

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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The Old Broad Bay Family History Association,
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ – Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

To Search and To Share

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Dues are past due

Dues are past due! The last page of the newsletter has the renewal form. Please cut it out, print it out, or make a copy and send it with your check to treasurer Deirdre Putnam ASAP. The membership year is July 1 to June 30. Thank you for your prompt attention to this.

Annual meeting

The OBBFHA annual meeting will be held **Saturday, August 2** at the Knox-Lincoln County Cooperative Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. Lunch will be provided, but feel free to bring a dish to share. We have plenty of paper products.

President's comments

by David Putnam

Dear Fellow Members, I hope all of you are enjoying the good weather that has finally arrived. I want to remind all of you that our annual meeting is scheduled for August 2nd at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. The business meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and our featured speaker will begin at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Laurie Lebar of the Maine State Museum will be our speaker and she will speak on "Maine Voices From the Civil War." Snacks, refreshments and lunch will be served and there will be time after lunch to exchange genealogical information. We also hope to have some local Civil War artifacts on display. I hope all of you can attend!

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association Board of Directors held their annual meeting on June 22nd at the home of Helen Shaw. The board decided to once again donate funds to the Waldoboro Public Library for the purchase of a one year subscription to the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). The subscription will allow Waldoboro Public Library patrons to

access without charge the AmericanAncestors.org website for research and online seminars. Additionally, the library will receive from the NEHGS a quarterly magazine entitled American Ancestors. Allow me to take this opportunity to remind all of you that the Waldoboro Public Library has a genealogical research section that contains many books and records dealing with local history and genealogy. We are fortunate to have such a good relationship with the library.

2014 Stahl Award

by David Putnam

The board of directors voted to award our annual Jasper J. Stahl Award to none other than Mr. Stahl himself! In the first volume of Mr. Stahl's *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoborough* (page 333) the author described the location of the Second Lutheran Church of Old Broad Bay, now known as Meetinghouse Cove. He lamented that the site, which was later abandoned for another site across the river, was now overgrown and all but two of the cemetery headstones were laid low by frost or vandals. He expressed the hope that "Some day, perhaps, an awakened civic conscience may restore these buried slabs to their erstwhile dignity of marking the graves of our founding fathers." Ruth Riopell, our Vice President, and her sister and fellow board member, June Hussiere, took up Stahl's challenge. Our entire board worked to clean up the site and remove the brush and trees. Ruth and June had a sign made marking the site of the church and cemetery. We had hoped to bring in ground penetrating radar to see if we could locate some of the lost graves. However, the cost is prohibitive at this time. The location of this site is listed online, or can be found just off the road in the woods between the Medomak River and Dutch Neck Road, just before the intersection of Dutch Neck Road and Gross Neck Road. I encourage everyone to visit the site!

Waldoborough Historical Society capital campaign

by David Putnam

Our friends at the Waldoborough Historical Society have initiated a capital campaign to raise \$60,000 dollars for renovation of the Hauck Building. The money will be used to enhance the lighting, air quality, and temperature of the building in order for their genealogy materials, library and textiles, as well as a recently gifted theater curtain, to reside in a temperature-controlled environment. Additionally, the renovation and the addition will provide more space for meetings, exhibits, and storage. Gifts to the campaign may be made over a period of three years or as an outright gift; they may also be made in honor or in memory of a person or family. Donations are IRS deductible and may be sent to the Waldoborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

Upcoming events

Annual service at the Old German Church: 3:00 p.m., **Sunday, August 3.**

Maine Genealogical Society Annual Meeting & Conference: **Saturday, September 13**, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. The keynote speaker will be Tom Jones, Ph.D., CGsm, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS. For more information check the MGS website <http://www.maineroots.org>.

Cemetery laws to be reviewed

As a result of the work that went on to amended LD 1662, “An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing the Maintenance of Veterans’ Graves” an ad hoc committee was formed to review all laws pertaining to cemeteries. That committee met for the first time on June 19. The committee’s first act was to prepare a survey, to be completed by each town, which will gather information on the number of cemeteries, who cares for them, and how that care is funded. The survey results will allow the committee to provide a solid base of information when it proposes revisions to cemetery laws. The second major act of the committee is to look into submitting a resolve to set up a formal state cemetery committee or commission to review cemetery laws and report to the legislature. The survey results and the resolve are expected to be ready in time for discussion at the September annual meeting of the Maine Genealogical Society and the October conferences of the Maine Municipal Association and the Maine Cemetery Association.

Caring for a cemetery & grave markers

With the push to care for cemeteries in general and ancient burying grounds in particular, folks need to know what to do and what not to do. Of primary importance, before even thinking about what you will do in a cemetery, is to get permission from the person(s) who control the cemetery. This might be a family, a cemetery association, or a municipality. Note that there may be more than one person or group you need to talk to. If the cemetery is on private property you will need to talk to the person who owns that property as well. When a cemetery is surrounded by private property, relatives and descendants of the persons buried in the cemetery must be allowed access. With the new law, town cemetery officials must also be allowed access to determine if the cemetery is being properly maintained if the municipality is not itself taking care of the cemetery.

