

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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OBBFHA treasurer resigns

by David Putnam, President

I regret to announce that our treasurer, Bill Conary, resigned his position in August due to ill health. Bill will remain as a member of the board of trustees. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The board of trustees has appointed Deirdre Hurley Putnam as interim treasurer. The terms for all the positions on the board of trustees and the executive board, including treasurer, are ending at the annual meeting in August of 2011. I hope you will all consider running for a position. We can always use new ideas and new faces.

Report on the 2010 Annual OBBFHA meeting & reunion

by Ruth Riopell

Members and guests gathered at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Office in Waldoboro August 7th for this year's annual meeting. Officers attending were David Putnam, Deirdre Putnam, June Hussiere and Ruth Riopell. Also attending were 13 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order by President David Putnam. David mentioned the passing of former president and board member, Randy Gross. The Association is in possession of some of Randy's materials which will be held in a central repository and we are working with the Waldoboro Public Library to make this happen. In lieu of flowers for Randy, the OBBFHA contributed \$100 to the Waldoboro Library to be used as they wanted for genealogical purposes. The directors of the library created and dedicated Randy's Corner in the genealogical section of the library earlier this year.

Randy left a vacancy on the Board of Directors and OBBFHA bylaws state that it can be filled by appointment of the President. A nomination was made by board member Ruth Riopell for President David to appoint Deirdre Putnam and it was voted by the rest of the officers that Deirdre complete

Randy's term. At today's meeting Deirdre was unanimously elected to continue for the next year.

President David read the financial report. Current balance is \$1632, \$400 of which is set aside for the Jasper Stahl Fund. The Stahl Fund will be used toward the restoration of the 1816 Robinson map. That money has been presented to the Lincoln County Registrar of Deeds. We are interested in ideas for future projects for the Stahl Fund which is used annually for local projects relating to genealogy.

We were very fortunate to have guest speaker, Anette Ruppel-Rodrigues. She spoke for 1-1/2 hours and completely captivated the audience. She was born and raised in Germany, came here in her early 20's, and is now a professor of German at the University of Maine at Orono. While working on her Master's Degree she tried to find history of the Hessians in Maine and learned there is little known about these soldiers. Many questions followed from the group and individual discussions continued for quite some time.

NOTE: The first part of Ms. Ruppel-Rodrigues' presentation is included in this newsletter; the second part will be in the Winter issue.

PL 601 (vital records access) update

Public Law 601 went into effect on Monday, July 12. The work group formed to write the rules for access to vital records under this new law met once in May and again on September 30. The final rules have not been written.

According to Elana Jellison, Rulemaking Coordinator for the Maine CDC: *The timeline for rulemaking is a total of 120 days for complete process. Proposed rules are submitted to Secretary of State for publication, public comment period is generally 30 days from the date of publication of proposed rules, once public comment period ends, there are 90 days remaining to review all comments, prepare responses to comments, edit proposed rules based upon accepted comments requiring changes, submit through DHHS review, then to AAG review for final adoption submitted to Secretary of State with effective date 7 days after the date filed with Secretary of State.* A call is in to Ms. Jellison asking when the proposed rules will be submitted to the Secretary of State for publication, but the recent election has probably stalled the process. Once the time-line and the public comment period are known, that information will be sent to OBB members by e-mail and will be posted on the website.

For now, in order to access vital records within the past 100 years in Maine at a municipal office or at the state office in Augusta, in person or by mail, you must either:

- (1) submit proof you are a family member of the person(s) whose record(s) you want to access
- (2) submit proof of membership in a genealogical society listed with the Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics and purchase a Maine CDC researcher card for \$50 (good for one year).

According to a letter issued June 25, 2010 to all city & town clerks by then State Registrar Donald Lemieux: *...Those requesting copies of vital records [must] present, along with their application, positive identification including, but not limited to, a driver's license, passport, or other government issued picture identification.*

Persons (genealogists, attorneys, & other agents) doing research for a family member must submit

both proofs noted above, plus a notarized authorization from the client stating the researcher may have access to the family member(s) record(s). The definition of family member has not yet been finalized and is part of the rules making process. [Exp: Biological grandparents are being granted access to their grandchildren s records although they do not currently appear in the law as family members.]

For records within the 100 year closure period, only the person whose record it is, family members, and genealogists/agents working for family members may purchase certified copies of vital records. All others may purchase only non-certified copies. Anyone may purchase non-certified copies of vital records over 100 years old.

