



Fall 2005 Newsletter
The President's Message

2005 has been a very successful year for The Old Bristol Historical Society. Our programs consisted of nine talks; each was well attended and enthusiastically received. In a genealogy group that has started and meets regularly some amazing family connections have been found. An architectural resource survey, identifying all structures over 50 years old, has been completed for Round Pond. Oral history interviews have been completed for Wintie Hanna Templeton, Thelma Baker, Lillian Wallace, Harold Davis, Sterling Crocker, Harny Hanna, Bob Hanley, Gwen Fossett, Cecil Prior, Ken Sawyer, Una Brackett, Noman Brackett, Walker Gilbert, and Tuddy Dunlevy.

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We have received some wonderful donations that should be recognized. The Maine Antiques Dealers Association has donated \$1000, which will be used to continue the architectural survey of towns, with our consultant, Rose-Marie Ballard Boak, assisted by Ken Coombs. Carl Poole has donated shingles to shingle the old section of the McKinley schoolhouse where we meet. Bobby Ives and the Carpenter's Boatshop donated the time and labor of doing the roofing. The Long Cove Association also donated money. Art Gustafson has donated his time and expertise to put in a second entrance to the building (required to pass current codes).

At the annual meeting in July the following were elected to the Board of Directors: Carol Brightman, Marilyn Chadwick, Suzy Collins (secretary), Kay Hannah (treasurer), Pete Hope (president), Pat Landry (vice-president), Judy Hope, Kathleen Gustafson (publicity), and Bob McLaughlin. New Board members are Jean Rottner, Warren Riess, Ken Coombs, and Rose Marie Ballard Boak.

In regard to our oral interviews, if anyone has suggestions of townspeople who should be recorded, call me, Pete Hope at 677-2848. In all, this has been a rewarding and exciting year for OBHS and we thank everyone involved for helping make it so.

Pete Hope

The Bristol Genealogy Group was formed during the last year by members of OBHS who have ancestral ties to Bristol and its surrounding towns. Membership in OBHS is not a prerequisite for attendance. We occasionally have a guest speaker, but meetings are usually informal with members sharing discoveries, research techniques, family pictures, and stories. A guided tour of Lincoln County Courthouse and its archives led by Joyce Brown was a highlight last spring. Meetings are held monthly at the OBHS meetinghouse in warm weather and member's homes during winter. For meeting information, contact Jeanne Rottner at 677-2095.



King-Ro Manor, Round Pond

Update on the Historical Resource Survey (formerly the Architectural Survey)

In 2004 the OBHS began a Reconnaissance level survey of all historic resources (buildings, barns, cemeteries, bridges, lighthouses, wharves, dams, road markers, monuments, archeological sites, etc) fifty years and older in Bristol. Due to the large land area the Society chose to undertake the survey village by village and, after an initial training, five survey teams began in Round Pond.

212 historic resources were surveyed – 52 barns, four cemeteries, two pogy factory sites, a quarry and shoreline stoneworks marking the existence of buildings now gone. For all resources, survey forms were completed, photos taken and locations plotted on maps. Teams began their work in the daunting blackfly season, and completed it in fall and early winter.

During spring, summer, and fall of 2005, Rose-Marie Ballard Boak and Ken Coombs have been reviewing all survey forms and map locations in the field, adding any overlooked resources and doing additional photography to meet state and federal standards. The final steps to complete the Round Pond survey will be plotting all 212 locations on a U.S. Geodesic Survey Map, and writing the Round Pond report containing data collected for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

When completed, the full Bristol Historic Resource Survey will be housed at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta and copies will remain in Bristol. This survey, as mandated under Bristol's Comprehensive Plan, will serve as a record of all historic structures in the town and provide a tool for responsible stewardship for Bristol's historic character, as well as being an important resource for future research into Bristol's history. It's a beginning, and the OBHS is hopeful that the survey will provide the foundation for expanded research into the history of the villages and the historic sites of the Town of Bristol.

Survey teams members for Round Pond were: Richard Francis, Kathy and Art Gustafson, Kay Hannah, Judy and Peter Hope, Jan and Rob Howell, Bill Marshall, Mary Lee Rushmore, Mary Jane Small, Sigrid Sproul, Joyce Sykes, and Tony Townsend. They did a great job! Next we tackle Bristol Mills and four teams have been formed to begin work this fall.

