



OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society - Fall 2015

Presidents' Remarks to the Membership of the Old Bristol Historical Society

This past August, Kay and Pete Hannah finished their second term as Co-Presidents of the Old Bristol Historical Society (OBHS) and handed the reins of leadership over to us. We'd like to begin our first Presidential Message by thanking Kay and Pete for their exemplary service to the OBHS for the past four years. We look forward to benefitting from their advice, support and experience.

As Bristol's Sestercentennial draws to a close, we're happy to report it's been a very productive and successful year for the OBHS. Our 2015 summer Sunday Evening Talk series attracted record audiences and undoubtedly helped boost our membership to a record high. We enjoyed time with our 5th/ 6th grade schoolchildren, and shared Bristol's history with numerous people at our Old Bristol Days booth. Growing numbers of people visited us virtually, with over 250 people now following our weekly Facebook posts and hits on our website now numbering over 28k to date. Our historical collections also grew with important donations of old diaries, photographs, club records, and genealogical materials. Our dear McKinley Schoolhouse received some new paint, improved outdoor lighting, and new shingles on the outhouse. And we deemed our fundraising events-- our annual antique sale and the sale of our Sestercentennial commemorative mugs--quite successful!

As we turn to the New Year, we're excited to begin work in January on updating our strategic plan. In addition to organizing another great season of Sunday Evening Talks for summer 2016, we are continuing to think of new ways to share our collections and expand our educational outreach. This includes plans to extend our talk series by adding at least one winter event for our year-round residents, creating new opportunities to interact with our schoolchildren, and improving and increasing our media presence, particularly with the addition of a new site on the Maine Memory Network. We'll also be setting new goals for the Collection and Preservation part of our mission which will involve not only our efforts to attract donations of historically significant items, but also to increase public participation in our Digital Images Archive. We're also looking forward to the creation of a new logo for OBHS. So much to do!

Until our next newsletter, we invite you to check out our weekly postings on Facebook or spend some time browsing our website. And don't forget to look for an announcement concerning an upcoming winter talk we have in the works!

Cordially yours,

Belinda Osier and Chuck Rand, Co-Presidents

Old Bristol Historical Society Officers and Directors

July 2015 - July 2016

Co-Presidents: Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand

Vice President: Daniel C. Purdy, Esq. **Secretary:** Debbie Mikulak **Treasurer:** Don Means

Past Co-Presidents: Kay Hannah, Pete Hannah

Directors: Bobby Ives, Larry Hayter, Margaret Hayter, A.J. Lockhart, Mollie Perley, Kathy Wright

The Diaries of Arthur Cox, Round Pond “jack of all trades”

Written by Peter Hope



A number of years ago the Old Bristol Historical Society received the wonderful gift of these diaries that Arthur religiously kept from 1868 to his death in 1915. Going through these diaries provides a fascinating look at the life and times of a Maine Yankee “jack of all trades.” Arthur was not just a jack of all trades, he was the master of many. Schooner captain, seaman, pogy fisherman, ground fisherman, farmer, woodsman, teamster, carpenter, house painter, etc.

Arthur's Bristol roots go back to William Cock (Cox) a signer of the forged deed between John Brown and Samoset. However, Cox was a real settler of the early 17th Century Pemaquid settlement, living in front of Cox Cove (Dick's Cove) on the north side of Pemaquid Harbor. Arthur's father, Captain George Cox (1812-1896) turned to the sea as a young man and had become a “master mariner” (skipper of ocean going vessels) by the time of the golden age of sail,” the 1840's and 1850's. Arthur's mother was Eliza Ann Fossett whose roots in the Pemaquid peninsula went back to Alexander who had settled in Pemaquid Falls in the 1730's.

Arthur was born in 1840 and having salt water in his veins followed his father's path to the sea to start his career. By the time Arthur started his diary Captain George had retired from the sea to his farm that we now call Middle Fields on the Upper Round Pond Road. George and Arthur owned shares in various coasting schooners and Arthur was captain of two of them. Coasting schooners were the life blood of Bristol and other Maine communities going back to schooners' birth early in the 18th Century. Supposedly an old Gloucester skipper remarked in 1713 when first seeing this vessel in action, “See how she schoons.” The schooner was ideal for coasting. With her fore and aft rig she could sail close to the wind and tack up narrow waters. With a center board she could sail up rivers and into shallow coves and ports. Maine schooners carried wood products, fish, bricks, agricultural products, lime and granite to Portland, Boston and ports further south. On the return trip the schooner brought flour, cloth, manufactured goods and, later, coal. They were the 18 wheelers of the day

