



# Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 3 Summer 2019

*To Search and to Share*

Breezing Up (A Fair Wind) by American Artist Homer Winslow in 1873-1876

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## Presidential Musings

Hello Again Dear Friends,

I write this column on the day of the Summer Solstice, an event very much anticipated here in New England. Our Spring has been rainy and cool, so we are yearning for some warm summer weather. I want to remind all of you that our annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, at the Knox-Lincoln Country Cooperative Extension, 377 Manktown Road in Waldoboro. Our guest speaker will be **Professor Micah Pawling** of the University of Maine at Orono. His presentation is entitled, **“Wabanaki Homeland: Waterscapes, Water Connections and Waldoboro”**. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with a brief report from the Board of Directors and elections. Anyone who is interested in running for the office of President, Vice-President/Secretary, Treasurer, or for a seat on the Board of Directors is welcome to submit their name for consideration. We are always looking for new voices and new perspectives!

Professor Pawling will begin his presentation at 10:00 AM, followed by lunch and time for the exchange of genealogical and historical information. A \$5.00 donation will be requested at the door. Lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert will be served. After the meeting adjourns, Jean Lawrence will open the Waldoborough Historical Society Museum for anyone who would like a tour.

The German Lutheran Society and Ladies Auxiliary will host their annual church service at the Old German Meeting House at 3:00 PM, on August 4th. An informal reception will follow the service. Historically, our members have enjoyed this service and the following reception under the trees. Many have expressed great joy at having the

chance to attend a religious service in the meeting house built by their ancestors.

**WALDOBORO DAY:** The Board of Directors held its annual meeting at the Waldoboro Public Library on Saturday, June 15th, which was also Waldoboro Day. After the meeting, Dale Gunn, Deirdre and I went to the Waldoborough Historical Society Museum where we hosted an informational table for the many visitors. It was a beautiful day and the lupines were all in bloom! The historical society sponsored trolley rides to the various historical sites around town, narrated by Jean Lawrence and Mark Biscoe. The day was a great success for the entire community.

**WEBSITE:** I have happy news regarding our website. We were unable to rectify the problems that we and many other groups were experiencing with the Rootsweb platform. Fred Snell worked patiently and diligently trying to resolve the problems we were experiencing, but to no avail. Reluctantly, the Board of Directors decided that the website was too important to our mission and we could no longer afford to have it inoperative. We decided to find a private platform to host our site. Our website is now up and running and can be visited at our

new website address, [www.obbfha.org](http://www.obbfha.org). We all owe a great debt to Fred for all his hard work on this most perplexing problem. I want to encourage all of you to submit any pictures of people, places or artifacts from Waldoboro that might be of interest to our members and researchers.

**GENETIC GENEALOGY:** I would like to recommend a very well written and informative book about the emerging field of genetic genealogy. The book's title is "**The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy**" by genealogist **Blaine Bettinger**. This book is a good introduction to the basic fundamentals of DNA testing, and it's use in genealogical research. I found the book easy to read and understand. If I can understand it, I am sure all of you can! Genetic Genealogy may never replace traditional records based genealogical research, but it is becoming a very valuable tool used in conjunction with traditional methods. I think you will find this book valuable, informative, and easy to read and understand.

