

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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Annual meeting & reunion news

The annual meeting and reunion of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association was held Sunday, August 6th at the Meenahga Grange Hall and was attended by about 30 members. A great time was had by all: exchanging family history, comparing research experiences, and hearing a great talk by Marlene Groves of Picton Press. Marlene's talk, titled *Alpha to Omega*, explained how to put material into publication format. Even if you do not plan to publish anything, understanding how journals and books are put together is helpful. Photos of the reunion appear on page 8.

Old German Church service

by Fred Snell

Following the OBBFHA events, many members traveled across the river to attend the annual service at the Old German Church. The German Celebrant was the Reverend Michael Murphy, pastor of the West Waldoboro Community Church. The English Celebrant was the Reverend Fred Wedemeyer, pastor pro-tem of the Water of Life Lutheran Church and retired Mission Director of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The organist for the service was Paul Smeltzer; the soloist was Janice Lind. Readers were Ruth Cleaves (German) and her husband Alan Cleaves (English). The ladies of the German Protestant Society served the usual delicious refreshments under the trees following the service.

Elder Phineas Pillsbury's journal: Nobleboro, ME

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has in its collection the journal of Elder Phineas Pillsbury of Nobleboro. Elder Pillsbury was ordained minister of the Church of Christ in Nobleboro

in 1807 and lived there until 1836. His journal includes births, deaths, and marriages for many Nobleboro families as well as other information about his daily activities.

A transcription of the journal was prepared by Maude E. Phillips in 1902 with the title *Elder Phineas Pillsbury's Journal: Nobleboro Maine 1808-1836* and the NEHGS has put a searchable version of the journal on its website < NewEnglandAncestors.org > OBB members with Nobleboro ancestors should take a look at this valuable resource. If you do not have access to the website, this editor < obbeditor@earthlink.net > is willing to do simple searches for members. A SASE would be appreciated for any copies which might result from a search.

Waldoboro vital records

Rumors abound on the status of Waldoboro vital records prior to 1892. This is to let you know that while they are sparse, they do exist and can be accessed at the Waldoboro Town Office.

The material at the town office is in three formats.

1. They have a copy of the microfilm that the State Archives has and they have a microfilm reader the public can use.
2. They have an old book they call the "Hodge-Podge" book which is thought to be what the State Archives microfilmed. These are typed records noted as being true copies of the records from the old town record books. This book includes cemetery information.
3. They have the original town record books which include vital records. The old books have been disassembled and the individual pages put into protective sleeves then rebound. You can easily copy any page.

The Hodge-Podge book is probably where most researchers will start. It is easy to read and in excellent condition. The Hodge-Podge book is not indexed; all information is in date order. There is a table of contents in the front of the book with the actual records starting about half way through the book. There is a tab to mark page 1.

Table of contents for the Hodge-Podge book:

Marriages, 1773-1834, pp. 1-44

Births, 1714-1834, pp. 45-62

The above are true copies from the old town records 1773-1835.

Marriages, 1835-1858, pp. 63-110

Births, 1840-1858, 1887, 1888, pp. 111-112

Deaths, 1781-1823, 1887, 1888, p. 112

The above are true copies from the old town records March 1835-March 13, 1858.

Marriages, 1845-1891, pp. 113-197

The above are true copies from the old town records March 13, 1858-December 31, 1891.

Cemetery deaths

Rural Cemetery, 1812-1891, pp. 203-211

Comery Cemetery, 1834-1891, pp. 213-222

German Cemetery, 1785-1891, pp. 223-259

Village Cemetery, 1810-1891, pp. 261-277

Groton Cemetery, 1794-1881, pp. 279-280

Brookland Cemetery, 1788-1892, pp. 281-289
Sweetland Cemetery, 1807-1891, pp. 291-295
Burnheimer Cemetery, 1834-1891, pp. 297-303
Ludwig Cemetery, 1821-1890, pp. 305-308
Burns Cemetery, 1831-1906, pp. 309-311
Off-Achorn Cemetery, 1831-1891, pp. 313-314
Achorn Cemetery, 1841-1895, p. 315
Webb Cemetery, 1836-1901, p. 316
French Cemetery, 1864-1900, p. 317
Private Cemetery, 1888-1900, p. 317
Winchenbach Cemetery, p. 318
Birth records 1887 and 1888, p. 319
Deaths 1887 and 1888, p. 320

