

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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Dues overdue

With the new format of everyone paying dues at the same time, you will find a renewal form on page 8 of this newsletter. However, while you are encouraged to join (or renew) you must have paid your dues before 30 June in order to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting and reunion.

To keep costs down, we need to distribute as many newsletters as possible via e-mail. It costs about \$1 for printing, envelope, label, and postage for each hard copy newsletter. Thus dues for members receiving the newsletter by e-mail will remain at \$10; dues for those wanting a hard copy newsletter will rise to \$15.

Date change: annual reunion and meeting

by Richard Castner

The annual meeting will take place on **Sunday, August 6**, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Meenahga Grange Hall on West Main Street in Waldoboro. This is a location we have used in past years. The **registration fee will be \$20.00 per person**, which will cover the cost of our speaker, Marlene Groves, and will include a casual lunch of seasonal goodies. This amount **must be received at P.O. Box 1242 no later than Monday, July 24th**, so that adequate food items can be purchased. There will be no admissions taken at the door.

The change from Saturday to Sunday is in response to numerous requests by members wishing to attend the Maine Lobster Festival in Rockland on Saturday. Note further that the meeting will adjourn no later than 2:30 p.m. to allow folks to attend the **annual service at the Old German Church on Route 32, which begins at 3:00 p.m.**

The agenda for the meeting will be more or less as follows:

09:00-10.30 social time and data swap...coffee and tea available

10.30-11.30 business meeting

11.30-12.00 election (see separate notice below)

12.00-01.00 catered lunch on the premises

01.00-02.00 MARLENE GROVES, Certified Genealogist, will speak on how to prepare field and research notes for publication. Ms. Groves is employed as a genealogical specialist by the Picton Press in Rockport. We are privileged to have her expertise available to us.

02.00-02.30 question period and wrap up, followed by adjournment

Gruss aus Richard Castner

In the old days, when the grand tour was still the way to go, 'twas the custom to send postcards to the folks back home in America. Invariably, the obverse would say, "Gruss aus..." that is,

Greetings from... the town concerned. So it seems to me that the use of the phrase here is much more appropriate than a ponderous 'presidential proclamation" or some such. I hope you will agree.

IN RE: ELECTION

We need a willing worker to fill an existing vacancy on the Board of Directors. If you would like to have yourself considered for this onerous and unpaid job, please prepare a one or two paragraph note explaining the goals you would like OBBFHA to pursue during your tenure. Sign the note and obtain the endorsement of at least one current member. This document and its two signatures will constitute your application, which can be submitted at the meeting, anytime prior to 11.30. You will be allotted a few minutes to present your platform to the assembled multitude, as will any other candidates. The presentations to be followed immediately by balloting and congratulations / commiserations all around.

YOU'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE, BUT IT BEARS REPEATING!

We've yet to have a really good response to our requirement that every member should have on file at least a four (preferably a five) generation chart with you the member as number one thereon. We will have blank charts available for you to use as work sheets if you do not bring a prepared chart with you. Please take advantage of your officers and Marlene Groves, all of whom will be ready to help you prepare your data for filing, even if not for publication.

We local Waldoborians all look forward to welcoming you on Sunday, August 6th. ...rlc

World War II draft cards on-line WARNING

by Helen Shaw

Ancestry.com recently uploaded images of the World War II draft cards for senior men born between 28 April 1877 and on or before 16 February 1897. This registration was held on 27 April 1942. The states posted were: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey (incomplete), New York (incomplete), Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Unfortunately there is a major problem with some of this material. Ancestry says the problem affects only Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The draft cards are two sided. When you view a draft card image on-line you will see a front and a back side by side. **The problem is that the back does not go with the front!**

Ancestry has posted a warning explaining the problem, but it is in tiny print at the very bottom of the database description where few people will see and read it. Also, if you go directly to the WW II Draft Card database and read the description there you will not see the warning or other important information about the database. To see everything you need to click on Search on the Ancestry home page, then look at the bottom of the box to the right and click on recent website additions where you will find a paragraph on the WW II Draft Cards. The description under that link has the warning and other information.