**SEA SERPENTS IN BROAD BAY!** I was sitting in my chiropractor's waiting room a few weeks ago and I happened to notice a book titled, "**New England Graveside Tales**" by **T.M. Gray**. As I read through the book, I could see that it was one of those books containing stories and legends about ghosts and other terrifying creatures that is appropriate for children in elementary school, so it was a perfect fit for me. Imagine my surprise when I started reading the chapter on Sea Serpents and came across the following tale: *"In June 1779, 18-year-old Edward Preble, a future naval commodore, encountered a sea serpent while serving on the warship Protector....The Protector was anchored in Broad Bay just off Friendship, Maine. A large black snake emerged from the underbrush on the beach, slipped into the water and swam past the frigate. Later, when the large serpent was discovered near the ship, it appeared motionless at the surface, and after careful inspection, the Protector's captain, Commodore Josh Foster Williams, passed an order down through George Little ordering Preble to examine it closer in the ship's longboat barge. As the barge approached the sea serpent, it raised its head about 10 feet above the surface of the water, looking about.... It moved away from the barge. Ensign Preble fired his musket, but this did nothing other than quicken the speed of the monster. They chased it for about a mile and a half until the serpent ran up on Louds island and disappeared into the woods. Midshipman Luther Little described the sea serpent as being about forty feet long, thick as a man's body, and able to lift his head six feet out of the water. A year later, Luther's brother, Captain George Little (who had served aboard the Protector) saw the sea serpent again in Muscongus Bay. The sighting occurred at sunrise. According to Captain Little a large serpent was coming down the bay, on the surface of the water. He described the serpent as 45 to 50 feet in length and 15 inches in diameter. According to Little, a Joseph Kent saw similar animal in the same area in 1751, only the one he saw was longer and larger than the main boom of his 85-ton sloop. In a cutter, Captain Little and his crew went after the serpent, whose man-sized head was carried about 5 feet above the water. They came within a hundred feet of it, and then the creature dove and made its escape."* Well to say the least, I was intrigued by this tale that I had never heard. Perhaps the serpent is still slithering through the waters of Broad Bay. If we could get one new sighting, we could start a sea monster craze like Loch Ness or Lake Champlain. We could name the monster Broad Bay Bessie, or perhaps Waldoboro Winnie, and sell t-shirts, souvenirs and tickets to boat cruises hunting for the monster. We might even get our own television show on the History Channel. Now we just have to find one good liar to say they saw the creature in Broad Bay, and we will all be rich!

**NEW MEMBERS AND DONATIONS:** Our group continues to grow. Our newest members are Margie McKnight Lamb of North Carolina, and William Achorn Weiblen of Connecticut. Margie is a descendant of the Rominger Family that left Broad Bay for the Moravian settlements in North Carolina. William is a descendant of the Achorn Family. Welcome aboard Margie and William, I hope you both will enjoy sharing your genealogical journey with us!

I would also like to thank researcher extraordinaire Tracie Gross Ott of our west coast contingent for her generous donation. All of the money received from membership fees and donations goes toward our costs for the annual meeting, the website, and the Stahl Fund.

In closing I would like to briefly mention the passing of Richard Wallace. Richard was an extraordinary man who never imagined he was extraordinary. Deirdre and I attended his funeral and one of the mourners stated, "every town needs a Richard Wallace." Amen to that! Rest in Peace Richard.

***KEEP ON SEARCHING AND SHARING!***



**Governor Ames was the first 5-masted Schooner, built in 1888.  
(Model not built by Richard)**

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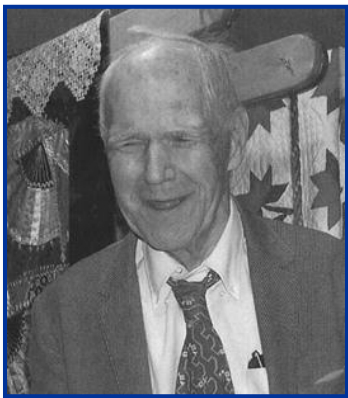
Richard Wallace  
1942-2019

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## The Waldoborough Historical Society

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we acknowledge the loss of our trustee Richard Wallace on May 9, 2019. Richard was a founding member of the historical society, served as a trustee for fifty years, and was dedicated to saving the historical artifacts of the Town of Waldoboro.

A very shy, humble and honest man, Richard got great joy in teaching many of us the history of Waldoboro. If one had a chance to stop at the museum over the past 50 years and speak to Richard, that person is a very lucky one because he/she can tell people that they were taught the history of our great town by the “king” himself. With the passing of Richard, Waldoboro has lost so much knowledge, but most of all, we have lost a true gentleman who was always one to worry about others and to praise others first. He was a true gem of a man. Bill Maxwell, WHS Vice President, formed a firm friendship with Richard and spent much time “learning history at his knee” (porch or on rides back and forth to meetings.)



