

# 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/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/) Editorial comments & queries to [obbeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:obbeditor@earthlink.net)

## To Search and To Share

### OBBFHA officers & directors

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David Putnam

Vice President /  
Secretary  
Helen Shaw

Treasurer  
William Conary

Directors  
Randall Gross  
Ruth Riopell

Newsletter editor  
Helen Shaw

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Fred Snell

### Membership dues are overdue

A report from treasurer Bill Conary indicates many members have not yet paid their 2008-2009 membership dues. These were due by July 1<sup>st</sup> and the membership form was printed in the spring and summer newsletters.

To facilitate your completion of this matter, a membership renewal form is printed on the last page of this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it to Bill with a check for the appropriate amount. If you do not renew before the end of the year this is the last newsletter you will receive. For those of you who receive the newsletter by US Mail, a red dot has been placed on the mailing label of those whose membership has expired.

### Annual Reunion and Meeting

*by Ruth Riopell*

This year's annual meeting and reunion took place on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Maine Extension Office on Manktown Road. There were 19 people in attendance.

President David Putnam opened the meeting with remarks about how interesting this past year has been for the Association. Last year we elected new officers and updated and enacted the constitution and bylaws. Treasurer Bill Conary stepped up and took on the Treasurer's position and for that we are greatly indebted.

In addition, the OBBFHA was involved in several community projects. We donated a copy of the *Vital Records of Waldoboro, Maine* by Marlene Groves to the Waldoboro Public Library. We completed and dedicated the memorial stone for those who perished in the winter of 1753-54 which has been ongoing for the past ten years. We staffed a booth at the Sproul Block during Waldoboro Day.

David has had genealogical inquiries from all over the country. He attributed this to our fantastic website which provides information as well as officers e-mail addresses. David added that our goal is to build the Association into a resource for the future. Our interest will be carried on long after we are gone and people will still be searching. Hopefully, we have made it easier for future generations to search and find.

It was noted that Randy Gross, Director and local historian, was not in attendance. Randy was greatly missed by everyone. Helen Shaw, Vice-President and Editor, was also unable to attend. Since the Officers and Directors met in June, there was just a brief business meeting today. Future projects were discussed. OBBFHA would like to establish a fund for genealogical advancement under the name of Jasper Stahl. President David asked the group to authorize the Board of Directors to come up with a funding plan. The motion was passed unanimously.

The guest speaker was Dale W. Mower, President of the Maine Genealogical Society, who gave a Power Point presentation on the why, how and when of buying on E-Bay. It was a very informative and interesting talk. Many admitted being a little hesitant to shop E-Bay but after Dale s enlightenment, many of us will be using it. Some examples of what can be found on E-Bay would be post cards, town histories, annual reports, city directories, maps, yearbooks, scrapbooks, invoices, calendars, photos, and family Bibles. Dale explained the process of checking on a seller to be sure he is reputable as well as method of payments.

The remainder of the meeting was spent sharing information, greeting old friends, and eating our brown bag lunches. Many thanks to all those who helped make this year s meeting a great success.

## **Service at the Old German Church**

This year s service at the Old German Church, held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, was the last be the last presided over by the Reverend Michael Murphy. The service was particularly well attended and the refreshments provided by the ladies of the German Protestant Society were more extensive than in the past. Reverend Murphy will be greatly missed. As yet no one has been named to replace him.

The organist for the service was Paul Smeltzer who has played so beautifully in the past. Ruth Friend (a member of OBBFHA) and Lew Grubb, Jr., sang during the collection of the offering.

## **President s Message**

Dear Members and Friends:

As the sun sets on the summer season we can look back at the last year with a great deal of satisfaction. Within the past year, The Old Broad Bay Family History Association (OBBFHA) has been reorganized and revitalized. We have written new bylaws for our association and straightened out our financial matters. We were successful in erecting a memorial stone and plaque to the early German settlers who died during the winter of 1753 and 1754. The stone and plaque are located in front of the Miller School on Rte 32 in Waldoboro. This location is not far from the burial site of these unfortunate victims of disease, exposure and starvation. The stone and plaque were dedicated during Waldoboro Day in June. The OBBFHA also had an informational table downtown during

these festivities.

