



229 Harrington Rd.  
Pemaquid ME 04558

## OBHS Spring 2006 Newsletter

### President's Message

**2005 was a successful year for the Society. Our programs were interesting and well-attended. The Historical Resource Survey of Round Pond was completed this past year and we will start on Bristol Mills this spring ( see next page).**

**The oral history project is going very well, with interviews being published regularly in the Lincoln County News; a book of oral history interviews is being planned. For information about the oral history project or to do an interview, call me at 677-2848.**

**Part of the mission of the Society is to preserve the documented history of Bristol. We have gratefully received numerous donations, such as the Ivan Flye Bristol photographs, old Bristol town reports and the records of the Long Cove Association. One of the interesting donations recently is the Hunter family diary from the 1850's. A summary of the diary is included in this newsletter.**

*Pete Hope*

### Genealogy Group

**The genealogy branch of our Society meets monthly to share information and stories. In the winter months we have been meeting at the home of Jeanne and Al Rottner, but we will be back in the McKinley School in the warmer months. All are welcome to trace roots of local families; one may find a few lost cousins! The group also takes an occasional trip to the Lincoln County Courthouse, where there is a wealth of information available. For more information, call Jeanne at 677-2095.**

### Membership News

**Our yearly dues are \$10 for an individual, or \$15 for a family. Presently, we have 111 members, seven of which are honorary (we give memberships to presenters). Membership cards for members paid through December, 2006, are enclosed with this newsletter. All others will be sent as dues are received. (See form in this issue).**

*Jeanne Rottner, Membership Chairman*

*Kay Hannah, Treasurer*

### Officers

Pete Hope, President  
Pat Landry, Vice-President  
Suzy Collins, Secretary  
Kay Hannah, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Marilyn Chadwick  
Judy Hope  
Carol Brightman  
Bob McLaughlin  
Kathleen Gustafson  
Jeanne Rottner  
Ken Coombs  
RoseMarie Ballard-Boak  
Warren Riess

### Newsletter

Suzy Collins  
Jeanne Rottner  
Pete Hope

## 2006 Programs - all held at the McKinley School in Pemaquid Falls

- April 30, 2PM: Steve Foote on Maine Historic Preservation  
May 28, 2PM: Russ Gibbard on Old Canoe Routes of the Northeast  
June 13, 9AM: Work day to paint McKinley School interior (call Pete to sign up)  
June 25, 6:30 PM: Bill Bunting on his book, *An Eye For the Coast*  
July 9, 12:30: Potluck lunch, share family recipes, Sandy Oliver, food historian  
July 23, 6:30PM: Harnie Hanna on Summering in Round Pond and New Harbor  
August 6, 6:30PM: Huston Dodge on The Huston Family  
August 20, 6:30PM: Edith Harry on History of Pemaquid Point  
September 17, 2PM: Carroll Leeman on Growing Up in Round Pond  
October 15, 2PM: Mike Anderson on Old Barns
- All programs free of charge. *Please clip and save this schedule.*

## Update on the Historic Resource Survey

Round Pond village, the first phase of Bristol's reconnaissance-level Historic Resource Survey, is in its final stage of completion. The survey teams finished their field work in late fall, and survey forms that team members filled out, while walking every road in Round Pond, are being reviewed for submission to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. To complete this phase of the survey, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps showing location of each property surveyed and the survey report for Round Pond (describing how the survey was done and what was learned) are being prepared by Rose-Marie Ballard Boak and Ken Coombs.

*So it's on to the second phase!* Bristol Mills village is the focus of the second phase of Bristol's Historic Resource Survey. The general area to be surveyed will extend from the Damariscotta line on Route 129/130 in the north to Fir Hollow Road off Route 130 (Bristol Road) and the Pemaquid Falls line in the south; in the northeast Benner Road from the Bristol Road to the Damariscotta line; and easterly following Upper Round Pond Road to the brook near Route 32—to include roads leading off these major roadways.

Last fall, four survey teams were formed to undertake the work, and on October 2nd a survey procedures review for team members, led by Kathy Gustafson and Kay Hanna, was held at the Bristol Town Hall. While variable temperatures and weather conditions have kept everyone guessing this winter, the teams have taken the quiet down-time of the season to begin research of Bristol Mill's buildings at the Town Hall and to plan for the field work that will begin in the spring. Kathy Gustafson reports that Team B is about one-quarter of the way through the town property cards for the area south of the Town Hall and any warm weather will be taken advantage of for field work in order to miss the black fly season this year. Jan Howell reports that Betty Zwicker has joined Team D as a new member and that everything is in place to begin the survey work as soon as temperatures allow.

Acting with the speed of light, the importance of the survey was highlighted in the rapid response of Peter Hope and Kathy Ronan, who upon learning that a New Harbor building, once a store, was scheduled to be demolished, took action and recorded and photographed the building just before it came down. Even though the building is no longer standing, a photograph of it and a survey form documenting this building's former position will remain as part of the historic building record for Bristol. *Good job, Peter and Kathy!*

*So forward we go—and if anyone would like to join the Historic Resource Survey work, call Pete Hope, 677-2848, Kathleen Gustafson, 677-3171 or RoseMarie Ballard Boak, 563-2925.*

## A Diary of Old Bristol

Gary Pitcher has donated to the OBHS, a diary of the Hunter family of Walpole from 1853 to 1856. This includes a business accounting of the family's economic activities that revolve around the wharf and store at McLure's landing (now known as Hunter's Landing), and particularly the family farm.

