

OBHS

NEWSLETTER

History and Changes of the OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

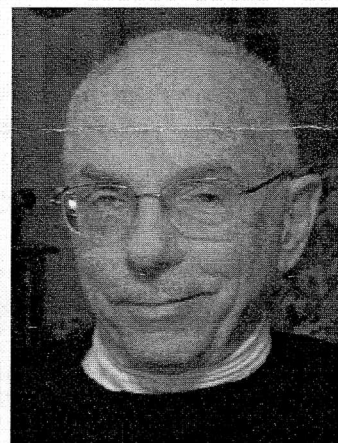
With the President of the Old Bristol Historical Society stepping down, now seems to be a good time for us to review a bit of our brief history.

The OBHS held it's first meeting at the Bristol Town House on April 21, 2003, with Peter Hope conducting the meeting and being elected temporary president. Also attending the meeting and involved in the formation decisions were a group of local residents particularly interested in history: Dick and Janet Bedell, Bill Benner, Carol Brightman, Wayne and Marilyn Chadwick, Yvonne Chapman, Judy Fraser Anderson, Bob Fossett, Jewell Hanley, Gus Konitsky, Pat Landry, Sharon McDunnah, Bob McLaughlin, Diane O'Connor, Carol Ann Prentice, Kerry Ransdell, Al and Jean Rottner, Gail Seiders, Nelson Webber, and Mark Zaccadelli. Since then, Jean Rottner, the Chadwicks, Pat Landry, and Bob McLaughlin, have remained active.

Bylaws were written, a mission statement formed, and the organization was incorporated with the IRS as a 501-3C non-profit organization. With the formation of a Board of Directors, Peter was elected President. The new society had the good fortune at that time to be given the old McKinley School House in Pemaquid Falls by the ^{Neighborhood} Fortnightly Club. With some followup repairs the OBHS had a home for meetings, at least during the warmer months of the year.

The following winter, under Hope's leadership and with the support of Christy Mitchell, Director of the State Historical Preservation, Rose Marie Ballard was secured to train 5 teams of members in the identification of the architectural resources of the town. Starting with the village of Round Pond and continuing with Bristol Mills, the second survey is now in the final stages of analysis by Ballard and Ken Coombs. The most interesting aspect for Hope has been learning how these homes fit into the history of the town of Bristol. (See page 2)

Peter Hope
President of the OBHS



2003 - 2011

Peter is stepping down. He has manned the helm since the Old Bristol Historical Society was founded and says he now needs more time for his writing of the history of the Bristol Area.

OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From the beginning Hope has been interested in, and promoted research into, the history of Bristol, particularly in gathering oral histories through interviews with older lifelong residents. His recordings and written transcriptions of dozens of residents have informed and entertained readers of the LCN and the society's newsletter through the years. His efforts with oral interviewing have inspired others to follow his example but none have done so with his zeal.

Hope comes by his interest in local history naturally, having grown up in Pemaquid and being a retired history teacher. He has published "Two Harbors and a Hill: The History of New Harbor," and is currently writing about the history of Round Pond, incorporating old photos and much oral interview material. He says he plans to write about other areas of the town as well.

We certainly wish you well, Peter, and thank you heartily and sincerely for your most valuable contribution of instigating the Old Bristol Historical Society and leading us through these past eight years.

Kay Hannah, OBHS Board Member

Need: Officers, Board Members, and Society Members

With Peter Hope's announcement that he will be retiring as president of the OBHS a Nominations Committee was formed. We find that we need, not only a President but, other officers and Board Members as well. Many of those so faithfully serving the organization in the past have left, or intend to, for various reasons, including illness, relocation, time served, or busy schedules. Furthermore, there has been a decline in membership and income by about 50% in recent years. After so much effort in starting and implementing what most of us feel is a very worthwhile organization in what is one of the oldest and historically fascinating areas on the Maine coast with centuries of history and fascinating stories, we have too many unfulfilled opportunities to let the OBHS flounder.

If you know of anyone who might like to receive our newsletter and consider membership please let us know. One need not be a Bristol resident to be a member and dues are the same since 2003.

It is also critical that the committee be informed if you are interested, or know of someone who might be, in being considered for the OBHS Board or one of its offices. We on the Nominating Committee will be making phone calls but the task ahead is more than challenging and we need your help and support.

Kay Hannah, Chairman 563-8300, Wayne Chadwick, Carol Ann Ring, Alexandre Wilson

OBHS 2011 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Sundays 6:30 p.m.