The front of the card has the name of the person, his address, age, date and place of birth, the person's employer, the name and address of a person who will always know your address, and the registrant's signature. The back of the card has a physical description of the person and comments about distinguishing marks or disabilities.

While we wait for the problem to be fixed, you can work around it, but it takes some careful thought. The back you see on the screen actually belongs to the person immediately before your person. Your person's card is with the front belonging to the next person. You need to identify that next person and print a copy of his card image so you will have the proper back.

The cards are arranged alphabetically by surname within each state. Start by doing an exact search on the surname of interest for the entire database. This will give you a list of everyone with that surname and the county and state in which they reside. This will be your master work sheet.

Next, determine how many letters you will need to use with a wildcard (*) to locate the person immediately before and after your family member(s). What you want to produce is a copy of that portion of the state's alphabetical list on which your family member appears. For example, I was looking for men surnamed Founds in Pennsylvania. A search specifying the state of Pennsylvania and surname Foun* was too restrictive. The same search using Fou* produced many more hits and gave me the part of the list I needed.

If the men on either side of your family member lived in different counties, you can double check to make sure you have the right back by matching counties on the front to counties on the back. The county name appears on the second line on the front of the card and in the box at the bottom of the card's back. For example, Alexander Founds lived in Delaware County, PA. The card back accompanying his card front was from Lehigh County, PA. This matched the residence of William Vernon Foulz who was listed immediately before Alexander on the state-wide list. The proper card back for Alexander is with the card front for the next person on the list: George Washington Founds of York County, PA. George's card back in turn was with the card front for Grover Cleveland Founds, and so on down the list. Since I already downloaded all the Pennsylvania Founds draft cards, it was easy to cut the paper in two and put the correct back with each front and make a new photocopy.

Upcoming conferences

The 2006 **Federation of Genealogical Societies** conference will be in Boston August 30-September 2 (Wednesday through Saturday) at the Hynes Convention Center. The conference hotel is the nearby Sheraton. OBBFHA editor Helen Shaw will present two talks: *The Sociology of Cemeteries* (Wednesday afternoon) and *The Identity of George Sidelinger of Rockport, Maine; A Case Study in Deductive Genealogy* (Thursday afternoon). She will also be participating in the Ancestors Roadshow where conference registrants may get help from experts for their genealogy brickwalls. Program and registration information are available at <fgs.org>.

The **Maine Genealogical Society** will hold its 30th anniversary conference Saturday, October 14th at Verillo s Convention Center, 155 Riverside Drive in Portland. The keynote speaker is John Philip Colletta. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. with the welcome address at 9:00 and general session at 9:15. OBBFHA editor Helen Shaw will present a talk titled *What s In Your Courthouse Closet* at 3:00 p.m. For additional information go to <www.maineroots.org>.

IN MEMORIUM

With sadness we report the death in Damariscotta on 9 June 2006 of George Farrington Dow, a founding member of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association and town historian for Nobleboro. He was also one of the founders of the Nobleboro Historical Society in 1978.

With Robert E. Dunbar as co-author Mr. Dow wrote *Nobleboro, Maine A History* published in 1988. This book was a compilation of some of Mr. Dow s early articles on Nobleboro originally published in the *Lincoln County News*. His two other books were *Bicentennial History, the First Baptist Church of Nobleboro Maine, 1793-1993* and *Nobleboro s War Time Involvements* (published in 2005).

Mr. Dow was born 22 July 1905 in South Portland the son of J. Henry and Abbie (Farrington) Dow. He was educated at Kents Hill School in Readfield (class of 1922) and received his BS (animal science) and MS (agricultural economics) degrees from the University of Maine. His PhD in marketing and farm management was earned at Cornell University (class of 1938).

Mr. Dow and his late wife Myrtle (nee Walker) moved to Nobleboro in 1970. He is survived by daughters Margaret Ricker (husband George) of Windham, Barbara Turner (husband James) of Cary, NC, and Elizabeth Scott (companion Maurice Furbush) of Bangor. Five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive. A celebration of Mr. Dow s life took place at the First Baptist Church of Nobleboro on Friday 16 June with Pastor Bob Wyand officiating. Burial was in the Dow/Walker family plot at the Alna Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Mr. Dow may be made to the Nobleboro Historical Society, PO Box 122, Nobleboro, ME 04555 or to the Dow Scholarship, Town of Nobleboro, PO Box 168, Nobleboro, ME 04555. A brief death notice was published in the Maine Sunday Telegram on 11 June. Detailed obituaries were published in the Bangor Daily News and the Portland Press Herald on Monday, 12 June. These may still be available on-line at the newspapers websites.

