, and brow,
On which the raven hair
Was smoothly parted—her sweet voice—
What tones of love dwelt there :—

My sisters' notes of mirth and glee,
Echoing the woods among,
The joyous laughter, wild and free—
The sad or merry song ;—
Those tones are ringing in my ear—
Those scenes before my eye,
In nature's own bright hues appear—
O could I mount on high,
Upon the eagle's pinions borne
Swift thro' the yielding air,
Homeward would I direct my flight,
Home's calm delights to share !
Ah ! why did my ambition urge
To tempt the faithless wave ?
Why did I seek for other joys
Than quiet home scenes gave ?

'Mid the wild roaring of the waves
"Glad voices mingling come,"
And the wild wind seems like the air
Of my own forest home.
O mother ! could I kneel once more
With thee, beside *his* tomb.
Whose love flung beams of sunshine o'er
Earth's scenes of darkest gloom,
Whose fond paternal care first taught
My infant heart to pray,
And gather sweets from every flower
Strown o'er life's chequered way !

'Mid the wild roaring of the waves
"Glad voices mingling come,"
And the wild wind seems like the air
Of my own forest home.
O mother ! could I kneel once more
With thee, beside *his* tomb.
Whose love flung beams of sunshine o'er
Earth's scenes of darkest gloom,
Whose fond paternal care first taught
My infant heart to pray,
And gather sweets from every flower
Strown o'er life's chequered way !
My father's tomb ! fair be the flowers
That deck that holy spot !
The love of him that dwells within
Can never be forgot.

Time swiftly flies—"Midnight is past,
The Cross begins to bend"
Another, to direct our barque,
Will soon assistance lend.
I to my hammock shall retire—
O may I in my dreams
Behold those much-loved scenes arrayed
In fancy's brightest beams !
There is a bliss in dreams, unknown
To those who never roam—
Sweet to the *home-sick wanderer*
Is fancy's view of home. H.

Lincoln Telegraph. (Bath, Me.) 1836-1846.

Image 2. Image provided by Maine State Library.
(<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014358/1838-04-12/ed-1/seq-2/>).



Articles below were printed in *The Portland Daily Press* (Me., 1862-1921, Thursday AM) and found while searching and browsing the historic newspaper database. All images provided by Maine State Library. (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>).

January 06, 1893, Page 2.

November 03, 1892, Page 1.

She Is a Beauty.

WALDOBORO, November 2.—There was launched today from the yard of A. R. Reed & Co., a beautifully modelled three masted schooner, the Madalene Cooney, of New York, of a net tonnage of 750. She is owned by the builders, A. R. Reed, George L. Welt, George W. Caldwell, Stephen G. Hart and Willard Wade of Waldoboro; E. G. Lane of Wiscasset; Thomas W. Hyde of Bath; William Gardner Reed of Boston; Charles T. Geyer of New York; and Capt. Willard Wade of Waldoboro, who will command her.

Shipbuilding and Commerce.
[Special to the Press.]

ROCKLAND, January 5.—The Rockland Opinion of tomorrow will contain the complete report of the Waldoboro customs district for the year 1892. From the list of 15 vessels built within its limits the following are the chief: Schooner James A. Simpson, built at St. George by Washburn Brothers, hailing port New York, tonnage 250; schooner Ida C. Southard, built at Waldoboro by A. R. Reed & Co., hailing port New York, tonnage 878; schooner Madeliene Cooney, built at Waldoboro by A. R. Reed & Co., hailing port New York, tonnage 751. The summary shows 10 sloops, four schooners and one steamer, aggregating a tonnage of nearly 2000. There are now on the stocks two vessels at Rockland and one at Thomaston, a fishing sloop at Cushing and another at Friendship. During the past year there were in the district 785 foreign arrivals and 780 foreign clearances. The importation of foreign commodities was as follows: Firewood, 57,755 cords, valued at \$90,124; staves to the value of \$5657, salt to the value of \$4723; eggs, 977 dozen, to the value of \$118; total value of imports, \$100, 622; exports, \$685.72.