Our annual meeting in August was a big success. The attendees had a lively day exchanging information and listening to our featured speaker, Dale Mower, president of the Maine Genealogical Society. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Dale for his excellent presentation, and to local historian Mark Benner who conducted a tour of the cemetery at the Old German Church following the service on Sunday. We had several new faces at the meeting, as well as some original charter members. It is my hope that we can look forward to their continued participation!

In the coming year we will move forward with our plan to establish a fund to promote genealogical and historical projects in the Waldoboro area. We have also begun to plan for next year's annual meeting when we hope to present two speakers. Our newsletter continues to be an outstanding success. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone who attended our meeting and express our hope that you return next year with a friend. There is still a great deal of interest in the genealogy and history of Waldoboro as evidenced in our meeting and by the numerous on-line inquiries we receive. Let me wish you all a happy holiday season and I hope we will see or hear from all of you in the coming year.

Best regards,  
David Putnam, President, Old Broad Bay Family History Association

## Queries

The following queries have been received. If you do not have access to e-mail, please send your response to OBB president David Putnam at 28 Union St., Hamilton, MA 01982, and he will forward the material to the appropriate person.

Information on descendants of Hans Georg Vogler who arrived in Broad Bay on the Lydia in 1742. Write Suzanne at [manorofhappiness@comcast.net](mailto:manorofhappiness@comcast.net)

Information on descendants of the Demuth Family of Waldoboro. Write Pat at [PRanzoni@aol.com](mailto:PRanzoni@aol.com)

Information on the Fishel/Fischel/Fishal/Fischal, and Vogler/Fogler family. Write Lynn at [ancestorseekr@yahoo.com](mailto:ancestorseekr@yahoo.com)

Information on the descendants of Johannes Petrus Walther of Waldoboro. Write Jim at [jwwalter@frontiernet.net](mailto:jwwalter@frontiernet.net)

## Where are they buried?

*by Mark A. Benner*

When in Waldoboro, I am asked this question often. Many of us are looking for our long lost ancestors' burial location. We can find their vital records on paper in the courthouse, in the state archives, or in books at various libraries or museums. We can find where they lived on the old maps and deeds. Cemetery indexes can also be very helpful today but many years ago there were fewer cemeteries and it was more convenient for the family to be buried on the farm on which they lived. Because of this tradition and lax, or non-existent, record keeping, the burial locations of many of the

first and second generation immigrants to Broad Bay are unknown today. Only a few of these small family burial lots are mentioned in any of the old deeds. The town office cannot help as they do not have the resources.

There are places in Waldoboro today where there used to be small neighborhoods and clusters of homes. In their place today are the woods of long neglected fields that became overgrown with tall trees and pucker brush. Roads were often discontinued, abandoned, and/or rerouted. The empty cellar holes remain and sometimes one will find a gravestone or two nearby, laying flat on the ground and almost buried. Fact is, some ARE buried; knocked over by frost and tree roots, covered by leaves and humus and topsoil. Some even sink into the ground a foot or so.

In the earliest days of Broad Bay the recently deceased were buried by close family and friends, often on the farm on which they lived. Some of these lots are maintained and well preserved, others were neglected and in absolutely deplorable condition.

The earliest established community burial grounds here were at Meeting House Cove on the way to Dutch Neck or on the east side of the Medomak River near Light s Ferry landing. A plain rock from the nearest farmer s stone wall was often chosen as a marker. Sometimes a slab of wood or a wooden cross was fashioned, only to weather away and be forgotten years later. Early slate might contain a scratched in, or a well carved, name and death date. An occasional slate stone was professionally contracted in Boston and shipped here if one had any money, and very few did in those times.

White marble came into use in Waldoboro for gravestones in the very late 1700s. It was a soft stone and very easy to ornately carve by early locals. Much of this marble came from Vermont or was imported by ship from Europe.

Thomaston Marble was quarried locally in Rockland and Thomaston. It was actually limestone and was a cheap alternative to the quality marble; it was extremely easy to carve, but not very durable. The Goshen Cemetery in East Waldoboro contains a large number of these Thomaston Marble gravestones and the years of blowing sand, sleet, and rain have slowly eroded the inscriptions so badly that some are almost illegible. I have seen others in town that had broken off at the base and have literally turned into granular white sand and there is no way of telling whose grave they once marked.