For information on how to purchase the CDC researcher card and what documentation is required to access vital records, go to <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/phs/odrvs/vital-records/index.shtml>. *The researcher card is good for one year and will entitle the bearer to view or purchase non-certified copies of birth, death and marriage records registered in Maine, that are less than 100 years old, from any municipality or from the Vital records Unit of the Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics. This card, along with positive proof of identity, must be presented to the municipal clerk or Vital Records Unit staff when making a request for records.* NOTE: Part of the discussion at the September 30 meeting was to significantly reduce the cost of the researcher card and discontinue the three free vital record copies per week allowed under the original researcher card program.

When you request access to vital records at a municipal office (either in person or by mail) you will be asked to fill out a form **for each record** you want to see or purchase a copy of. That form will ask for proof of your identity plus proof of relationship or proof you are a genealogist, the notarized authorization from the client, and your researcher ID card number. The form(s) and documentation will be kept by the municipal office for one year. This form should be available on each town s website as well as in the town clerk s office. Since this form is to be used across the state, if a town does not have a website, you can print off the form from any town s website.

Randy Gross genealogy collection

The Waldoboro Historical Society took possession of all books, papers, and files from the collection of Randy Gross shortly after his death. Over the months, members have sorted through the material to determine what to keep, what belongs to OBBFHA, and what to dispose of. Several large containers of stuff were turned over to this editor in July and October. Included in the most recently acquired boxes are many family and ancestor sheets filled out by OBBFHA members over the years and minutes & reports on annual meetings going back to the beginning of the Association.

An inventory of the material was compiled. This raised several questions, the most common being where did all this material come from and who compiled it? Handwritten material is not in Randy s hand. No source is listed for any of the material and much of it is not dated. The OBBFHA Board would like to turn most of the material over to the Waldoboro Library where researchers can access it, but we would like to give credit for it to the proper person(s).

Listed below are four major groups of the material. If anyone knows where Randy acquired this material or who compiled it, please contact Helen Shaw at obbeditor@earthlink.net or call (207) 236-2468. A copy of the complete inventory will be put up on the OBBFHA website.

OBITUARIES [13 notebooks total]

Nine large notebooks of obituaries apparently all from *The Portland Press Herald* covering 1997 - 1998.

The obituaries are one per page and have surnames noted in the upper right corner. Each page is in a plastic sleeve.

Two large notebooks of obituaries which appear to cover 2000-2004 and also be from *The Portland Press Herald*.

Two scrapbooks of newspaper clippings. Dated 1997 for the most part, but rarely attributed to a particular newspaper.

QUERIES [3 notebooks, plus part of another]

Clippings from *The Portland Press Herald* dating in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

VITAL RECORDS [two notebooks]

Transcribed vital records from the town clerks reports (alphabetical by first letter of the surname): Waldoboro, 1888-1944 Bristol, 1907-1916 Nobleboro, 1914-1947

GROSS - HATCH FAMILY [four notebooks]

Appears to be a project someone was compiling with details on individuals each on a separate form. How people on the forms are linked is not evident.

When the Hessians Came to Maine During the American Revolution

Connecting Broad Bay - Waldoboro with the surrender at Saratoga and with German troops at Fort George (Castine), and at St. Andrews & St. Stephen, New Brunswick

by Anette Ruppel Rodrigues

As early as 1775, King George III instructed the British commissioner, Colonel William Faucitt, to negotiate with German principalities for soldiers to send to the American colonies alongside British soldiers. King George's brothers-in-law, the Duke of Brunswick (Braunschweig) and the Duke of Hesse-Cassel, as well as George's nephew the Duke of Hesse-Hanau were glad to send soldiers. They had been allies of Britain in previous wars, most recently during the Seven-Years-War, in this country known as the French-Indian-War, and they considered themselves allies again. A cousin to the British king, the Margrave of Ansbach-Bayreuth, as well as the principalities of Waldeck and Anhalt-Zerbst were only too happy to also enter into those lucrative arrangements for the loan of their soldiers. All in all, throughout the duration of the war a total of almost 30,000 German soldiers served alongside British soldiers in North-America. Since about 20,000 came from Hesse-Cassel and Hesse-Hanau, all German troops were usually referred to as Hessians .