Once you find someone in the Hodge-Podge book, you should go to the original town record books to see the original record. Be aware that the town record books are not indexed by name, but some of the volumes may have citations for pages on which groups of vital records appear.

The original town record books are kept in the vault and must be requested from the staff. There are thirteen volumes covering the period 1759 to 1900. Volumes exist for later years, of course, but these early dates would be of most interest to OBB members. The oldest volume does not have a volume designation and is labeled on the spine Town Records 1717-1806. The second volume has been rebound into two volumes each of which is labeled Town Records 1801-1835 / Vital Records 1759-1834. The first volume contains pages 1-229 and the second contains pages 230-485.

Anyone is welcome to come look at the material during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). Uncertified photocopies may be made for 25 cents per page.

The town hall is on Route 1 at the bottom of the hill (right side if south bound, left side if north bound). Look for the very tall sign for the Old Mill Mall. It overlooks the broad lawn of the town hall which sits well back from the highway on a low hill.

Marlene Groves of Picton Press has been transcribing the Waldoboro vital records for a Maine Genealogical Society special publication. The book should be available early next year. It will contain the vital records from the town records as well as deaths reported in the cemetery section of the Hodge-Podge book. Marlene is tracking down other sources of information (such as church records) about births, deaths, and marriages in Waldoboro. Anyone knowing of such a source should contact her at Picton Press in Rockland as soon as possible.

Family search indexing

Do you have an hour or so to help yourself and others access the millions of records collected by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints? Family Search Indexing is a volunteer effort to index the records and put the indexes on-line where the public can access them for free.

You can become an indexer for this project by visiting < www.FamilySearchIndexing.org > and completing a registration form. You will also find information there about what records are presently being indexed.

You can download records and begin indexing right away. Each downloaded batch takes 45-60 minutes to index and you have a week to do the work. You chose what you index and when you do it. You may do any number of batches. You can do 3 or 4 in a week or 1 or 2 in six months; you choose.

The Association might want to consider volunteering as a group to index a specific set of records. Contact the editor with your thoughts on this should we do a group project and if we do, what records should we do?

In Memoriam

The Association has lost another member: Effie G. (Wildon) Conary died Wednesday, August 2nd in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 5th at the First Congregational Church in Reading, Massachusetts with burial at the Laurel Hill Cemetery in that city.

Effie was the daughter of Thomas D. and Effie Grace (McKay) Wildon and granddaughter of Herbert L. and Grace (Sidelinker) McKay. She always used her middle initial G which was passed from her grandmother Grace Sidelinker.

Effie served OBBFHA as co-treasurer for several years, but is probably best known to members as co-author, with husband Bill, of a Sidelinger genealogy, This ever expanding unpublished manuscript covers virtually all of the descendants of Martin and Mary Sidelinger. Effie served as a communications specialist in the US Navy WAVES during World Ward II.

Effie is survived by husband Bill, daughter Patricia M. Dell Isola (husband Joseph E.) and sons William R. Conary, Jr. and Thomas L. Conary (wife Deborah). She is also survived by four grandchildren: Laura M. Dell Isola, Thomas J., Joseph W., and Kristina K. Conary (children of Thomas L. & his first wife, Kathleen) and one great-grandchild, Madisyn P. Conary (daughter of Thomas J. Conary & his companion Amanda).

2007 Genealogy Conferences

It s not too early to be thinking about 2007 genealogy conferences. What better way to spend a few days then learning new research methods and about repositories and resources to use for your research.

