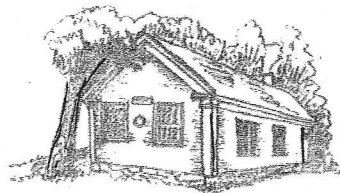


Old Bristol Historical Society Newsletter

Volume II, Fall 2004



A Message from our President:

This year has been a very busy and productive one for OBHS. In the spring Rose Marie Ballard-Boak, a professional in the field of architectural preservation, instructed us and members of the Bremen Historical Society in doing a historic resource survey. Our members, under the leadership of Ken Coombs, retired architect, were divided into five teams, each to survey different sections of Round Pond. All houses, barns, churches, wharves, quarries, etc., 50 years or older are to be identified and documented. The deadline for Round Pond is November 1. The aim is eventually to survey every village in Bristol!

Our programs have been interesting and well attended. Here's a rundown on the year's events:

In May, Phil Averill gave an entertaining talk on his book, Old Schools of Bristol. Members of the Neighborly Club, former owners of the old McKinley Schoolhouse, where we meet, have done so much to help us get started, were special guests, and each was given a copy of Phil's book.

June's speaker was Dr. Warren Reiss, who talked about the English galleon, The Angel Gabriel, her wreck in Pemaquid Harbor in 1635, and his 20-year effort to find her. June also brought Julia Lane & Fred Gosbee doing a OBHS benefit concert with great success.

In July author, Van Reid, spoke on his book, Peter Loon, which was set in 1800 at a time when the mid-coast was a tinder box of tension over the conflict between the great proprietors who claimed to own the land and the settlers who lived on it. On the July blue moon Joan Lyford staged a Native American Recognition Ceremony to honor local tribes who inhabited Pemaquid Beach for 10,000 years before colonial settlement. There were native speakers & musicians and OBHS members Marilyn Chadwick, Kay Hannah, Judy Hope, and Kathy Gustafson brought native foods to the gathering.

Bill Benner, as part of August's Old Bristol Days, gave an amusing talk on growing up in Bristol and the houses and families of Bristol Mills in the 1940's. We also took part in the

Old Bristol Day parade, with Kay and Pete Hannah driving their historic car.

In September, maritime historian, Nick Dean, regaled us with tales of the Maine-built clipper ship, Snow Squall, which wrecked in the Falkland Islands, and the expedition to recover her (see story this issue).

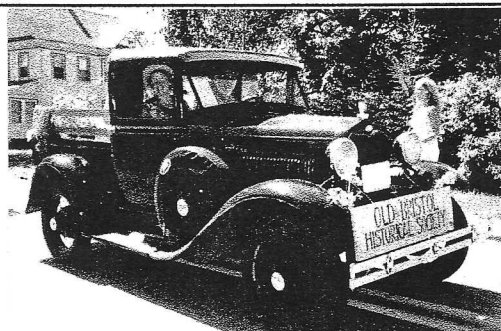
A very popular event this summer was an exhibition of Gordon and Kendall Fossett's old postcard collections. The brothers were on hand to answer questions, and one day was not enough for this well-attended affair. Our presenters have been given memberships.

The OBHS was given Ivan Flye's collections of old Bristol photographs. The were on display at the Bristol library in April and again at the Congregational Church as part of the Miles House Tour in Bristol Mills. Now they are on the walls of our McKinley Schoolhouse at meetings.

In May, volunteers cleaned up the yard, outhouse, and schoolhouse building, and in July we had a lawn sale that brought in over \$500. Not bad for a first year!

Pete Hope

Peter & Kay Hannah drove their old Ford in the Old Bristol Day parade. Jamie Hallowell, Courtney Geyer threw flowers.



Wish List

1. We are in need of a used Monitor heater.
2. Next in importance is a slide projector.
3. We also need ten 5 and ½' shutters.
4. Ideas for events you want us to sponsor.
5. Your old artifacts, photos, and documents.
We can copy and return these to you.
6. People to tape oral histories
7. New members, always!

