

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

Volume 15 No. 1 Spring 2017

To Search and To Share



Waldoboro Fire Department

Presidential Musings

By David Putnam

Hello Friends, On behalf of the entire Board of Directors allow me to wish all of you a Happy Spring. Here in New England, spring comes as a mixed blessing. While we revel in the warmer temperatures and longer days, spring also means mud and pothole season. Like all things in New England (and life!) we take the bitter with the sweet and appreciate the changing of the season, as we look forward to another glorious New England summer.

This edition of our newsletter features two stories about famous fires in Waldoboro. About a month ago, Jean Lawrence prepared a commemorative piece about the Gay Block fire in 1962. Sadly, it would not be her last fire related story for this edition. During the early hours of April 2nd the historic Isaac G. Reed Mansion in Waldoboro burned down. The mansion was built over two hundred years ago by the Reed family, one of Waldoboro's most prominent families in the 19th century. The Georgian style timber framed home was situated on a small hill overlooking the Medomak River. It was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. I found a postcard picture of the mansion in my grandmother's papers, so the mansion must have been a source of pride to her. I had the privilege of touring the mansion several years ago and it was a real treat to see the inside of this stately home. The loss of the Reed Mansion is a blow to all who value and enjoy Waldoboro history.

I am pleased to announce the speaker for our annual meeting on August 5th in Waldoboro. **Ms. Nancy Milliken Mason** will speak on **Genetic Genalogy-DNA Testing: How, When, Where and Why**. Nancy will also provide information on various DNA programs in which our members can participate. Snacks and lunch

will be provided. There will be time for the exchange of genealogical information after lunch. The business meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with the election of new officers. Ms. Mason will begin her presentation at 10:00 AM. I want to encourage all of our members who can attend to do so, and feel free to bring a friend!

I would like to bring to your attention our revised webpage. Our webmaster, Fred Snell, has revamped our webpage to make it more attractive and easier to read. We will be adding more content in the near future. I want to thank Fred for all his hard work, and the members of the Board of Directors for their ideas and input. Please check out our webpage page at www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha. The Board of Directors will meet in the conference room of the Waldoboro Public Library at 9:00 AM, on Saturday, June 17th, which is also Waldoboro Day. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming annual meeting in August, as well as election of officers and proposals for the Stahl Fund. After the meeting we will be hosting an informational table at the Waldoboro Historical Society as part of the Waldoboro Day festivities. If you are in the area, please stop by and say hello!

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In closing, I would like to correct an error in our January 2017 newsletter. The newsletter was numbered as Volume 14, No. 5. In fact, the January newsletter should have been numbered Volume 15, No. 1. The editor and I apologize for the error and any confusion.

The Reed Mansion: its creator and his family

By Jean M. B. Lawrence

The Georgian mansion that occupied the hill on Jefferson Street in Waldoboro is no more. The fire alarm that was triggered at 3:30 A.M. on Sunday, April 2, 2017, first involved the town's fire department. It was a difficult fire to fight because of the need to move hoses up the steep hill from the Jefferson source of water and due to the fact that the building's age made it an inferno in a short amount of time. Engine companies from nine surrounding towns responded to aid the **Waldoboro fighters. By church time on the fateful morning, nothing** was left but smoldering remnants of the once showcase home of Waldoboro's Col. Isaac G. Reed and his family.

On April 14, 1808, John R. Cutting, Waldoboro's first Congregational minister, purchased the lot on which the mansion later stood from Ezekiel Barnard. Cutting began to build what came to be known as "Cutting's Folly." The mansion that he planned was too much of an endeavor for a clergyman's salary, and he never finished it. On May 21, 1811, Col. Isaac G. Reed purchased the lot and enlarged the site and the plans for his home.

Born in Littleton, Massachusetts, in 1783 to lawyer Isaac Reed, Sr. and Mary (Gardner) Reed, Isaac G. Reed was a graduate of Harvard's Class of 1803 and studied law with Honorable John Locke of Bellerica before moving to Jefferson and later to Waldoboro to practice his profession. He took up residence in the home of the beautiful and wealthy Jane (Kinsell) Smouse, widow of Captain George D. Smouse. Reed's law office on Main Street, now the home of a hair stylist business, became a very busy, profitable and power-filled site. Reed's business was sponsored by Squire Jacob Ludwig, first and longtime clerk and justice of the peace for the village. Their business arrangement is described by Dr. Jasper Stahl in his *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* tome as a "lion-jackal relationship." This working arrangement and his marriage to the wealthy and prestigious widow laid a firm foundation for Reed's ascendancy to that of the town's most powerful politician, a reign that lasted over forty years.



Jane and Isaac moved into the mansion with her three children Gorham, George, and Bertha in April 1816. Six more children were born to the couple: Honorable Isaac, a ship builder and congressman; Mary, wife of John Whipple of Boston; Edward A., Charles, Gardner K, and William G. Dr. Stahl records that “when the plaster was still wet in the construction of the foundation for this home, Reed with a sharp instrument cut the following message into the cement: ‘I. G. Reed built this house 1814, 1815, 1816- inhabited it 1816. He wishes health, prosperity and contented minds to all his successors.’”