Registration and hotel information is already available for the **New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC)** to be held April 26-29, 2007 in Hartford, Connecticut. The conference will be held at the Connecticut Convention Center adjacent to the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel. It is anticipated that the hotel will sell out of conference rate rooms by the end of this year. To reserve a hotel room, contact the hotel at 1-866-373-9806 (toll free) and mention code NGCNGCA to get the conference rate of \$125. Conference registration information is available on the NERGC web page: < www.NERGC.org > Click on program to get to the page where you can download the registration form.

The 2007 **National Genealogical Society Conference** will be in Richmond, Virginia May 16-19 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. The conference hotel is the adjacent Richmond Marriott. Registration and additional information will be found on their website < www.ngsgenealogy.org > after November 1st or call toll free: 800-473-0060.

The 2007 **Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference** will be held at the Grand Wayne Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, August 15-18. For more information you may call (toll free) 888-347-1500 or e-mail the Federation at < fgs-office@fgs.org >. Super Early-bird registration (postmarked by 30 December 2006) is only \$135; early registration (postmarked by 1 June 2007) is \$155; registration after 1 June is \$185. Ft. Wayne is the home of the Allen County Library, one of the country's premier genealogical research facilities. You can check out their holdings at www.ACPL.Info/genealogy.

Institute of genealogy and historical research

For those interested in furthering their genealogy research skills, the courses held each year at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama are the route to take. The 2007 Institute will be held June 10-15. The 2008 Institute will be held June 8-13.

Courses offered in 2007 are: (1) Techniques and Technology, (2) Intermediate Genealogy and Historical Studies, (3) Research in the South, Part 2, (4) Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis, (5) Advanced Library Research: Law Libraries & Government Documents, (6) Genealogy as a Profession, (7) Virginian Course, (8) Land Records: Maps and Related Records, (9) Advanced Military Research II: French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, (10) English Genealogical Research, and (11) Genealogy Software and Electronic Archives.

Courses offered in 2008 are: (1) Techniques and Technology, (2) Intermediate Genealogy and Historical Studies, (3) Research in the South, Part 1, (4) Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis, (5) Advanced Library Research: Law Libraries & Government Documents, (6) Writing and Publishing for Genealogists, (7) Virginian Course, (8) Land Records: Case Studies, (9) Advanced Military Research III: Mexican War & Civil War, (10) Irish Genealogical Research, and (11) Researching African-American Ancestors.

For more information, you may call Samford University at (205) 726-2846, or check the web site at < <http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/> >

Using Google for locality information

by Michael J. Leclerc

This article originally appeared in the New England Historic Genealogical Society's e-News, issue #228, September 20, 2006. Reprinted with permission.

The Google search engine offers many tools to genealogists, and it is easy to get stuck in their main search functionality. Take a few moments to use these other Google tools to help identify specific locations, and to garner additional information about them.

Google Map < www.google.com/maps >

One can search for any location in the United States and view it. Viewers can also get directions to

and from locations. Maps can be viewed as a road map, satellite image, or a hybrid that superimposes the street map over the satellite image.

Google Earth < www.earth.google.com >

Google Earth can be extremely helpful in finding places anywhere in the world. One can search for places anywhere by street address or city or county. The program provides latitude/longitude information and some versions will plug right in to GPS devices. Google Earth Plus and Google Earth Pro are subscription versions of the software that provide additional functionality.

More on Google

Want to go even further with Google? Birdie Monk Holsclaw gave a great presentation at the FGS Conference in Boston titled Extreme Googling for Genealogists. A pdf version of her lecture handout can be downloaded at < www.holsclaw.net/Lectures/Googling-FGS.pdf > The address appears to be case sensitive.

The presentation was full of tips and tricks on how to get the best results for your search without being overwhelmed with hits that do not apply. She started at the Google web site (< www.google.com >), not that simple line most of us have on our homepage. This gives you access to advanced searches as well as links to topic specific searches.