Revolutionary War pension records in the Lincoln County vault, part II

by Helen Shaw

As noted in the Spring 2006 newsletter, an archival box in the vault at Wiscasset contains loose Revolutionary War pension papers which appear to include men not listed in the 1820 Common Pleas book. This box contains several manila folders each containing about 20 pension documents. There are also eleven pension documents placed loosely in front of the manila folders. These documents are all dated April 1823 and are for the following men:

Henry Abbot of Boothbay (#50 on the 1820 list) (2 documents)

wife Lydia, daughters Anna & Lucy, sons Daniel & Henry

Ephraim Alley of Boothbay

wife Susan & granddaughters

David Colson of Bath (# 91 on the 1820 list)

wife Polly, granddaughters Julie ?Sivanton? & Mary Peterson, grandson Ebenezer Colson

Thomas Decker of Boothbay (#35 on the 1820 list)

wife Catherine, son David, granddaughter ?Affa? Pinkham

Thomas Frank, Jr, ?of Gray?

wife ?Allice?

Nehemiah Hutchinson

wife Mary, daughter Mehitable, son Adam

Lemuel Jenkins of Bowdoin

wife Abigail, son Mark, granddaughter Lovina

James Lord of Litchfield

wife Elizabeth, grandson James, granddaughter Joanne

Abraham Maloon (AKA Abel Melon/Meloon)

no family listed; served 1778 Capt. Reed, MA

Charles Smith (#163 on the 1820 list)

wife Mary, daughters Mary & Rebecca

Isaac Whitney

wife Sarah, daughters Elizabeth, Amme, & Abigail

Charles Leissner s homecoming

by Ruth (Lessner) Riopell

Karl Christoph Gottfried Leissner, Esq. (1724 - 1769)

Known as Charles Leissner or Lessner in this country

Charles Leissner s gravestone now rests comfortably back in Waldoboro, Maine. It has had a long journey for the last several years, traveling from Maine to Pennsylvania to New York and back to Maine.

On page 430 of Jasper Stahl s book *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* there is a drawing of this stone which at the time rested over Charles grave on his family farm on Route 220. Stahl also described how the stone was used for target practice by local boys (p. 267). After the book was published, the stone seemed to disappear. Perhaps it had fallen to the ground and been swallowed up or perhaps shattered into little slate pieces or perhaps someone rescued it from the aforementioned fate.

Many years passed before a relative contacted the OBBFHA about returning the stone to Maine. It had been found in a home in Pennsylvania after the residents had passed on. Their daughter, who lives in New York, desired to grant her parents wish and return the stone to Maine.

The issue was not brought to a resolution and we pretty much gave up. A couple years later, I reconnected with the stone bearing relative. Returning the stone to Maine was discussed and it was agreed that the stone would be returned and would be set in the Dutch Neck Cemetery beside the graves of Charles only son, George, and his family. It had been determined that returning the stone to the original site was impossible. Although the plot of land was fairly well pinpointed, it was not certain if that was Leissner s farm. The property is also privately owned and we could not prove there is a grave site there.

As the tombstone had been inside and away from the harsh conditions of Maine winters, this pre-Revolutionary stone is remarkably well preserved. The writing is still fairly clear and the carving visible, which is not often the case with a stone of its age. Unfortunately, the winged death head had been shot off.

The Maine Lessners are very appreciative that this stone was returned and a new friendship has been formed with relatives from away. Future genealogy seekers will be able to find three generations of Lessners in the Dutch Neck Cemetery in Waldoboro.

My Lessner family were descended as follows: Charles, George, Henry, Columbus, Frank, Walter (our father) to myself and my siblings June Hussiere, Linwood Lessner and our late sister Mary Douglas.