Yes, granite was quarried here in Waldoboro, but was later classified as construction grade. It was too coarse and grainy for use as cemetery monuments as it didn t carve or polish well. It was best suited primarily for foundations, curbing, and millstones locally. In the early 1870s Waldoboro granite was transported by railroad to Rockland ports (our river was too shallow) and shipped to the large east coast cities where it was used extensively for buildings, curbing, millstones, and street cobblestones. Granite that was suitable for gravestones was brought here as early as the 1820s. It was a finer grained and much harder material to cut and carve so new, sharper, and tempered tools had to be developed. Today, much of the granite, as well as a wide array of other stone, is imported specifically for gravestones.

.....So, again, Where are they buried?

Most likely, if they were known to have lived and worked most all of their lives in Waldoboro, and they were known to have died here, they were buried here, somewhere. The only real reason I can

think of to be buried anywhere outside of town would be, say, born in Friendship and were buried in the old family lot of his or her parents that was located in Friendship, a rare type of occurrence.

We've all heard the legends and stories that report that fishermen would pull stones from the graveyards and break them into just right sized pieces for use as ballast in their lobster traps? If there was any graveyard that fit this story it would be the one that used to be the Meeting House Cove cemetery that was historically recorded as being on both sides of the road to Dutch and Gross Necks. I'm thinking that there may have been in excess of three dozen early graves, (1740s to 1760s), there. Though the road today is much wider than it was in the 1740s, there is nothing remaining of this cemetery today, just trees, exposed tree roots, and lots of scattered rock and ledge. The one stone that was found there many years ago, and inscribed in German, is on display inside the Old German Church.

Gravestones have been removed from Waldoboro graveyards and burial plots. (Getting caught doing so today can be classified a class D felony.) George Leissner's gravestone made its return to Waldoboro recently after being removed from its original location many years ago and taken south by the former property owners. It has since been permanently installed in the Dutch Neck cemetery.

Another legend is that gravestones had been removed and placed in people's wet, muddy, hand dug cellars in old homes. I found one such an instance recently (and there are others) where gravestones were removed from numerous small local family burial plots, transported, and placed on a muddy cellar floor. These gravestones were later removed from the cellar by newer concerned owners and were cleaned and placed in a drier and more secure location for future study and documentation. There are a couple of cases in town where a white marble gravestone has adorned a fireplace or chimney with a mantle. Another case where five gravestones were removed by a well intentioned property owner (who has long since passed away) and transported to a more secure and safer place offsite where they were forgotten and recently discovered leaning against a tree and frozen into the ground. Then there are the collectors of old gravestones (especially of old slate) and who knows what we've lost through the years there.

Another sad fact is that many Waldoboro graves, be it a grave in a small private family lot or a large community cemetery, are marked only by a metal funeral home marker. These were installed by the Hassner, the Flanders, or later Hall's funeral homes of Waldoboro or many of the various out of town funeral homes. These old markers were meant only to be a temporary grave marker and were to be replaced by a permanent stone when the surviving family could so afford. Many of these rust, break, or become illegible and get discarded. These graves in later years join with the others in the cemetery as unknowns and in just about every Waldoboro cemetery there are many of those who were buried after their passing that had no grave marker installed at all.

## **What day or date is that?**

Ever wonder on what day an event occurred? Ever have an obituary that said the deceased died last Tuesday but you have only the date of publication? How do you find that day or date? There are a couple of on-line resources you can use: [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com) and [Calendarhome.com](http://Calendarhome.com). Both sites provide options beyond the basic calendar form.

For [Calendarhome.com](http://Calendarhome.com) you need to first click on "print a calendar" on the tool bar at the top of the home page. Next scroll down to "Free plain calendar" and select the format (full year or specific

month), the century (16, 17, 18, etc) and year (05, 10, 63, etc). Finally click on make calendar.

For timeanddate.com you go to the calendar box on the start page and click on choose another year, type in the year you want and then click on create calendar.

## **Helpful hint!**

*by Mark Benner*

If you've ever photocopied or scanned into your computer a copy of a newspaper article, photo, or obituary have you ever noticed that you'll often times get bleed through of the text or photo that is printed on the other side of the newspaper copy? That's because the bright white light from the photocopier or the scanner flowing through the paper is reflected back through the paper from the white lid or cover of the machine doing the copying.