She showed how to use site tags and inurl commands to focus a search. Site tags focus your search to a specific site (exp: site:worldconnect.rootweb.com) or type of site (exp: site:com or site:edu). The inurl is the code which appears after the / in an site address. You can use these codes to focus your search on a particular county or country, or surname (exp: inurl:rootswb.com inurl:utiron inurl:ben gave her 13 pages from the Iron County, Utah web site containing the surname Benson).

Ms Hoslclaw also suggested putting the Google toolbar at the top of your homepage so you do not have to exit out of what you are doing to do a new search. The lecture handout includes a list of references and sources for additional information. One such source is the Google Help : Cheat Sheet which can be found at < www.google.com/help/cheatsheet.html > It provides a list of Google services, calculator operators and advanced operators as well as examples of how to format your query.

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

by Helen Shaw

Work on the Revolutionary War pension records in the Lincoln County vault has taken on a new dimension. Additional lists of pensioners have been located in Common Pleas books and have been transcribed. To date, the lists name about 290 pensioners from every corner of Lincoln County who came into court between 1820 and 1824. Some men came to court more than once.

About half of the loose papers have been abstracted All information collected to date has been entered into two computer files, one for Common Pleas lists and one for loose papers. Abstraction of the loose papers should be completed by the end of the year. Picton Press is interested in publishing this material as a CD to include digitized images of the loose papers. Some of the loose papers are known to have been microfilmed by the county in the 1970s. The Maine State Archives

has these microfilms. However, although several boxes of film are labeled as containing pension records, not all of the records could be located on those films.

Queries have also been made to the Maine State Archives to determine if the Common Pleas books for other Maine counties can be accessed to look for pensioner lists. If that is possible, the Maine State Organization, NSDAR, may become involved in the transcription of the lists, making a database of all men who applied for a pension in the state of Maine. Whether the documents similar to the loose papers in Wiscasset still exist for other Maine counties is unknown, but will be explored. Maine counties which existed in 1820 were: Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Somerset, Washington, and York. Picton Press has two CDs which cover Revolutionary War pension applications for Hancock County.

Thanks are due to Elizabeth Williams of The Hollinger Corporation (whom I met at the FGS Conference) for sending me, at no charge, a legal size archival spacer for the loose paper box. The pension papers, while having been cleaned, humidified, and de-acidified, were then shoved into a box too wide for them and were slumping badly. The spacer will take up the excess space and keep the papers flat. The Hollinger Corporation is a manufacturer of archival storage products. Their website is < www.hollingercorp.com >

A plea from the editor for articles

This editor would greatly appreciate receiving articles for the newsletter from any member of the OBBFHA. As President Richard noted at the reunion, I don't think you want to hear only about my husband Bill's OBB families. Although he has several OBB families, even they did not produce enough raw material to fill four newsletters each year.

You do not have to send in polished, ready to publish, material. I will help you put your submission into publishable form. Bible records, excerpts from diaries, cemetery records, information about resources you have used, et cetera, would be welcome. One page articles about how you solved a problem in your OBB research would be wonderful. Write or e-mail me with your ideas. Also, I am sure I am not the only member of OBB giving talks at conferences and teaching genealogy classes, so let me hear about your activities as well.

This newsletter does not have formal deadlines for submission of material for publication, but the quarterly format does require announcements for upcoming events to be submitted several months in advance. I try to send the newsletter to the printer on the following schedule:

Winter 2nd week of January
Spring 1st week of April
Summer last week of June
Fall 1st week of October

And, yes, this newsletter is behind schedule. I have had a great deal of difficulty finding enough material to make eight pages. Given the problems of sending the newsletter by e-mail last year when one photo was included, I was reluctant to add photos to this issue, but, frankly, I had no choice as I did not have enough text to fill the eight pages. My apologies in advance if your server crashes.

Photos from the 2006 OBBFHA reunion at the Meenahga Grange Hall

by Bill Chapman