Richard was, over the years, instrumental in the founding of the OBBFHA early on, for he was a Sixth-Generation member of the Wallack family. In the last ten years, he enjoyed immensely the August meetings when Dave and Jean Lawrence made sure that he was present. Jean is the President of WHS. He was so happy to be a part of the group that celebrated their roots and wanted to remain connected with Waldoboro and the Museum. He loved seeing old friends and hearing even more historical knowledge at the sessions. He felt that the organization was blessed to have David and Deidre Putnam as leaders and always asked Jean if she had heard from them during the year.

It is a very sad time for all of us at the Waldoborough Historical Society, for we know that on Sundays when we walk into the Richard Wallace Barn that he will not be there to greet us. Richard gave his life to the Town of Waldoboro. He truly loved his town and the citizens loved him. Sympathy was expressed to his family at calling hours and at the memorial service. Richard was laid to rest in the Dutch Neck Cemetery just down the road from his family home. His family’s yard is right at the front of the cemetery; he is home with his parents and sister. We will never forget you, Richard; you are forever in our hearts. -Bill Maxwell and Jean Lawrence for the trustees of the WHS.

## Memorial

A brief memorial was held at the Museum on Sunday, June 16, at 1 P.M. A prayer and a few words were said, and the bell tolled to mark the first opening Sunday in 51 years that Richard will not be present. This was followed by Richard's favorite "fruit punch and cookies" and a time of visiting and sharing memories.

The Society very much appreciates the memorial gifts sent by OBBFHA members. Funds will be used for the creation of a memorial garden that Richard had started us planning. He wanted a new fence and "old" flowers and bushes, so it will have day lilies, daffodils, lavender, forsythia and lilac bushes, and others. The Society also appreciated David and Deidre Putnam's presence at the funeral service. For them to travel from home to Waldoboro was a very special gift of respect.

## Obituary

Richard E. Wallace, 76, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 9, 2019 in Damariscotta, Maine. A native son of Waldoboro, Richard was born on December 17, 1942, the middle child of Eben and Edith Wallace.

Richard's lifetime had been one of volunteering and serving others. He volunteered at the American Legion Bingos from his youth until about 6 years ago. He was one of the original founders of the Waldoborough Historical Society in 1968. Serving continuously on the Board of Trustees of the Society for the past 50 years, he had completed terms as president and curator of the museum. Richard was the town's foremost historian and collector of artifacts. He had donated over 50% of the present collection housed in the three Society buildings. The amount of history registered in Richard's memory was amazing.

Richard's work with the Garden Club for over 50 years helped beautify many of the public buildings and sites in Waldoboro. He gave his talents with plants and flower arranging to the Waldoboro United Methodist Church for 50 years and only recently had retired from that job. His interest and support of the German Church had been a passion, and he had faithfully attended services there and created flower arrangements for services for many, many years. He was descended from one of the original German immigrant families that settled Waldoboro.

He was a fifty-year member of the Meenahga Grange #555, took part in many Grange competitions and won awards, while holding office in the organization.

He continued to support the Dutch Neck Community Club, the St. Paul's Society, and the Waldoboro United Methodist Church. With Jean Lawrence, he wrote, published, and personally sold copies of a local history book entitled Richard Remembers Dutch Neck to raise funds to support St. Paul's Chapel on Dutch Neck. A shy and retiring gentleman, Richard lived his life to educate, preserve, and celebrate his hometown.

Richard is survived by his brother Leland Wallace of Waldoboro, his nieces Sherri Kleiber of South Portland, Christine Bryant of Waldoboro, and Barbara Caron of Stockton Springs along with a nephew Steven Studley of New Jersey and with many grand nieces, nephews and many friends. He is predeceased by his parents, Eben and Edith and sister Judy Studley.

