

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

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President's Comment

by David Putnam

Dear Fellow Members: I am happy to report that our annual meeting was a big success! The weather was lovely and the company even better. Ms. Laurie LaBar of the Maine State Museum gave a presentation entitled, "Voices of Maine in the Civil War." The talk was excellent and well received by all those present. Ms. Jean Lawrence, President of the Waldoborough Historical Society, brought some civil war artifacts from the historical society's collection. Jean gave a wonderful talk on the background story behind all of the artifacts. Both speakers impressed those present with how important the great national calamity of the civil war was to people in Maine and Waldoboro. Let me express my thanks to both speakers for the interesting and informative day.

I would also like to thank a longtime member and former treasurer, Bill Conary, for the outstanding donation he made to the Waldoboro Public Library. Bill has been researching the Sidelinger Family for many years. He has authored a book on the Sidelinger lineage which is in the Waldoboro Public Library. Recently, Bill donated six volumes of his research notes to the library. Bill, thanks for making such a great donation to the library and to the OBBFHA throughout the years!

I have received a very nice thank you card from Ms. Catharina Skov, the Director of the Waldoboro Public Library, expressing her thanks to the OBBFHA for our annual gift to the library of a membership to the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The library will receive American Ancestors, a quarterly genealogical magazine published by the society, as well as access to the society's online research site AmericanAncestors.org. The research site is one of the premier genealogical research sites in the country and will be accessible to Waldoboro Library patrons for free.

The OBBFHA Board of Directors also voted to make a \$100 dollar donation to the Hauck Building Fund at the Waldoborough Historical Society. I heartily urge members to consider making a tax deductible donation to the Hauck Fund. The fund was established to pay for the cost of renovating the Hauck Building and making it climate controlled in order to better preserve the society's artifacts. You can visit the Waldoborough Historical Society's website at waldoborohistory.us, email them at info@waldoborohistory.us, or at PO Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572-0110. In the thank you letter I

received from Jean Lawrence on behalf of the Waldoborough Historical Society, she expressed the historical society's gratitude for the gift, and for the information and collaboration we have all shared in the past years. Jean, we are equally grateful to you and the historical society for your support of the OBBFHA. The best is yet to come!

I would like to formally welcome new members Allen and Victoria Bornheimer, Susan Haines, Joseph Robinson, Janet Feyler, Peter Achorn and Russell Gillis. Welcome aboard folks, don't be reluctant to contact me with any questions or ideas you might have.

Finally, as soon as we figure out how, Deirdre and I will be creating the OBBFHA Facebook page. Stay tuned as we plunge fearlessly into the era of social media! I promise not to include any selfies! In closing, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors I would like to extend warm wishes of peace and joy to all of you for the upcoming holiday season. Auf Weidersehen und Gutes Gluck!

Query

Does anyone have any information whether Hans Jerg Rominger, the father of Michael, David, and Philip Rominger who initially settled in Broad Bay, came to America or not. There seems to be conflicting information in publications as to whether Hans Jerg Rominger actually emigrated from Germany after petitioning for emigration. I know his wife, Elisabeta Odelin did not come to America because a church record in Germany shows that she died in Singen on 17 February 1741. We have not found any death record for Hans Jerg in Germany. – Russ Gillis, rgillis@fastmail.fm

Coming Events

April 15-18, 2015: Providence, RI: New England Regional Genealogical Consortium annual conference. Wednesday, April 15, is for two special events: Librarians' & Teachers' Day and Tech Day; the main conference starts Wednesday, April 16. The Maine Genealogical Society is sponsoring the banquet Friday evening which features D. Joshua Taylor as the speaker. Visit www.nergc.org for details and registration information.

Saturday, May 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Keeley's Banquet Center, Portland: Southern Maine Genealogy Conference. Margaret Dube, CGsm will be the keynote speaker. Visit www.gpcmg.org for details.

Saturday, July 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the State Library, State Archives, & State Museum building & grounds, Augusta: Maine State Genealogical Society's Genealogy Fair. This is a free event and will include tours of the State Library and State Archives (the latter will be closed for research). There will be no charge for the State Museum. Visit www.maineroots.org for details.

Publications by OBBFHA members

by David Putnam

A new book was published in July that should interest every student of Waldoboro history. The book is entitled, *Major Philip Ulmer, A Hero of the American Revolution*. It was written by Ms. Patricia Hubert of Connecticut, who is a descendant of the Ulmer Family. Ms. Hubert's book tells the life story of Philip Ulmer and his brother George Ulmer, highlighting their long and heroic service in the American Revolution. I am in the process of obtaining a copy of the book and I will review it for all of you in the next issue of the newsletter.

Speaking of books and writers, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the authors we have within our membership. Ms. Jean Lawrence, a long time resident of Waldoboro and President of the Waldoboro Historical Society, recently had a story published in the *Mayflower Quarterly* about a barrel that

stands in the vestibule of the Old German Church in Waldoboro. The barrel was part of the cargo transported on the ship Mayflower. The barrel was property of George Soule and was donated to the church by his descendants from Waldoboro. Jean has also authored numerous articles and five books on Waldoboro history. Recently, she authored a short story of historical fiction entitled *Sedony's Story* which won a local fiction award and was published in *The Goose River Anthology*.