JULY 10 (brief Annual Meeting)

"Old Schools in Bristol" ~ Phil Averill

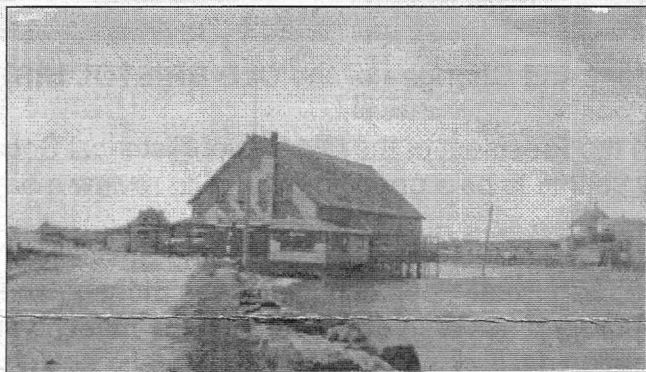
AUGUST 7

"Scotch-Irish in Bristol & Vicinity" ~ Chip Griffin

SEPTEMBER 11

"Reminisces of the Pemaquid Beach Community"

~ Phil Crocker, Carol Ring, & others

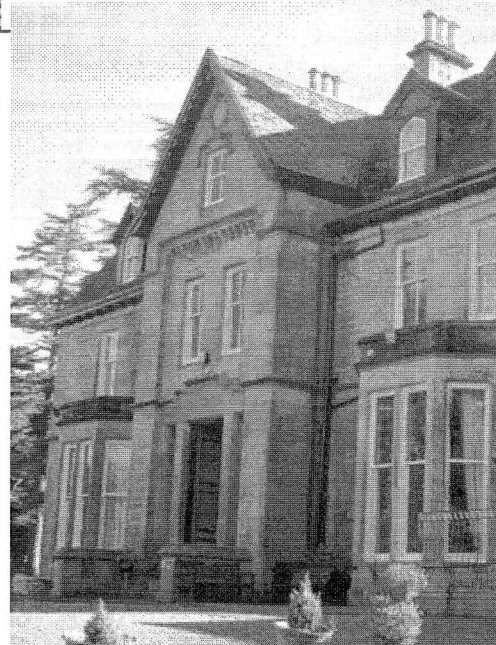


The Lewis Pavilion, *the* spot for dancing and roller skating, at Pemaquid Beach, destroyed by storm in 1961

Touching Traces of the McFarlands

In Scotland last fall my husband and I found ourselves at Arrochar, a lovely small town on upper Long Loch which reaches north from the River Clyde. I had seen on a clan map that this especially beautiful mountainous region, reaching from Long Loch to the north end of Loch Lomond, was marked as traditional MacFarlane country. The McFarlands derive from this clan.

Since I've been trying to trace the roots of a great-grandfather, William McFarland, I was naturally curious and asked the waitress at the small restaurant next to the loch if indeed the MacFarlane Clan was from here. "Yes," she assured me, "in fact, we call tonight's full moon "MacFarlane's Lantern." Pondering this, I later asked her why it was so called. "Oh," she replied, "because the MacFarlanes rustled cattle by the light of the moon!" Okay, I reluctantly admit, so they were outlaws but I thought many of the clans were outlawed at one time or the other. Apparently, as confirmed later, the MacFarlanes were especially skilled in this occupation.



Heading on our way next morning, we soon came to a Visitors' Center at Tarbet on Loch Lomond. The lady there repeated what I had learned about the MacFarlanes, but she added that the ancient home of the MacFarlane Clan was in Arrochar and asked if we had seen it. Backtracking the 2 miles to Arrochar, we learned that the Claremore Hotel was built on the site of the previous estate that incorporated the house of the MacFarlanes. The sign over the door of this building, named the Inverloch House, read 1692. At its peak was the MacFarlane crest. It certainly didn't look like the home of rustlers. I was feeling better. The printed history said the MacFarlanes had been on this land since 1225. Having five McFarland lines, none of which I've been able to connect, I was fascinated to touch this trace of the MacFarlane Clan.

Later north of Tarbet on the upper end of Loch Lomond, the Visitors Center, situated on the shore opposite Inveruglas Isle, revealed more. The large display read, "Inveruglas is a peaceful setting ..., but for 5 centuries this area was ruled over by the fierce Clan MacFarlane." Below the narrative was a large painting of (guess what) the MacFarlanes rustling cattle by the light of the moon! Behind them on the island was their castle, only the ruins of which remain today. Apparently they were very successful in their endeavors to have a moon named after them! The narrative said the clan was leading a more sedate life by the 1700s.

It is on record that the MacFarlanes have "fought in many major battles" and "were particularly noted for their bravery." Some of them were ambitious enough to come to America and for that I am grateful. Maybe someday I'll be able to positively trace my ancestors back to this beautiful region. ~ K. Hannah

2011 OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____

Renewal _____

Name _____ (only need fill in following info. if new member or changes)

Address _____ Seasonal Address _____

E-mail _____ or Phone _____ (dates: _____)

Thank you for sending dues of \$10 Single or \$15 Family made out to "OBHS": **Jean Andersen, Treasurer**
1298 Bristol Rd., Bristol, ME 04539