**"Waldoboro Ships" 18 months calendars 2019-20 are still for sale.**  
**Is a great gift! Order WH Society, PO Box 110, Waldoboro, ME 04572.**  
**\$10 each plus \$3 for mailing**

## Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: [www.obbfha.org](http://www.obbfha.org)

Editorial comments & queries to [pmkriso@gmail.com](mailto:pmkriso@gmail.com)

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

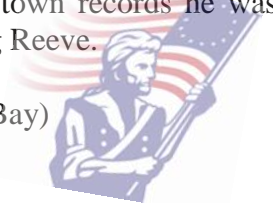
## American Revolution Patriots

Jane Johnson of the southern contingent of the OBBFHA has passed along this information to us regarding her Sidelinger ancestors: Martin Sidelinger's record in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has recently been updated and now has an entry for his daughter Barbara, b 30 Oct 1752 Broad Bay, d 7 June 1792 Friedland NC, who married (20 Sept 1768) Jacob Rominger (b 13 Apr 1743 Hohenwetttersbach, Germany d 30 Aug 1816 Friedland NC) The Romingers lived in Broad Bay before moving south to the Moravian settlement in Friedland, North Carolina. Jacob Rominger was a patriot who fought during the war, as did his father Michael, who provided supplies to the Colonists.

The data base for American Patriots is called the Genealogical Research System (**GRS**) and it can be found on the Daughters of the American Revolution website, **DAR.org**. The public is welcome to use the site. Martin Sidelinger, b. abt. 1720 Langensteinbach, Germany, died bef. 5 Jan 1793 in Waldoboro, is also listed as a patriot for his civil service in Waldoboro during the American Revolution. According to the town records he was appointed by the town and served as a Surveyor of Roads, Warden, Fence Viewer and Hog Reeve.

Jane H. Johnson

(Descendant of the Sidelingers, the Romingers and the Wohlfahrt families of Old Broad Bay)  
Bald Head Island, NC



**Masthead:** Breezing Up (A Fair Wind) is an oil painting by American artist Winslow Homer, 1873-1876 It depicts a catboat called the *Gloucester* chopping through that city's harbor under "a fair wind" (Homer's original title). Inside the boat are a man, three boys, and their catch.

### Waldoboro Shipping History

The Waldoborough Historical Society

#### Early History

Waldoboro's first recorded shipbuilder was John Jacob Ulmer who arrived in 1742. He was a man of many talents: schoolteacher, preacher, soldier, boatbuilder and land speculator. It is believed that shipbuilding began around 1767 for, in 1771, Ulmer built a brig of 150 tons which was called the *Yankee Hero*. No doubt other vessels were built in the Ulmer yard, same site as the Clark yard, on the east side of the river behind what is now the Samson Block or home of the Community Pharmacy. Another famous top sail schooner the *Broad Bay* was built here before the Revolution. Throughout the Revolution, Captain George Demuth Smouse built schooners and carried on West Indies trade. His shipbuilding was carried out on the west side of the Medomak close to the present bridge and site later of the Fish Yard and the first sail loft. Smouse's trading brought him great wealth and provided the local inhabitants a profitable way to send their goods out into the world and a source of needed supplies which they bartered at Smouse's store. While Smouse was not the largest operator in the town; he was in the words of Dr. Jasper Stahl, "the most venturesome." When he died in 1803, he left his wife with the title of "the wealthiest widow in town."

#### Waldoboro Shipbuilding Develops and Diminishes

From the late 1700's to the early 1900's, Waldoboro was a major shipbuilding center. It is believed that over 500 sailing vessels were built within ½ mile of the village. We don't know for sure where every shipyard was located; it is believed that approximately 22 yards existed on both sides of the river.

The most common type of vessel built here was the schooner, a two or three masted 'Coaster.' These were built to carry bulk cargoes such as wood to be exported from local ports to large cities on the east coast. Schooners operated like the trailer trucks of today – traveling back and forth, up and down the coast and often rarely going out of sight of land while making many trips a year. From 1820 -1840 there were 12 schooners, 11 of which were built locally that ran regularly between Waldoboro and Boston.