When we think of important places or events of the Revolutionary War, the Maine province of Massachusetts was seldom in the thick of the conflict. (One of the few instances is the Penobscot Expedition in August of 1779.) And still our state played a part in the international conflict that even brought German troops to this region

- * as paroled prisoners of war,
- * as soldiers stationed at Fort George, in today's Castine,
- * as deserters
- * and as soldiers who had received permission to remain in North-America.

Hessians were first sighted in Maine shortly after the surrender at Saratoga on October 17,

1777. Of the 5,791 Convention troops General Burgoyne surrendered, 2,431 were German troops, about 40 percent. Instead of being sent home, as Burgoyne thought he had arranged, those troops became prisoners of war and, therefore, their upkeep became the responsibility of the Commissary of Prisoners in Boston. Keeping them near Boston first (later they were sent to warmer areas) was costly and it was encouraged to parole them out to local citizens who would be responsible for their room and board in exchange for their labor.

There is a good chance that word of the availability of these prisoners reached Broad Bay through the protestant missionary Dr. John Christoph Hartwick, originally from Hamburg, Germany. He had been known to Broad Bay residents since 1774 when they called on him to provide a protestant minister. He ministered all over New England and was also invited by the Commissary of Prisoners to preach to the Brunswick prisoners who were captured after the battle of Bennington in August 1777. [1]

On October 25, 1777, John Martin Schaffer of Waldoboro petitioned the Commissary of Prisoners in Boston requesting three Hessian or Brunswick prisoners: one for himself, one for Thomas Watermann, Esq., and one for Captain Andrew Schenck. [2] Heinrich Isense (Henry Esensa, Easinsky) was supposedly paroled to Andrew Schenck. In the book *Broad Bay Pioneers* Andreas Suchfort is listed as been paroled to Andrew Schenck. Jasper Stahl also wrote that Johannes Peter Walter was paroled to General McCobb, and Andreas Suchfort (Andrew Sukeforth) was paroled to Philip Robbins of Union. There seemed to have been more than one request for prisoners. *Broad Bay Pioneers* also lists Dr. John Godfrey Borneman as having arrived after the surrender at Saratoga. From Captain Cleve, the commander of the Brunswick troops at Fort George, we know Heinrich Andreas Suthoff had been paroled to a Mr. Carlow/or Corlow in Kennebec near Machias.

Another Hessian , who arrived in the Waldoboro region later and became a prominent citizen in Dresden, was Dr. Philip Theobald, a former field chaplain and medical doctor. He had deserted his fellow prisoners of war in Staunton, Virginia on November 12, 1779. He was with the Hesse-Hanau artillery corps surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777. Dr. Theobald had written a letter to General Washington requesting to be discharged from his post as he had not taken an oath to the king, and was promised a parish in Albany. We do not know if he ever heard from Washington. [3] But we know what his superior officer, Colonel von Gall wrote to his sovereign after Theobald's desertion: The reason for his desertion is not known to me, but for more than a year he has done very little. His conduct has been such that his behavior could not have been forgiven had it been exhibited by a common soldier, much less by someone whose position should require that he be a shining example for others. [4]

According to Jasper Stahl, in 1740 forty families from the German provinces of Brunswick and Saxony arrived in what is now Waldoboro. [5] And in 1753 sixty families arrived from the German provinces of Nassau in the Taunus Mountains, not far from Hesse. (There were other immigrations in 1742, 1748, 1751, 1752, 1753.)

The Loyalist Rev. Jacob Bailey wrote to the British commander at Fort George that in general, all the Dutch families in Broad Bay are dependable Loyalist, except 10 or 12 families. [6] We do know that several of the Germans from Broad Bay earned money in 1780 helping with the construction of Fort George in Castine. Among them was the German prisoner of war Heinrich Isense, who signed on with an easily identifiable German signature on a pay sheet for 18 Dutchmen from Broad Bay for getting limestone, and loading the Brig ?? for transport and for cutting wood. The copy of the duplicate is dated Fort George, April 24, 1780 .

Fort George was strategically positioned on the eastern shore of Penobscot Bay. It was assumed at the time that the Penobscot was to be the border to British North-America. Most residents in the area had sworn an oath of loyalty to King George. Many Loyalists from other areas in the northeast had moved their possessions and their families to the Penobscot, which created a very lively place.