Reed was a very crafty politician of the Federalist or Tory party. His first public office was that of first selectman, and he proceeded to establish a voting list for the town. Since only landowners were allowed to vote, the list allowed him to consolidate his supporters. He was a member of the local militia and thus merited the title of Colonel which was a title he carried to his grave. He led the town in its Tory position right through to its opposition to Maine’s independence and the rise of the Democrat Party. Even though he was a representative to the constitutional convention, he was relegated to the committee to create the State of Maine’s Seal. His stepdaughter Bertha is credited with the design which became famous, as it was adopted when in 1820 Maine became a state.

The Reeds entertained many important visitors at the mansion. In 1820, the bow room was added to give space for the reception of Governor John Brooks of Massachusetts, who was the Colonel’s guest. Stahl notes that Reed was a believer since college in the “right of the good, the wise, and the rich to govern.” He arrived in Waldoboro when in the course of history it was the right time for a man with lofty and far-reaching goals to become its leader. The man who became lawyer, military leader, financier, legislator, town officer, and politician died in 1847 in the mansion that he built for his bride.

References: Waldoboro Historical Society Artifacts Collection, *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro* by Dr. Jasper Stahl; *History of Waldoboro* by Samuel Miller.

Moment in Waldoboro History: The Gay Block Burns

By Jean M. B. Lawrence



Fifty-five years ago, February 22, 1962, to be exact, the Gay Block, located at the four corners in Waldoboro and which housed Gay’s Market and The Waldoboro *Press* plus the Masonic lodge rooms on the upper floor, went up in flames. The inferno was so intense that it scorched the walls of the Fish Building next door, the present home of the Philippe Guillerm Gallery. Barney Castner, manager of the market, is reported to have stated that when he opened the trap door leading to the cellar, flames erupted and he had

time only to grab the cash bag and escape. The Waldoborough Historical Society’s February 2017 calendar page shows the Waldoboro Fire Department fighting the blaze and points to the origin as possibly starting in the area of the newspaper which was printed on site.

The Gay Block was erected by John T. Gay on the site of the old Union Block. The Union Block had been built by John Tibbetts and William Fish and fell to fire on June 5, 1900. Today the site provides parking spaces for the gallery shaded by the overgrown Town Christmas Tree evergreen.

Richard Wallace, long-time resident and historian of the town, was an eye witness to the destruction of the building. His mother Edith was driving Richard’s sister Judith and her friends Judy Beaucage and Leta Chase up to the village to bowl a few strings to celebrate her daughter’s birthday. As Mrs. Wallace neared the village, she realized that Gay’s Market was on fire, so she turned around and headed back to Dutch Neck to pick up Richard and his grandmother. Edith drove back Rte. 32, took a right onto Mill Street and then onto Jefferson

Street, drove up the hill to School Street and parked on Main Street. Richard remembers that they walked as far as the Custom House where his father Eben, who had been at work at Storer's Lumber Yard, met them. The date of Richard's sister's birthday will forever be inscribed in his memory as the day Gay's Market burned to the ground!

1779 – 1783 Fort George – “Protected by the Crown”

In 1779, after the Penobscot Expedition ended in disaster for the Colonial Forces, Fort George, in today's Castine, became a safe haven for Loyalists. In 1782, the British reinforced the military presence with so-called Hessians - Braunschweig (Brunswick) and Ansbach-Bayreuth troops. The weekend presentations on September 9 & 10, 2017, will shed light on life at this remote British outpost where Loyalist lived protected by the Crown before a majority of them moved to St. Andrews and St. Stephen as members of the Penobscot Association.



Since there was documented interaction between Broad Bay and Fort George, we hope that many visitors with connection to Waldoboro will come to the event. If some would like to sail up the coast (or down-east) we would be very interested to know how long their journey is, since that is the way they would have traveled in the 1780's.

We have commitments from Braunschweig (Brunswick) reenactors in Germany. Depending on funding there may be as many as seven of them coming to join other Scottish, “Hessian” and British reenactors. This year we focus on the four years of relative peace in the area, when loyalist families moved to be near Fort George thinking that this will be their home for the future.

For more information check the event's website at www.FriendsofCastineForts.com

Or contact me directly at either:

unserM@aol.com or anette.rodriques@maine.edu

OBBFHA Membership Dues 2015-2016

To search and to share

A recent review of our records shows that some members have not paid dues to OBBFHA for the year 2015-2016. We do not want to lose you as a member. It is important to us that you continue your membership. If you have any questions please email our President David at dputnam925@msn.com .

Please remit your dues to:

Deirdre Putnam
OBBFHA Treasurer
17 Bush Hill Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Please fill out the slip below with correct mailing address and email address if applicable.