The family economy was largely self-sufficient, and was based on the farm, woodlots, and marine resources. Unlike most families of the time, there was also a commercial base to their economy revolving around the wharf and store, and three vessels that discharged and loaded freight at the wharf.

The farm economy, as you would expect, followed a seasonal cycle. Gardens were planted, tended, and harvested in the spring, summer, and fall. Rockweed was harvested to fertilize the gardens. Haying was done in the summer to provide for the cows, oxen, horses, and sheep. The farm was very successful and there was a surplus of wood, honey, apples, hay, milk and lumber, to sell or barter.

Logging was done year-round, but mostly in the winter months. This provided firewood and lumber for the family's use, but also a surplus. Logs were sawed at a sawmill at Huston Brook to provide boards and planks. A mast and bowsprit for one of the vessels was cut on the woodlot. Cartloads of hemlock bark, which contains tannic acid used in tanning hides, were taken to the Ervin tannery in Bristol.

In fall and winter, William Hunter hunted and trapped fox and mink. Clams were dug for food in the spring, summer, and fall. Occasionally in the winter they went "frost fishing" (fishing for tommy cod near shore through saltwater ice).

As you would expect in a farm journal every day's entry commented on the weather. On December 29, 1853, the worst storm in 17 years tore in. Many vessels went aground at Cape Cod, and in Walpole snow drifted to four to five feet. The next couple of days the men spent "breaking the roads". This was done by shoveling the roads out. In January, 1854, the journal comments that the Damariscotta River was "all froze up". The journal is a fascinating account, providing information on life in this area in "the good old days". We much appreciate donations of this sort for our society.

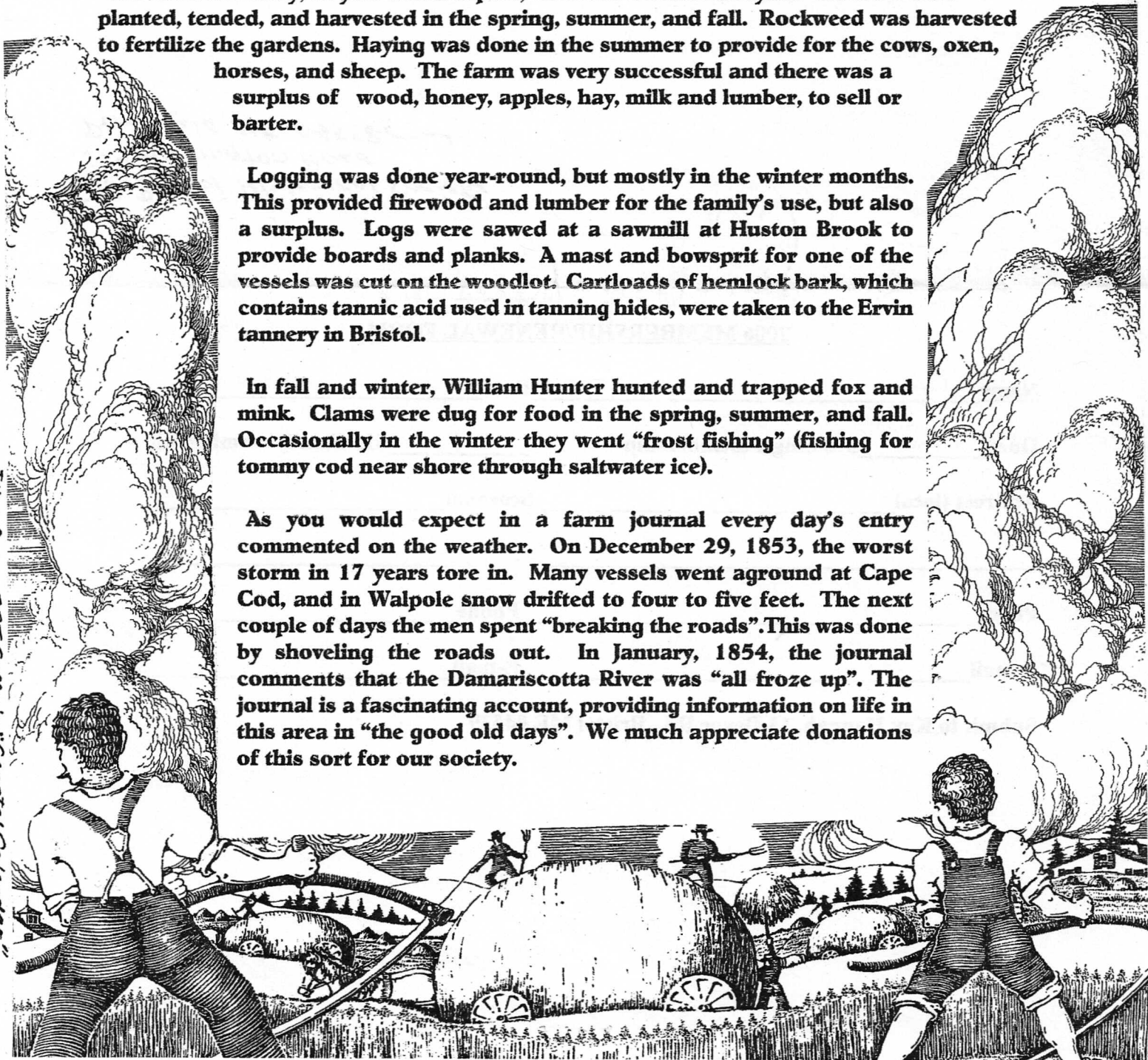


Illustration from RPT Coffin's "Coastal Calendar"