Try this: place the newspaper article, newspaper obituary, or newspaper photo face down on the copier's glass as you normally would. Then, before you close the lid or cover to the machine, place on top the article to be copied a very BLACK piece of paper. Black construction paper or something similar works best. Your copy may appear brighter because the blackness eliminates this reflective bounce-back.

## **Ahem.... by the way....**

*by Mark Benner*

As a former three term president of the Broad Bay Family History Association (mid 1990's) I have always enjoyed reading our newsletters. There has been lots of useful information and interesting reading through the years. I've saved them all and I always look forward to the next one. (Wouldn't it be nice if they were monthly!?)

Through the years we've had many excellent editors who have published these newsletters. Some stories and genealogy information have been quite good. Then, there are times when to get something, anything, printed and sent out it's been like scraping the bottom of the barrel. I know, I've been there! I've heard this from the editors before and I know it's difficult to get people to take a little time and submit something for the newsletter. This could be a good winter project or assignment for you. We all have our unique backgrounds and interests. I'm not a professional at this. I'm an amateur. Let's have FUN with this. Write a story of your childhood adventures in Waldoboro, if you're from Waldoboro. If you've never lived in Waldoboro but your grandparents or aunt and uncle were there and you visited, write a story of how their life there was.

Know any good German cooking recipes? Submit some for us to try. Can you explain some of your German immigrant's superstitions? How about your early Waldoboro immigrant genealogies; are they published yet? Are they on file at the library or historical society? Is there information that you have that could help other Waldoboro genealogists that isn't on file anywhere, things only you alone have?

There are many projects in Waldoboro left to collect information on and to write about. So much that has not been done. Photos of old homes and barns of the pre-1900s could be collected. Who owned those old homes and farms? What did they raise or grow for income? What were the names of the old businesses, what did they do; where were they located? Did you know that Waldoboro

had thirty two school districts? That s a project in itself! Who were the teachers? What mischief did kids get into? Over a period of time there were over thirty water-powered mills, both on the Medomak River and the seasonable spring and fall water runoff brooks and millponds throughout town. What do you suppose they manufactured or how much wheat or corn did they produce? There were tanneries here and stone masons. There were several quarries in operation and I don t think their stories were ever told.

How about old portrait type photographs? Do you have some of those that connect to Waldoboro? I don t know about you but I had some pretty ugly looking ancestors! (Probably made me what I am today!) These could be collected and digitized both for preservation and to have copies for family members who do not have them.

The point is, there are many projects screaming to get done. Stories need to be told and there are lots of things to write about. If there are thirty members, say, of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association today and each of these thirty people wrote just ONE thing for a newsletter (and it s sent out quarterly) then there would be enough in the editor s database to print something four times a year for seven and a half years! Write something!

Membership would increase, more stories would be written and printed, more genealogy resources would be available, more diversity for everyone. We re not going to laugh or ridicule you for what you know or don t know. We re amateurs and having fun with genealogy. It s OUR newsletter! Please contribute!

## **Editor s note**

As you know, the last newsletter was only four pages long. I simply did not have enough material to fill the usual eight pages. As you can also see in this newsletter, I came close to eight pages, but one of those is the membership renewal page so the fact remains, I did not have enough material to fill the newsletter. Please take Mark s plea to heart and send me something for the winter newsletter.

I am happy to help you write an article or simply edit what you have written. I will gladly accept material sent in the body of an e-mail, or a document attached to an e-mail, or on paper sent in a letter. My mailing address is 77 Pascal Avenue, Rockport, Maine 04856; my e-mail is [obbeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:obbeditor@earthlink.net)

Thank you for your help.

## Membership Renewal

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the founding families, and in particular the founding German families, of what is now Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine.

There are three types of membership: individual, family, and library. An individual membership confers the right to one vote. A family membership confers the right to two votes. A library membership is solely for the purpose of allowing distribution of the newsletter to libraries and historical societies and confers no right to vote.

The membership year is July 1 to June 30. The newsletter is issued quarterly in January (Winter), April (Spring), July (Summer), and October (Fall).

Membership checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to: William Conary, OBB Treasurer, 9 Hilltop Rd, Plaistow, NH 03865.

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### Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Renewal of Membership

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Second member in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### How do you want to receive the newsletter?

Individual membership:	e-mail (pdf format)	\$10 _____	US mail	\$15 _____
Family membership:	e-mail (pdf format)	\$15 _____	US mail	\$20 _____