**Call President Peter Hope to contribute:
207-677-2848**

Recent Donors

Warren Reiss
Robert Cushing
Nobleboro Historical Soc'y
Bristol Area Lions
Mary Lee Rushmore Cultural Ass'n.
Kathleen Wright & Jeff Eilenberg
Margaret Sproul & Laura Sproul Stubbs
Caldwell Banker, Newcastle Square,
Discount Realty, Dewey Chase, Sigrid
Sproul Realtys, and Phil Averill

Upcoming Events

Genealogy Workshops: Oct. 3, Joyce Brown will lead a 'shop, "How to Get Started On Tracking Your Family", an overview; **October 10**, Becky Flanders on "Using the Internet to Search Your Family History"; **October 17**, Local genealogists Hazel Genthner, Carol Ring, Suzanne Holmes, and Joyce Sykes at McKinley School., All workshops on Sundays at 2 P.M. We need your input!

Oct. 5: OBHS Pres., Peter Hope, starts a 6-week class on "Bristol History from Precolonial to Statehood in 1820". Also, Peter, Joan Lyford, and Julia Lane will conduct a 2-hour session for the "Our Town" series for Coastal Senior College on Wed. Oct. 5. Call Peter, 677-2848 for info.

Membership & Money Matters

Having shown continued growth over the summer, our membership now numbers 130, most permanent residents but many are seasonal. Welcome all! To help with furthering our membership and to facilitate communication, Jean Rottner has agreed to take on the role of Membership Chairman. Because of the increased membership and the generous donations, I'm pleased to report we have over \$2000 in our treasury! Now we can pursue our highest priorities.

Membership will follow the calendar year. Those joining Sept. Through Dec, will be credited for the following year. Dues for 2005 remain the same and will be accepted from now till spring. Whether mailing or handing in the form at meetings, for renewals you may fill in just your name and the date but please fill in completely if it's an application for new membership.

News Flashes — Kathleen Gustafson will take on the job of Publicity Chairman —

—Julia Lane received a donation toward "Johnston's History of Bristol & Bremen" to aid in her research of early immigrants here. She is off to Ireland to study further —

—View Craig Elliott's history of Bristol at www.lincoln.midcoast.com/celliott —

—Members joined with South Bristol Historical to learn oral history techniques with expert and story teller Jo Radner—

The Snow Squall: A Talk by Nicholas Dean

by Paul Fossett

Nicholas Dean, maritime historian and resident of Edgecomb, spoke at the September meeting of the Old Bristol Historical Society. His topic was the *Snow Squall: The Last American Clipper Ship*. He published a book by that title in 2001.

Nick's adventure included investigating the history of the ship from her keel lying in the Butler yard in South Portland in 1851 to accounts of her profit-seeking travels around the world, to locating and returning her bow section in the 1980's to Maine.

Nick described the fascinating story of Snow Squall and her travels including the captain's attempt to meet owners' demand for profit despite problems with the crew and piracy as well as the weather. The latter contributed to her running onto rocks on her last passage near Cape Horn. Prior to that disaster, however, she made numerous successful cruises around the Cape to various destinations. Among them were trips to California or Australia, for example, and then on to China and finally back to New York. The economic success of these trips depended on predicting demand for goods that would take months to manufacture and many more to reach their destination. "Would there still be a market by the time they finally arrived?" he asked.

The challenges of salvaging the bow of the Snow Squall in the Falkland Islands after the Falkland War could have been a story unto itself. After being kiln dried to prevent rot, her bow section is now on display at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. So, Nick Dean's efforts to return part of America's last clipper ship to Maine almost a century after she was built here were successful!

After his talk, I discussed an interesting Fossett family nautical story with Nick. My fourth great-grandfather, Henry Fossett, Jr. (1749-1808), was one of the owners of the schooner *Sally* which had been built in Bristol in 1794. One year later near Barbados, the *Sally* was captured by French privateers. The schooner was burned, the crew was put in irons and jailed, and the captain put on a prison ship. They were later released. I didn't know where in Bristol or by whom she had been built. Nick suggested that, given her size, the likely site was at "the Gut" in South Bristol, at that time still part of Bristol. I was glad to solve another piece of the *Sally* puzzle. If any OBHS members can help me find out who built her, please let me know. By the way, it took 97 years to settle Henry Fossett's estate due to belated claims for French spoils for the loss of the *Sally*. My great-grandfather, Augustus Fossett, received his share of \$5.14 ninety-nine years ago!



Members clean McKinley school
and grounds