Before you start work cleaning a cemetery you should prepare a survey of it, noting what needs to be done and the general condition of the gravestones. Does it simply need to be mowed or are there branches, invasive vines and thick weeds that need to be cleared away. Be aware of trees, shrubs, and flowers that might have been planted as landscaping or grave decoration. These should not be removed without good reason. When you know what needs to be done, the plan needs to be approved by whoever controls the cemetery and possibly by the owner of the property around it. You may find you need professional help for some work while other work can be done by untrained volunteers.

Before you try to clean a grave stone or repair one, please look at the MOCA website for tips on proper methodology. Even better, sign up for one of their workshops so you can get hands-on experience and learn proper techniques. MOCA members who are trained in cemetery conservation will be happy to advise you and may be willing to set up a workshop for your town’s cemetery committee or association. If you are really serious about caring for a cemetery, consider buying a copy (2nd edition, 2013) of *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad.

Some basic “don’ts” for gravestone care: never use bleach, never use a power washer or sandblaster, never use a stiff or wire brush. Leave any gravestone which feels granular (marble & sandstone) or looks like sections are flaking off (slate & sandstone) to the experts; you can easily cause more damage than good. Also, if a gravestone on a base is not firmly attached to the base, leave it alone! It could topple and injure you or others. That said, do notify whoever cares for the cemetery of any gravestones found to be loose or seriously tipping so proper stabilization can be done. Gravestones that are leaning to the point where you cannot read any inscription, also need to be re-set by someone with experience in that area.

Never move any large rocks you might find in a cemetery; simple fieldstones were common grave markers in

early, rural New England. Never remove foot stones. Do not fill in sunken areas as they may indicate unmarked graves.

A gentle touch is the way to go when cleaning a gravestone: lots of plain old water, a soft bristle brush (if it does not hurt your face when rubbed against it, then it is soft enough), an old tooth brush for small areas, craft sticks (like for a popsicle), soft rubber or plastic scraper (flexible, not rigid).

Removing lichen from granite and marble gravestones: wet down the area to be cleaned; working from the bottom up, gently scrape off layers of lichen, rinsing as you go (bottom to top). Wet it all again and gently (with a circular motion) scrub off more lichen. Many gravestones clean up very well just using water, but if you want to kill off lichen, use D2. Be sure to read the directions for diluting the D2. Spray the gravestone with D2, wait a few minutes, and then gently, with a circular motion and working from the bottom up, clean the gravestone. Rinse again with water. With large gravestones work small areas, moving up the stone, rinsing with water as you go. When using D2, the gravestone will lighten with time as more of the lichen dies off. There is now an in-state source for D2: A.H. Harris & Sons (www.ahharris.com) which has stores in Portland, Bangor, Augusta, and Fryeburg. You may want to call ahead to make sure the store nearest you has D2 in stock.

Maine town reports digital project

The Fogler Library (U Maine, Orono) in collaboration with the Maine State Library, is compiling a digital database of town reports for Maine towns. The project is on-going, but reports are now on line for several towns in each of Maine's sixteen counties:

- Androscoggin (Auburn, Greene, Lewiston, Livermore, Mechanic Falls)
- Aroostook (Ashland, Blaine, Caribou, Fort Kent, Houlton, Madawaska, Presque Isle)
- Cumberland (Brunswick, Falmouth, Freeport, Gorham, North Yarmouth, Portland)
- Franklin (Farmington, Jay, Kingfield, Wilton)
- Hancock (Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, Deer Isle, Ellsworth, Winter Harbor)
- Kennebec (Albion, Augusta, Belgrade, Gardiner, Hallowell, Litchfield, Manchester, Winthrop)
- Knox (Camden, Rockland, Thomaston)
- Lincoln (Boothbay Harbor, Damariscotta, Monhegan Plantation, Wiscasset)
- Oxford (Oxford, Paris, Rumford, South Paris, Stow)
- Penobscot (Bangor, Brewer, Holden, Millinocket, Old Town, Orono)
- Piscataquis (Dover, Dover-Foxcroft, Foxcroft, Greenville, Guilford)
- Sagadahoc (Bath, Bowdoin, Richmond, Topsham)
- Somerset (Fairfield, Jackman, Madison, Pittsfield, Skowhegan)
- Waldo (Belfast, Brooks, Unity)
- Washington (Cherryfield, Cutler, Eastport, Jonesport, Lubec, Machias)
- York (Alfred, Kittery, Old Orchard, Saco)

You can access these reports by going to: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/townreport/>

To see the reports click on the name of the town in the county list or click on a balloon on the map of the state. The list of towns can also be search via an alphabetical name list.

Town reports contain a wealth of information, not only about the town, but the people who lived in it. Some reports contain lists of births and death which occurred in the past year. Lists of delinquent taxes may be found along with lists of various types of business licenses that were issued.

Membership

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 three times a year, in April (Spring), July (Summer), and October (Fall) with a fourth (January / Winter) issue when there is enough material.

Membership checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to: Deirdre Putnam, OBB Treasurer, 17 Bush Hill Rd, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member _____ 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 _____

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

Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.): We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out this portion of the membership form. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal invoice by mail each year. **Subscription: \$15 per year.**

Name of research facility: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person: _____