Jasper Stahl mentioned that a relationship with Fort George had existed for years: In order to avoid detection, the thrifty Dutch had beaten a trail through the woods north of the town and across to the Penobscot. The trail ran through North Waldoborough north of the Medomak Pond, then northeast behind the mountains, passing a considerable distance north of Union and then due east to the Penobscot. Along the route, the Dutch drove their herd of beef on the hoof where it was received at the river by the British for their forces at Castine [7] But Stahl never mentioned in his books that German soldiers were later stationed at Fort George. This information was only obtained through letters written by British military and public officials, by letters written by German officers, and through complete lists of all German troops stationed at Fort George.

In April of 1782, a letter was sent from London to General Carlton in Nova Scotia planning to increase troop strength at Penobscot. [8] The British had a well founded fear of an attack by the French. The French, after the surrender at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, might have thought the opportunity was ripe to recapture their North-American Provinces which they had lost only 19 years earlier. When they approached General Washington for help, Washington discouraged them from attacking Fort George by writing on August 10th, 1782: I am lately informed by good intelligence that the fort is the most regularly constructed & best finished of any in America, is well situated, Garrisoned by the 74th Regt. consisting of 800 men; & & [9] Besides, the Continental government had not recovered financially from the disastrous defeat during the Penobscot Expedition of 1779, and had no interest, or financial ability, to help the French.

On August 14, 1782, German replacement troops arrived at Halifax. Among them were 215 Brunswick troops and support personnel, commanded by the 49 years old Captain Urban Cleve, who expected to join his superior officer, Major General von Riedesel in Quebec. Von Riedesel was the commander of all Brunswick troops in North-America. Captain Cleve was an experienced officer who had been captured at Saratoga and later exchanged and returned to Germany. He had permission to return home right after he safely delivered his troops to Quebec. At a stop-over in Halifax, Captain Cleve was told he had just the right number of recruits to strengthen the military presence at Fort George. And besides, there would be comfortable housing, and plenty of good and reasonably priced food. Since the British outranked the Germans, Captain Cleve had no choice but to take his troops to Penobscot. He spent much of his time writing to British officials and to his own commander to receive permission to go home immediately, but without success.

Captain Cleve and two lieutenants, two non-commissioned officers, one surgeon, two drummers and 207 recruits plus three wives arrived at Fort George on September 23, 1782, but they did not find the promised comfortable housing, and plenty of good cheap food. Instead, the soldiers had to build their own barracks and also had to help build the fort. Contrary to what General Washington wrote to the French, Capt. Cleve reported to his Duke in October that manpower was needed to work on the fort for they had to get the fort here, which was as yet in a very incomplete condition, into a good state of defense before winter sets in & & It is unfortunately more than true that the fortifications here are of such quality that in defending them, the most magnificent troops would lose their honor.. [10]

In the meantime Ansbach-Bayreuth replacement troops were sailing across the ocean eager to see

action in New York. But instead they were first sent to Halifax to disembark. Among them they had seven officers, most in their 20 s commanded by the 37 years old Captain Ernst Friedrich von Wurmb, 205 troops, nine wives and ten musicians. From letters written by the young officer, Second Lieutenant Julius von Massenbach, we know that those musicians were giving wonderful concerts while still in Bremerlehe, Germany: Our musicians find an audience everywhere. Here officers who are strangers to us, as well as civilians are especially after them. General Faucitt likes to go into his garden house often where he can hear them best. [11] I mention this as an example of the more light-hearted social nature of the southern Germans to which the Ansbach-Bayreuther belong. It may have been this social nature that caused them during January of 1783 to get into a bloody fight with the Scottish troops at Fort George.

After a few weeks in Halifax, the Ansbach-Bayreuth troops finally received the order to sail to Penobscot. Lieutenant on Massenbach and the other young officers worried that the war might end and they would have to return to Europe without having seen action.

Arriving at Fort George in November 1782, the action they saw was having to work on their own housing, and help construct the fort. By then the Brunswick troops had built their new barracks, which freed up the miserable huts the Brunswickers had inherited from the 74th Scottish Highland troops. Now those huts most likely became the home for the newly arrived Ansbach-Bayreuth troops. They must have been very uncomfortable, especially when you consider that it had already snowed in October that year.

They never seemed to have received good housing, if even the officers had to live without much comfort. Lieut. von Massenbach wrote in January 1783 in a letter to Germany: I do not yet have a table, chair or bedstead, I have to sit very miserably on the bare ground when I write.