(<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn8301602/5/1892-11-03/ed-1/seq-1/>).

According to the “A Maritime History of Bath, Maine and the Kennebec River Region, Volume 2, p. 685” Willard and Millard Wade were identical twins who “used to cause confusion in marine circles” (books.google.com) accessed: 4-5-20.

Due to copyright laws, I’ll direct you to an article posted online in the *Waldoboro Wonderings*, Nov. 19, 2017 by Mark Biscoe, which shows a photo of the schooner, Madalene Cooney and a brief story of her name sake, a direct descendant of Andrew Schenck of Old Broad Bay. This article lists Millard Wade as the skipper.

(<https://lcme.com/opinion/columns/waldoboro-wanderings-10/>).

(<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn8301602/5/1893-01-06/ed-1/seq-2/>).

I’m hoping this article will inspire you to search and browse this historic newspaper database and discover more about the numerous free offerings of the Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>).

Happy Fishing!



June 21



May 25

Sorting Out Men of the Same Name

by Helen A. Shaw

Errors in *Broad Bay Pioneers* illustrate the need to carefully sort out men of the same name, especially when they live in the same or adjacent towns. When sorting out men with the same name, one needs to be aware of the traditional way to distinguish such men in local records.

To increase the confusion, the researcher must also determine what happened when one of the men died.

Did the designations shift, or did they remain the same?

How did the designations shift when youths of the same name were coming of age at a time when the older men were dying off?

To overcome these problems, or at least to lessen them, it is helpful to:

Prepare a timeline showing each man:

- When he was born,
- When he reached the age of majority,
- When he died.

The eldest man was usually designated as senior or his name simply stood alone.

The next down in age, no matter his relationship (if any) to senior was designated junior or second, while the next younger man was designated third and so on.

The year he came of age is important because it points to when a man could reasonably be expected to start buying property and appearing in deed books.

A young man might also be expected to buy property (or receive it as a gift from his father or father-in-law) around the time of his marriage so that date should be added to the timeline.

In Maine, the age of majority during the 17th - late 20th centuries were 21 for both men and women. Young men often began to appear in the censuses as a head of household when they reached their majority or married.

Previously printed: OBBFHA NS Vol. 4 No. 2 Spring 2007. (sites.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/publications.html).

The Road Machine



Before the advent of hard-surfaced roads, the town's highways were kept in shape by use of the "road machine" under direction of a "Road Commissioner" elected at the annual town meeting. Usually three commissioners were elected, each to oversee a certain area.

The road machine was a large heavy piece of machinery, drawn by several pairs of horses. It was equipped with movable scrapers at the bottom which were connected to a large double wheel on the top. The operator stood behind this wheel and, while the teams drew the machine slowly along the road, adjusted the scraper blades as necessary to smooth off the deep ruts left after the spring mud had dried up.

This photo was taken in front of Walter's Mill, North Waldoboro. Workmen shown in front are leading Dennis O. Stahl's horses, W. Everett Shuman. George Burns with a second pair, and Harry Benner, driver of the third pair "on the pole." Operating the machine is Ralph Stahl. Standing nearby, spade in hand, is Edwin L. Miller, Sr., for many seasons' commissioner in the North District. The south end of the mill can be seen at right, with a huge pile of slab wood and a neatly stacked row of barrel staves. The old bridge is visible in the rear.



Old Broad Bay Family History Association

To Search and To Share

Membership Application or Renewal

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in discovering and preserving the genealogy and history of the founding families of Broad Bay, now known as Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine. The Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter is available either by email or USPS mail.

Please attach a list of your Broad Bay Ancestors or write on the back of this form.

New Member

Renewal

Date _____

The membership year is July 1 to June 30.

Choose One	Type of Membership	Voting Rights	Cost per year
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A library membership is solely for allowing distribution of the newsletter to research facilities and confers no right to vote.

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Second person in the household
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