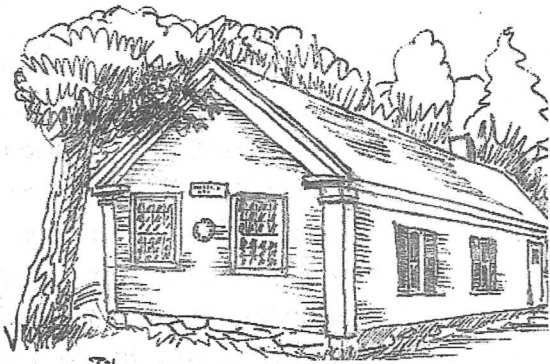


Old Bristol Historical Society

Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 1

The Old Bristol Historical Society was organized to collect, preserve, and share the history of the old town of Bristol. The society organized as a non-profit corporation and its board of directors approved by-laws for the new group. Tax-exempt status with the IRS has been applied for.



The McKinley Schoolhouse

In the fall of 2003, the Neighborly Club, which for nearly 50 years had met in the old McKinley school in Pemaquid Falls, voted to disband and give their clubhouse to the OBHS. The club also donated \$1000 which was a tremendous help in getting started. In addition to that, David Hanna generously donated his services to letter a new sign for the old schoolhouse. (See page 3 for more donors.)

The OBHS has begun an artifact collection which most notably includes the records of the Long Cove Association, many old town reports donated by Shirley Geyer, and Ivan Flye's photographs of Bristol. These photos were displayed in the Bristol library in March and will be shown with others in the Bristol Mills Congregational Church during the Miles Hospital League's open house and garden tour July 8 and 9.

About 24 members of OBHS will undertake a historic resource survey of Bristol in summer in Round Pond. The goal is to survey the entire town to catalogue all the structures that are architecturally and historically significant. The training will be given by Rose-Marie Ballard-Boak, an architectural preservation consultant. Training will be held at the McKinley Schoolhouse Mar. 28, April 4, 18, and 25.



Hazel Gentner presents \$1000 check from the Neighborly Club to Peter Hope. President

Voices From the Past- the Bristol Heritage Tapes

Suzy Collins and Peter Hope have begun tape recording oral histories of some older Bristol residents. Recorded so far are Lillian Wallace, Gwen Fossett, Thelma Baker, Thereas Richards, Una Brackett, and Len Osier. These are following up on the taping by Ed and Gladys Lewis, forward-looking citizens who took it upon themselves to tape record in the '70s the stories of many residents who had been born before the turn of the century. These tapes are available now at the Bristol Library. You can't check them out, but there is a tape recorder available so you can hear these unique tales.

On one tape, 90-year old Alzena Gatcomb recalls the night that two fishing boats went onto the rocks at Pemaquid Point, and the reunion in her house of the two survivors, both of whom thought all had perished except themselves. On another, Mike Little tells of becoming stranded on an island for three days when his boat went aground.

Sadie Gilbert remembers the making of the 1921 movie, "The Seventh Day", shot in New Harbor and Pemaquid with some local bit players.

On another tape, 90-year old fisherman, Frank Osier recounts his frightening experiences with whales, a drunk riding a heifer, and getting "seven birds with one shot". On still another, Addie Poland recalls the capture of a black tramp who had been stealing chickens around 1900.

Eventually, the currently recorded tapes will be available by OBHS. Anyone who is acquainted with an older person who will agree to relate their stories is invited to become "an oral historian" and tape them.

The South Bristol Historical Society is sponsoring a workshop on oral histories, led by folklorist and oral historian, Jo Radner. The workshop is May 21 and 22 and you are invited to attend, along with other OBHS members. Call Peter at 677-2848 for more information.

WISH LIST - We need display cases for the McKinley Schoolhouse, and an overhead projector. Also, a slide projector and screen would come in handy. AND, do you have a lot of large fabric that could cover our big windows? Most of all, we wish you would join us for cleanup day at the McKinley Schoolhouse on Harrington Road at 1pm Sun. May 2nd. We'll pick up the yard and maybe do some indoor painting. See you! Anyone wanna bring hot chocolate?

Old Bristol Historical Society Programs and Events

Sunday May 2, 1pm: A work bee to clean the yard and building, possibly painting. HELP!

Saturday, May 8, 2pm: Phil Averill talks on old school houses of Bristol

Tuesday, June 15, 7pm: Historian Warren Reiss speaks on the search for the Angel Gabriel

Saturday July 10, 10-2pm: Lawn Sale at McKinley schoolhouse to benefit Society. To donate items, call Pete Hope, 677-2848. This will be a big one!!!

Monday, July 12, 7pm: Author Van Reid speaks on mid-coast Maine during land disputes

Monday, August 8, 7pm: Bill Benner speaks on Bristol Mills homes and families in the '40's

Monday, Sept. 13, 7pm: Historian Nick Dean speaks on Maine's last clipper ship, Snow Squall

October is Genealogy Month: Members invited to start a genealogy club

Sunday, Oct. 3, 2pm: Paul Aldrich speaks on getting started in genealogy research

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2pm: Becky Flanders speaks on how to use the internet & other sources
To track your family history

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2pm: Panel discussion on local genealogy led by Joyce Brown, Joyce Sykes, Hazel Genthner, Carol Ring & Suzanne Holmes

*Newsletter happily produced by graphic designer
Suzy Collins*

Membership and Monetary Matters

In the few short months since the Old Bristol Historical Society started, we've been pleased to enroll 69 members!

We are grateful to these generous donors: The Neighborly Club, The Willing Workers and Dewey Chase, Sigrid Sproul and Newcastle Square Realty. These donations have allowed us to "get off our feet"; without them we'd already be in debt. We've encumbered fees for the building title search, Registry of Deeds, and for State Certification of Good Standing. In addition, although we feel extremely fortunate to have been given the McKinley school for a "home", we've had payments for liability insurance, fuel, and power, leaving us a balance of approximately \$400, not yet enough to

allow us to update our electrical system in order to qualify for property insurance. We remain open to any philanthropic group that may want to assist us.

We hope our membership will continue to grow rapidly. This will only allow us to continue to undertake more projects such as the architectural survey underway, as well as to continue to photocopy old postcards and photos, and to maintain our building.

We welcome you, our founding members. Please invite your neighbors and friends to attend the interesting programs lined up and to become members. (Application in this issue.)

Kay Sawyer Hannah, Treasurer