The Scots, under the command of Brigadier General John Campbell were in charge at Fort George. It seemed that the relationship between the Brunswick officers and the Scottish officers was quite cordial. Capt. Cleve had even written to his Duke (on November 19, 1782): The men have quite passable lodgings for the winter. On the whole, I have not the slightest reason to complain at this point about the treatment Brig. Gen. Campbell bestowed on the troops most graciously entrusted to me. [12] Further proof of good relations between the Brunswickers and the Scottish can be assumed from remarks Capt. Cleve made in other letters. For example, he commented that his field surgeon Höölder had made great friends among the Scottish officers and the well-to-do local population. And Capt. Cleve had commented that the Brigadier General s wife had made life pleasant and bearable for the officers in this dismal place.

The relationship between the Ansbach-Bayreuther and the Scots did not seem to have been as cordial. To quote Lieutenant von Massenbach: In January 1783, Captain von Wurmb had invited the greatest scum of a British officer to his table who wounded him dreadfully. [13] Capt. von Wurmb did not recover from the wound inflicted on him by Lt. Archibald McClean. McClean escaped and was never found.

If the officers felt that this was a dismal place, we can just imagine how the enlisted men must have felt. No wonder they made attempts to desert, some successfully. As early as October 10, 1782 about two weeks after the Brunswickers arrived at Fort George, two of them deserted. About two weeks later, three more deserted. Carl Ludwig Schilling was among them. Desertions seemed to have stopped during the winter months, or perhaps Captain Cleve s threat of sending soldiers after the deserters to shoot them and bring back only their head was enough of a deterrent.[14] [The list

of these deserters was been printed in the Summer 2010 OBBFHA newsletter.]

Captain Cleve was always on the lookout for ways to keep his men comfortable and looking presentable and thought he had finally found a supplier of shoes and leather for soles from a shoemaker in Broad Bay. Captain Cleve had received permission from the Scots to enter into the deal. But after the leather was paid for and delivered, the Scots confiscated it as contraband. Capt. Cleve had to continue to purchase anything he needed in Colin Campbell's overpriced British store. How Capt. Cleve made the connection to Broad Bay is not mentioned in his letter, but as I quoted Jasper Stahl before, there was a long-standing business relationship between Broad Bay and Fort George. [15]

[After the talk on August 7, the Lessner sisters told me they are the descendents of the only cobbler in Waldoboro at that time, Georg Leisner, whose father Charles Leisner had immigrated from Diez in 1753.]

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

References:

[1] *The Hessians: Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association*, vol. 8, 2005 pp. 52-53.

[2] *Documentary History of the State of Maine*, Vol XV, edited by James Phinney Baxter, pp. 266-267.

[3] Philip Theobald Hanau Regiment Chaplain- Maine Physician, Henry Retzer in *Journal of the JSMA*, vol. 6, no. 2, 1998, pp. 39-44.

[4] Hanauer Journale und Briefe aus dem Amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg 1776-1783, Manfred von Gall, *Hanauer Geschichtsblätter* Band 41, 2005, p. 134.

[5] *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*, Stahl, Jasper, vol. 1, p. 94.

[6] *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*, Stahl, Jasper, vol. 1, p. 459.

[7] *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*, Stahl, Jasper, vol. 1, p. 474.

[8] The letter is part of *Report on American Transcripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, vol. 2; copy located in the Irving Library at the University of New Brunswick, in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

[9] Letter written by George Washington to Marquis de Vandreull on August 10th, 1782 in answer to a letter from de Vandreuil to Count de Rochambeau. Reprint in Volume XX of *The Baxter Manuscripts*, Collection of Maine Historical Society, Portland, ME.

[10] Original in the Staatsarchive Wolfenbüttel, Germany. Translated and reprinted in *Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association*, vol. 6, no. 4.

[11] von Massenbach letter 20 May 1782 from Bremerlehe, Bancroft Collection.

[12] Original letter in Staatsarchiv Wolfenbüttel.

[13] Letter written by Lt. von Massenbach, Jan. 21, 1783. Original in Bancroft collection New York Public Library.

[14] The Braunschweiger at Penobscot, *JSMS Journal* Part II, page 54, original in Staatsarchiv Wolfenbüttel

[15] *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*, Jasper J. Stahl, vol. 1, p. 474.