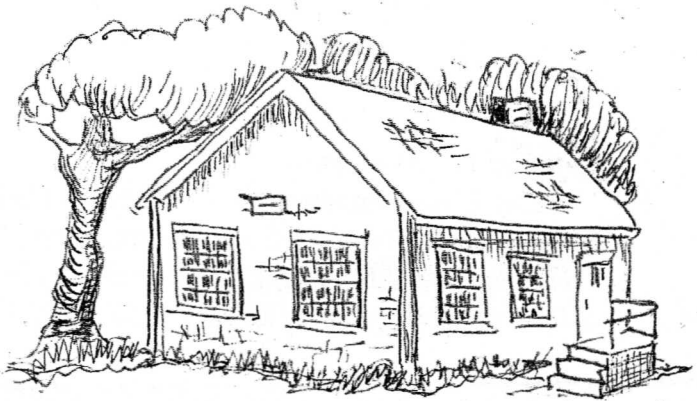


# OBHS Spring 2008 Newsletter

## President's Message



Kathy Gustafson has done a great job of painting and reglazing the windows of our old clubhouse, the McKinley Schoolhouse. The windows are now protected by storm windows. Road signs directing visitors to the clubhouse have finally been erected on Route 130.

After these expenses, we have \$1661 in the treasury, so we are in good shape financially. However, our Architectural Survey Project is not in as good shape, as we are in need of volunteers to complete it. This project is to identify, date and describe all of the older structures in town. If you have any interest in helping with this important project, call me at 677-2848.

Check out our programs for this summer later in this issue, and also, we would appreciate any ideas for programs for 2009. Please renew your membership for this year if you have not done so, so that we can continue to present our programs free of charge.

Thanks very much. *Pete Hope*

## Genealogy Project – The Fossett Family

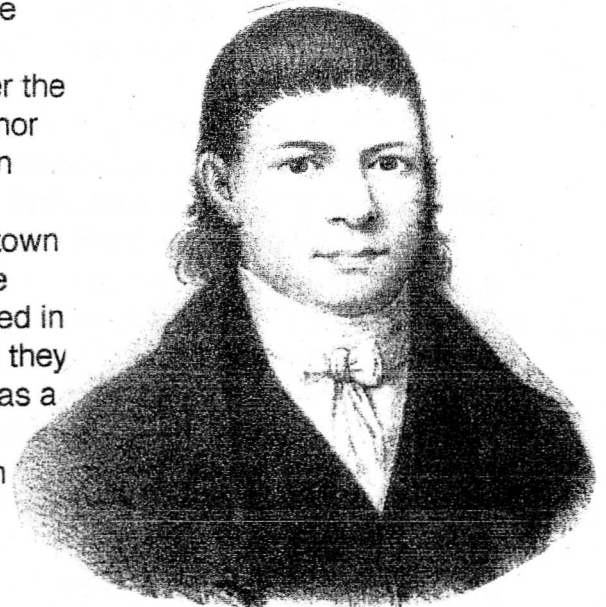
Many of you may have read the story of the romance of Alexander Fossett and Jeanette Young. Jeanette's parents sent her to America to escape the advances of Alexander. However, Alexander's stubbornness took him from Londonderry, Ireland, to America in 1730 to find Jeannette and marry her.

The couple was given a plot of land in Pemaquid Falls, between the Great and Little Falls. To this day, seventh-generation descendants are living on the property. After the death of Jeannette, Alexander married Eleanor McDougale, and his third wife, Anna Davidson Sproul, widow of John Sproul.

Alexander's children were very active in town affairs, John being elected three times to the legislature. He married Polly Hanley and lived in Long Cove. Henry married Anne Clark, and they lived at "The Meadows" in Pemaquid. He was a selectman in Bristol for many years.

Alexander died in 1806 and was buried in Harrington Cemetery on Harrington Road. Alexander's brother, William, followed him to America in 1747 and was later scalped by Indians as he was rounding up his cows. He is buried in the Old Fort Cemetery.

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*Capt. John Fossett*

Fossett (1778-1823) was a man  
of affairs in Bristol

*Continued from page 1*

Many Bristol families are descended from, or connected with, the Fossetts, including the Sprouls, Greenlaws, Pooles, Coombs, and Russells, just to name a few.

*This is part of the ongoing genealogy programs at the OBHS. If you have genealogy questions, call Jeanne Rottner at 677-2095.*

## **A Visit to Pemaquid in 1731**

*In July of this year, Dave Andrews of the South Bristol Historical Society, will give a talk on David Dunbar and his connection to Colonial Pemaquid. Here is some of the subjects he will cover:*

Dunbar was sent by the British king to establish the Royal Colony of New Georgia. At that time the old settlement of Pemaquid was in ruins due to Indian wars. Dunbar brought destitute Scotch-Irish families to settle the new colony. These people had left North Ireland to come to Philadelphia, Boston, and Londonderry, New Hampshire. Today, many families in the area trace their roots to these 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotch-Irish. In 1731, Robert Hale of Beverly, Massachusetts, on a voyage to Nova Scotia, stopped and visited the new settlement at Pemaquid, which was built where the 17<sup>th</sup> Century settlement had been. Fort Frederick was erected where William Phipps' Fort William Henry was. A small block house and a magazine were enclosed by 8-to-10 foot walls.

There were 36 cannons pointing in different directions into the harbor. Thirteen cannons were aimed southerly towards the ocean. There was also a "good house" of one story within the fort. He said that Dunbar had settled 300 families with more coming daily (this number would include other settlements than Pemaquid).

Most of the settlers lived in spruce hovels alongside of the fort, although the town had been laid out with streets and house lots 30' by 100'. Eight houses had been built and fifteen more were framed in. Some were built on the cellar holes of the destroyed ones.

Apparently, Dunbar lived in a new house on the south side of the fort, 35' by 50', one story. On June 14, Hale ate there with Dunbar. According to his journal, they had roast lobster, roast lamb, stew, and bread and butter.

On that day there were seven vessels in the harbor and two sloops loaded with barrel staves, headed for Ireland. The next day Hale headed up the Pemaquid River, where he found "land much cleared – and many remains of the English inhabitants (17<sup>th</sup> Century), whom the Irish don't love to remember." The Scotch-Irish in Boston and Philadelphia were disliked and discriminated against by the former settlers.

Dunbar's reign was short-lived as he was done in by Massachusetts politics.

From 1744 to 1748 Indian wars led to destruction and a great population decline. After the war, old settlers returned and there was renewed growth spread far beyond the Pemaquid settlement. In 1765, Bristol became a town, with the town meeting held in William Sproul's inn. Sproul's father was an original Dunbar settler.