Other types of vessels built here were brigs, ships, barks, barkentines, brigantines and sloops. Many of the largest, primarily the ships, were sold to prominent firms who used them in trade to faraway places such as Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The second half of the century found larger and larger crafts produced. In 1841, Joseph Clark built the *Desdemona* at 625 tons the largest built until he built the *Caroline and Mary Clark* at 800 tons in 1849. Then in 1854, B.B. Haskell and Co. launched the ship *E. Wilder Farley* of 1300 tons. Clark's ship *Joseph*

Clark in 1856 was measured at 1308 tons. In the same year, Storer & Comery's *Hamilton Fish* outstripped it at 1628 tons. Edwin O. Clark, Joseph's son, built the ship *Mabel Clark*, 1661 tons in 1877. A.R. Reed in 1884 completed the *George Curtis* of 1745 tons. She remained the largest of all until the Palmer Schooner Fleet built by George Welt and measuring from 2075 to 2400 tons created from 1900-1904.

Because of the shipbuilding industry, the peak years in Waldoboro were from 1840 – 1860 when 225 vessels were built, and the town enjoyed its height in a recorded population of 4569. For the town, the fortunes of shipbuilding were great. Totals: 21 in 1850; 23 in 1849 and 22 in 1848 by the following firms: Thomas Gay, Reed & Welt, J.R. Groton, Wm. Fish, Vannah & Hall, Henry Kennedy, Genthner and Morse, Harriman, Samuel Nash, M.M. Rawson, Robert Miller, William Welt, Jacob Hahn, Joseph Clark, Edwin Achorn, George Sproul, Anthony Castner, Fred Creamer, John Levensaler and Alfred Storer.

By 1853, Waldoboro had become the name place in a customs district that stretched from Bristol to Thomaston and produced 23% of the total tonnage – 40,453 – from the State of Maine and was second only to the district of Bath. This was far more than the districts of Portland, Belfast, and Wiscasset combined. The village itself was a busy, thriving place with many stores, hotels, large homes and a bustling waterfront. Vessels appeared from downriver daily to drop off and pick up cargoes. Sounds from shipyards such as the ping of the caulker's maul and irons could be clearly heard by the traveler entering the outskirts of the town. Prosperity was to continue through the 1850's, suffer somewhat from the Civil War and then gradually decline.

Along with the small schooners being produced on a fairly regular basis, Waldoboro also was the birthplace of a number of large full rigged ships. The firms of Joseph Clark, Reed & Welt, Henry Kennedy, Alfred Schooner, B.L. Harriman, Edwin Achorn (who built two of the three true clipper ships), Comery, B.B. Haskell, James Hovey, and Edwin O. Clark were all responsible for vessels of over 700 tons. People wonder how vessels of such great size could ever be built and launched within the narrow confines of our village waterfront. However, as in many Maine towns, the financial rewards of building a vessel were so potentially high, often paying for itself in the first voyage, could be endured.

Towards the end of the 1800's and the early 1900's, the large schooners of Alfred Storer and George Welt formed the last part of the wooden sailing ships industry. In 1881, Storer built the *Governor Ames* – the first five masted schooner in Maine – and then followed the Palmer Fleet. With the costs of labor and materials and the rushing and ever improving steamship, wooden shipbuilding came to an end and the prosperity of the kind enjoyed by most of the populace in Waldoboro during the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was never seen again.



**Governor Ames**

In 1900, William F. Palmer of Boston contracted locally for his six mammoth five-masted schooners. The smallest was the *Paul Palmer*, larger than any vessel previously built in the town, and the largest ever constructed on the Medomak River, the *Harwood Palmer* of 2400 tons. George L. Welt, nephew of major shipbuilder Augustus Welt, was in charge of the construction of this fleet; *Fannie, Baker, Paul, Dorothy, Singleton, & Harwood*. By 1904, the last of the schooners was in the water, and it was all over.

After a lapse of 40 years, with World War II came a need for all types of vessels and The Waldoboro Shipyard was begun in May 1942 by the Cooney family. The old Reed & Welt yard and two adjacent sites south were acquired by the corporation led by Carroll T. Cooney, Sr., Carroll T. Cooney, Jr. Russell S. Cooney and Stuart Hemingway. General Manager was Carroll T. Jr.; Master builder, Frank B. Day; Yard Superintendent and Draftsman Scott Carter succeeded Day in peace time. At the height of wartime 110 men were employed. Harbor tugs, draggers and yachts were built, the largest of which was the dragger *Edith and Lillian*. Seventeen vessels were built between October 1942 and September 1945.