Town Hall research training led by Kay Hannah and Kathy Gustafson will be held Fri., Oct. 28 at 1:30 at the Town Hall. Anyone interested in joining the survey would be welcome. Call Kay Hannah at 563-8300 for more information.

Leonard Osier Remembers New Harbor
Childhood Notes taken at Old Bristol Historical
Society talk – by Suzanne Collins

I was born in 1921 in the same house where I now live, right on the harbor, the youngest of 8 children. Then began the depression years -- years of 80% subsistence living for families like ours. Most were connected to fishing, like my father, Frank Osier. My mother, Belle Poland Osier, took in washing, cleaned cottages, wallpapered, and worked at the clam factory. "Gettin' up March hill" was a common expression, when the supply of canned and salted food was used up. Dried salt fish "Cape Cod turkey" with pork scraps served over potatoes was a common winter meal. Another expression spoke volumes, "He's all right. His wife teaches school".

There was plenty of fish available. You'd go down to the shore and someone would throw a big haddock your way. No question of money. Plenty of clams, but you had to dig 'em. Pa would sometimes tuck some short lobsters into his jacket when he came up from his boat and Ma always had jars of cookies and pans of fresh-baked pies and cakes. Pa kept a pig, butchered it at Christmas, salted it for all year, so we had pork, but beefsteak was 25 cents a pound so we seldom ate that. I remember walking with my sister, Norma, to Stubby Hanna's to pick up our one quart of milk a day. We had peddlers that came by selling clothing, baked goods, and meat. Walter Symonds bought hake during the summer months at what is now "Normy" Brackett's wharf, and also at the former Meserve complex (now the Coop's extension on the north side). He had a large crew dressing, splitting, and heavy-salting the hake in big hogshead barrels. The *William Keene*, took the salt fish to Gloucester in the fall. We counted on catalogs like Montgomery Ward and Sear's for special items.



Leonard Osier at 14

I went to the Mavooshan School in New Harbor where the firehouse is now. My best friend, Abden Gilbert, was good at writing and I remember him making a perfect "8" for me. My first teacher was Iona Brackett, who later married one of my older brothers. In fifth grade the teacher was Ava Little, then Mildred McLain, then Bill Brown taught – he used to draw beautiful pictures in colored chalk on the blackboard. "Than" Hanna would come and build a fire at the school and would write a daily Bible passage on the board – a five cent prize to the kid who could identify it. The stove was in the front of the schoolroom, the chimney in back. A pipe ran across the ceiling; this way it would radiate heat throughout the room.

I entered high school in 1934. William Kempton was the principal, Shirley Etheridge the commercial teacher. (Years later, I married Kempton's daughter, Shirley and we're still together.) We had baseball, socials, put on plays held in the Surf Casino building. I usually walked to school with Ab, but sometimes Mrs. Etheridge from Round Pond would give us a lift. Our baccalaureate service was at the Brown church and graduation was held at the New Harbor church, the graduation ball being in the Lewis Pavillion at the beach. Then we had a class trip to New York City. One schoolmate, Stan Hanna, had six toes on one foot and that made him some special! *Look for entire talk in Lincoln County News.*

2006 OBHS Membership Renewal/New Application

Name _____ Date _____ Dues paid through 05
I (we) wish to pay dues for _____ \$10 single membership or _____ \$15 family membership

If this is a new application (or you have an address change) please provide:

Permanent address _____ Seasonal _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Main interest -- how I might help _____

Please cut this out and mail to Kay Hannah, 13 Devoe Road, Bristol ME 04539

Membership and Money Matters

The OBHS has 76 paying members and 21 honorary members for 2005. This compares with 130 members in 2004, our first full year as an organization. Honorary membership is given to program presenters and for members who have contributed an extraordinary amount of resources or labor to the Society. Membership is for the calendar year. Dues paid on Oct. 1 or later will be credited for 2006 unless otherwise designated. Dues remain at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. On-going members should pay now or in the spring of 2006. Dues are the lifeline of OBHS and we appreciate your support. *Jeanne Rottner, Membership, Kay Hannah, Treasurer*