Name _____

Second member in household _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

How do you want to receive the newsletter?

Individual membership: email-PDF format \$ 10 _____ per year US mail _____ \$15 per year

Family membership: email-PDF format \$ 15 _____ per year US mail _____ \$ 20 per year



2017 Calendar of Programs
Waldoborough Historical Society
The public is invited to attend all programs;
No admission



The Museum complex is open June 17 – September 10 every day from noon to 3 P.M. except Tuesdays. All programs are free to the public. There is no admission charge for the Museum Complex. It will also be open the first two weekends in June.

Wednesday, April 26, Larry Allen will present “What Your Teacher Didn’t Tell You about the Revolutionary War” His discussion will feature his collection of toy soldiers and will begin following a Pot Luck Supper in the vestry of the Broad Bay UCC on Main Street, Waldoboro. The supper will begin at 5:30 P.M. Bring a casserole or salad to share; dessert and beverage will be provided. The public is invited to attend the supper and the presentation.

Tuesday, May 9, 7 P.M. Jay Sawyer, local metal artist, will present an overview of his work and his upcoming book at the Waldoboro Public Library. The Waldoborough Historical Society is sponsoring this Speakers Series session and will provide cookies and beverage at 6:45 P.M. The program is open to the public, no admission.



May 14th

Sunday, May 28, 4 P.M. at the VF W Hall on Mill Street the Society will present a program: “Salute to Veterans” which will recognize all veterans and the local Charles Lilley American Legion Post #149 and the Soule Shuman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4525. The public is invited to attend this special event which honors the work of these organizations. Recognition of the service songs of the various armed forces will be held and a brief history of each organization will be given; a display of artifacts will be on view and the MIA’s will be recognized. Refreshments will follow the program. The public is invited to this special Memorial Day weekend event. Come and honor our vets!!

May 31



Saturday, June 17, Waldoboro Day, the Museum will open for the summer at 11 A.M. The *Water Witch*, Waldoboro’s oldest fire engine, will be welcomed home after refurbishing. Old Broad Bay Family History Assn. will be on hand to help with genealogy questions.

Sunday, June 18, 1 P.M. Peter Achorn, of Fire Gold Restoration, will present an overview of the process he followed in refurbishing the *Water Witch*. Mr. Achorn is a prominent artist of engines and worked on the *Water Witch* all winter at his studio in Spruce Head. The process was underwritten by the Waldoboro Firemen’s Association. The public is invited to attend the presentation and visit the Museum complex from noon to 3 P.M.

June 18



Wednesday, July 12, Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting will be held in the Hauck/Bailey Building beginning at 6:30 P.M. Election of Officers will be held. Presentation of information on new WHS Website and Facebook!

Wednesday, July 26, 7 P.M. “Congratulations to Moody’s Diner on its 90th Birthday!” Two Moody family members, Warren and Harvey will share memories and the history of the town’s oldest eatery. Come by to enjoy the presentation and to view the display of Moody artifacts assembled by the society trustee Kathie Hills.

Sunday, August 20, noon to 3 P.M. “Waldoboro Rugs Reception.” A display of the Museum’s Waldoboro rugs will be held in the Hauck/Bailey Building. Of special interest are the recent donations of the American Textile Museum, Lowell, MA which closed last year. Mildred Peladeau’s publication *Art Under Foot* will be available for purchase at a special reception price of \$10.

Saturday, September 9, 10 A.M. “A Walk around Waldoboro with Mark Biscoe. “ Meet at the Town Landing. The walk will conclude with a visit to the Anne Heywood Gallery in the Main Street home of two Maine governors: Governors Sebastian Marble and Frederick Payne. The walk is in support of the Art Walk of local artists which is held later in the afternoon.

In addition:

ANNUAL OBBFHA MEETING NEWS -

Save the date for our annual meeting on Saturday, August 5th. The meeting starts at 9:00 A.M. and our speaker begins around 10:00 A.M. Join us at the Knox-Lincoln County Extension, 377 Manktown Rd. Waldoboro.

We have an exciting speaker, with an interesting topic! Genetic Genealogist, Nancy **Milliken Mason**, will give a presentation entitled **"Genetic Genealogy - DNA Testing: How, When, Where and Why"**.

Snacks and lunch provided. \$5 donation requested.

On Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 P.M.

The German Lutheran Society and Women’s Auxiliary holds their annual church service on the Sunday following OBBFHA annual meeting at the Old German Meeting House in Waldoboro. Please check with the church group for updates.

Make it a weekend! Come to the OBBFHA meeting and presentation on Sat. August 5 and on Sunday you could attend the service in this historic church!

Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/
Editorial comments & queries to pmkriso@gmail.com

Visit the OBBFHA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/waldoboromaineancestors>

Happy July 4th





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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. This year the newsletter will be issued twice: in April (Winter / Spring) and in October (Summer / Fall).

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.

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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: _____