The value of the Medomak River has been brought before the citizens of Waldoboro primarily through the efforts of those who form the working waterfront individuals many of whom utilize the two landings that the town supports. Their work to show the importance of the river has made the value of this site on the Medomak increase in the eyes of the citizenry. Submitted by Jean Lawrence, WHS President

--Sources for this information: Dr. Jasper Stahl's *Waldoboro and Old Broad Bay*; Mark Biscoe's writings included in a volume in the Society's archives: *Waldoboro Ships and Shipbuilding*.



## The South Waldoboro Baptist Church Lightning Rod

The Waldoborough Historical Society was pleased to receive on Monday, June 17, 2019, from Betty Studley, (pictured) the lightning rod that once was atop the South Waldoboro Baptist Church when it stood at what is now the intersection of Friendship and Finntown Roads. The church was disbanded and torn down in 1965. The bell and lightning rod were given to the church by Oliver Studley, Roland Studley's father and Betty's grandfather. The rod was rescued by Roland's wife Elsie when the work detail of State prisoners tore down the edifice. The rod was presented with these words: "The Studley family would like it to rest in the place it should be; The Waldoborough Historical Society. Given by Betty Studley." It is the donation of artifacts such as this that help the Society keep the history of Waldoboro alive through its many exhibits. The Trustees accept this gift with great appreciation.



The museum is now open for the summer every day except Tuesday, from noon to 3 P.M. All are welcome; there is never a charge for a visit. *Submitted by Jean Lawrence WHS President*

## Waldoborough Historical Society 2019 Program Schedule

**July 10, Wednesday**, at the Museum; 6:30 P.M. for ice cream sundaes; 7 P.M. Annual Meeting and "Chimney Flue Covers" with Mrs. Eric Norden.

**July 21, Sunday**, at the Museum. Time: TBA. Les Fossel, "Old Barns and Houses."

**August, Date and time: TBA**; "Appraisal Day" Guest appraiser of public's antiques.

**September 22, Sunday**, 1 P.M. "Wood Harvesting Celebration" Guest representatives of the wood harvesting industry. Bill Maxwell, chair.

**October 6, Sunday**, All Play Entertainment, 2 P.M. "Bowling in Waldoboro Over the Years."

**October 20, Sunday**, 1 P.M. at the Museum. "Salute to Morse's Sauerkraut." Guest speaker from Morse's.

**November**, TBA at the Museum. Recognition of WWI Armistice and Veterans with Revere Bell ringing.

**December 1, Sunday**, 1-4 P.M. At the Hauck/Bailey Building. Holiday Open House; Christmas artifacts, exhibits, carol singing, refreshments.

**Each second Saturday, June through October**, the Society will support ArtWalk by remaining open noon until 6 P.M. Look for the red balloons! All presentations are free and open to the public.

## Site of the Moravian Mission Sign Maintenance

The sign for the site of the Moravian Mission that OBBFHA replaced several years ago was almost completely obscured, until a little maintenance work today uncovered this historical marker! The sign can be found on the right side of Friendship Rd, Waldoboro (Rt 220), heading toward the Town of Friendship, almost to the 600's.



Sign information: On the riverbank of this farm, Lot No. 9. Allotted in 1742 to Hans George Vogler, was located the only mission established by the Moravian church in northern New England. Erected in 1762. George Soulle, Pastor 1758-1770 on Lot No. 10. The next north, stood the second Lutheran Church and Cemetery, 1772-1795.



# Old Broad Bay Family History Association

To Search and To Share

## Membership Application or Renewal

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in discovering and preserving the genealogy and history of the founding families of Broad Bay, now known as Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine. The Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter is available either by email or USPS mail.

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

New Member

Renewal

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The membership year is July 1 to June 30.

Choose One	Type of Membership	Voting Rights	Cost per year
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	Individual, email	One vote	\$15
	Family, email	Two votes	\$20

### Paper newsletter by US Mail

	Individual	One vote	\$20
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A library membership is solely for allowing distribution of the newsletter to research facilities and confers no right to vote.

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Second person in the household  
Of Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to OBBFHA and send with this form to:

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