Mark Biscoe, another of our members, has authored numerous articles and several books on the history of shipbuilding in the midcoast area of Maine. Mark has also written a two volume work entitled *Merchants of the Medomak* which explores the history of shipbuilding in Waldoboro.

Anette Ruppel Rodriguez, a German language translator and faculty member at the University of Maine has done extensive research into the German soldiers that were stationed at Fort George in Castine during the American Revolution. She has lectured and published numerous articles on the Hessians in Maine and has translated into English, a play written in 1783 by a German soldier formerly stationed in Castine. Anette has also written a piece of historical fiction entitled *Margaretha* which was published in a book of short stories entitled *A Quiet Blue Wheel*.

Ms. Helen Shaw, editor of our newsletter, and current President of the Maine Genealogical Society, is a certified genealogist who has authored a book and numerous articles for genealogical publications. Helen's book is entitled, *The Family and Descendants of George Hall and Elizabeth Knight*. Helen has also authored numerous articles for such genealogical publications as *Heritage Quest*, *The New England Historic Genealogical Register*, and the *National Genealogical Society News Magazine*. Helen has also been an activist working to revise the public records law and the cemetery laws in Maine.

As you can see, when you joined the OBBFHA, you joined some very talented and passionate people. I want to encourage all of you to submit to our newsletter any pieces you may have written about the history and genealogy of Waldoboro and the area of Midcoast Maine. We would also be interested in any article you see that may be of interest to our group. Remember, the newsletter does not write itself!

Osher Map Library & Smith Center for Cartographic Education

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education (OML). The OML has a huge collection of very old maps focusing on Maine and New England. It puts on exhibitions and offers educational programs for folks from kindergarten to graduate school. The OML is located at 314 Forest Avenue in Portland. This is the corner of Forest Avenue and Bedford Street. It is part of the University of Southern Maine and connects to the university's Albert Brenner Glickman Family Library. The OML is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. "With respect to holidays, etc, OML is closed on the same days as the USM Glickman Family Library." To learn more about the OML visit their website [<http://oshermaps.org>] and click through the various links to its many informational pages.

Genealogists' Declaration of Rights — We Need Your Support!

Posted on the RPAC Blog November 6, 2014 by Fred Moss

The Genealogists' Declaration of Rights is a statement advocating open access to federal, state, and local public records. The Declaration affirms America's long history of open public records, which has been threatened the last few years over concerns about identity theft and privacy. The Declaration of Rights has been approved by the board of directors of the three sponsoring organizations of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC): The National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). [A copy of the Declaration follows this article.]

RPAC has worked with state and federal legislators as well as local public officials for more than twenty years in support of legislation and regulations that achieve a balance between access and privacy. The

Declaration of Rights is a document RPAC plans to use in response to both state and federal legislation that would restrict access to public records. The Declaration will be presented to the appropriate legislative committee chairs or Executive Branch of government together with a specific statement about RPAC's position on a proposed law or regulation.

The Declaration is available for online signature at <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration>. As of 4 November 2014, over 4,000 signatures have been obtained. We need 10,000 signatures by the end of 2014 before the next state and federal legislative sessions begin! We Need YOU to sign the Genealogists' Declaration of Rights!

Genealogists' Declaration of Rights: Records Preservation and Access Committee; 27 April 2014

WHEREAS, Americans have pursued the research of their family heritage since the beginning of our country; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans derive enjoyment from genealogical exploration, consistent with the pursuit of happiness recognized by the founders of our country in our Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Americans derive substantial emotional benefit from genealogical exploration into their heritage; and

WHEREAS, many Americans derive financial benefit from the practice of professional genealogy and have performed such throughout this nation's history; and

WHEREAS, genealogists make meaningful contributions to the fields of forensic genealogy, identification of kinships, determining the facts in legal cases such as probate court, cases involving tribal and other relationships; and

WHEREAS, thousands of genealogical and historical societies, libraries, museums, and other institutions and associations have been established throughout our land to assist all Americans in the pursuit of their family heritage; and

WHEREAS, genealogy adds substantially to the ethnic, cultural, and racial richness of which our country is composed; and

WHEREAS, the American people have recognized that the right to open government and unfettered access to the records of our government are rights which find expression in the constitutions and legislation of our federal and state governments and which enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, genealogists have been at the forefront of efforts to protect and preserve the precious records and documents of our genealogical and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, genealogists, no less than other Americans, are vitally concerned for personal privacy and safety from untoward acts that diminish our freedom; and

WHEREAS, most records, including vital records, have, for all of our nation's history, been substantially open to access,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN

That we, the undersigned genealogists, in pursuance of our individual and collective rights as Americans, do hereby

DECLARE

That genealogists possess the right to the pursuit of genealogical exploration through unfettered access to the records of our government; and

WE CALL upon our governmental representatives to recognize our rights by;

PRESERVING the freedom of the American people to access the public records of our government in a timely and orderly manner through appropriate legislation; and

REFRAINING from legislation which would prevent or render extraordinarily difficult access to the public records, principally birth, marriage, and death records collected by our state and federal governmental agencies; and

PROMOTING those principles that enhance, not diminish, our freedom of access to records; and

CELEBRATING with genealogists the valuable benefits of exploring, researching, and compiling the histories of our families, and as a result, the history of our exceptional nation.