Genealogical proof standard: a simple case

by Helen Shaw

Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG, has written a wonderful little book, *Genealogical Proof Standard Building a Solid Case*, which costs less than \$10 and should be in any serious genealogist s library. Even after more than thirty years of genealogical research reading Ms Rose s book helped me step back and take a new look at some data I had been muddling over for months. The result was that I broke one of the many brick walls in my search for the identity of George Sidelinger of Rockport.

At issue was the identity of the young, single, George Sidelinger in the 1840 census for Nobleboro. [1840, p. 158] Was this the same George who bought land and married in Camden (now Rockport) in 1846? Ms. Rose s book reminded me that if all other possibilities have been eliminated or accounted for, than a conclusion can be reached despite no direct statement of the fact.

The facts are as follows:

The index on-line at Ancestry.com for the 1840 census lists only two heads-of-household in the US named George Sidelinger (or variant surname spelling), one in Nobleborough, ME and one in Bristol, ME.

In 1840 there were three adult men named George Sidelinger in Maine:

George [Jr.] of Bristol/Damariscotta (1775-1857; son of George & Charlotte) [Sidelinger & Dow, p. 47; Conary, pp. 1, 7]

George Washington of Union (1820-1890; son of Daniel & Mary/Polly) [Conary, pp. 7-8]

George of Rockport (1818-1870)

The elder George lived in that part of Bristol which became Damariscotta in 1847 and appears as head of household in the 1820, 1830, 1840 censuses for Bristol [1820, p. 345, 1830, p. 10, 1840, p. 32] and the 1850 census for Damariscotta. [1850, p. 444]

The documented family composition of Daniel of Union [Conary, pp. 7-8] matches that recorded in the 1840 census [1840, p. 76]; son George W. was in the parental household. George W. appears as head of household in the later censuses for Union and his obituary notes he was a life-long resident of the town. [Conary, p. 26]

Six single Sidelinger males, all in the 20-30 age group, were found in the 1840 census for Nobleboro, including George. [1840, pp. 158, 163] Three of these young men, including George, were noted as being in a manufacturing trade. George of Rockport was a blacksmith.

Given that the other George Sidelingers have been accounted for and the occupation category matches George of Rockport, the single head-of-household George Sidelinger in the 1840 Nobleboro census must be George of Rockport.

Some interesting things learned at the NGS Conference

The annual conference of the National Genealogical Society was held in Chicago this year and as expected the focus was on mid-western research with a strong dose of ethnic topics. However, there is always something new to learn, be it a new resource or a new way to look at a problem. Here are a few of the interesting things from this year's conference:

1. From Elizabeth Shown Mills talk *7 Ways to Jump Start Your Research*

FANS are your ancestors Friends, Associates, & Neighbors. Do you know them all?

You can test the coverage of a book's index by noting a few occurrences of a name in the text and then checking the index to see if those occurrences are in the index.

2. From Michael Leclerc's talk: *Online Resources for New England Research:*

The Massachusetts Historical Society (<www.masshist.org>) and the Perry-Castaneda Library (<www.lib.utexas.edu/maps>) have exceptionally outstanding collections of maps, many of which are on-line.

NEHGS has Sanborn maps for New England on-line and has digitized newspapers from pre-1826 that are searchable.

3. From Ruth Ann Hagar's talk *National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection*

Over 20,000 books formerly in the NGS library in Virginia and available by mail only to members can now be borrowed via Interlibrary Loan (ILL) by anyone whose library participates in ILL. The catalog is on-line at <<http://webpac.slcl.org>> [this is the St. Louis County Library where the books are now housed].

4. From John Konvalinka's talk *Traditional vs. Computer Based Genealogical Research: Not Either/Or but Both*

Save to disk or hard drive (or simply print it out) everything you find on the internet because the website may disappear.

When trying to find a woman in the SSDI and you don't know her married name, try searching on just the first name and the exact date of birth.

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.

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. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal form by mail each year.

Dues for individuals/families receiving the newsletter via e-mail are \$10 per year. Dues for those requiring a hard copy newsletter are \$15 per year. Checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

Be sure to include your e-mail address if you want to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Sending the newsletter via e-mail will help us keep down expenses.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

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Name of research facility _____

Contact person _____ *Title* _____

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