In 1868 Arthur and his father owned shares of at least two coasters, *Maria Roxana* and *Eliza Ann*, obviously named after Eliza Ann Cox. Arthur was captain of the *Eliza Ann* and in the winter of 1868 went on board the vessel, probably iced in in Round Pond Harbor. By March he was involved in the annual maintenance job of painting and at the end of March he “bent” the mainsail and foresail and she was ready for sea. In early April Arthur sailed up the Damariscotta River to Albert Glidden's brick yard and 27,100 bricks were loaded on. They sold in Boston for \$202.98. This was an interesting tidbit. On February 26, 1869 they “had a bee to get timber on board the schooner.” They had work bees for everything back then. While laying at port “discharging” the cargo Arthur had a constant stream of visitors on board, indicating a social side of him that was evident his entire life. Arthur had other forms of entertainment while he was in different ports. In Baltimore in April 1871 he went up to a “levee” in Georgetown. Arthur does not say who this reception was for. Several days later Arthur went ashore to play billiards. On October 28, 1872, while moored in Norwich, CT Arthur went to see a performance which he liked so much that he went again. Other cargoes that season were hay from the Damariscotta River, wood products from Bangor and slab wood from Clark's Cove. On April 3, 1869 24 dozen eggs were part of a cargo unloaded in Chelsea. The Coxes and perhaps others with maritime interests had an office in the Pond, as Arthur called Round Pond, and on September 12 went up to the office to do accounting. Over the years Arthur or his father spent a lot of time in the office.

On March 6, 1869 George went up to “Scotta” to get the papers for the *Maria Roxana*. There is no way to know how many men from town owned shares in her or any of the other schooners that Arthur referred to. This was a common practice so that the risk of losing a vessel was spread around. I don't know when the *Maria Roxana* was built but the average life of a Maine coaster was 7 years. In 1875, on a voyage from East Boothbay to Boston the *Maria Roxana* was lost with all hands. Her captain was Andrew Fuller, Arthur's uncle.

In 1870 the Coxes and other men in town had master ship builder, Samuel Kelsey, build them the 120 ton schooner, *Ivy Bell*. His yard was in Clark's Cove and his house which he had built became the club house of the

Wawenock Golf Course. In May the construction was completed and Arthur spent 8 days painting. A crew stepped the masts and a crew under Mr. David installed the rigging. Tom Gay from Scotta came down to do the lettering and other fine painting. She was launched June 2 and the sails were "limed" on June 2 and 3. On June 9 the centerboard was hung but that had to be redone. On June 13, on her maiden voyage, she sailed up to Blunt's sawmill in Bangor to pick up a load of lumber to carry to Newark. On the return voyage they loaded 125 ton of coal for Kittery. Coal was a major freight after that.

On November 1 Arthur wrote that Captain Stephen Tucker Hinds, with his wife, Lizzie Erskine Hinds, and daughter, Viola, on board had left Fort Point (On the St. George River) "and has not been heard from since." What a tragic, devastating loss for the community but you would never know it from Arthur's terse diary account!

The *Ivy Bell* was a money maker for the Coxes who were the principal owners. In late November, 1870 she carried a cargo of boards, laths and clapboards from Bangor to Norwich. The freight charge was \$639.99. It certainly wasn't all profits. As anyone who has ever owned a wooden boat knows, there is critical annual maintenance to be done. In March 1873 Arthur had to go to Boston to buy a new mainsail. I wish he had written what it cost. On June 9 the schooner was hauled out on a marine railway in East Boston to get her bottom painted with copper bottom paint. Accidents happened which caused other expenses. On April 17, 1872 the *Ivy Bell* was run into by another schooner in New Harbor, causing \$250 in damages.

In August 1874 the *Ivy Bell* got into a new line of cargoes, carrying chum from pogy carcasses and then pogy oil for the Joseph Church factory on the west side of Muscongus Harbor. She brought back empty oil barrels to the factory. In the summer of 1875 the *Ivy Bell* carried oil, barrels and machinery of Leonard Brightman's pogy factory on Round Pond Harbor. On July 21 William George chartered the schooner to go pogy fishing for the last weeks of the season and for several seasons after.

Arthur remained captain of the schooner until she was leased in 1875. The next year found him as a seaman on the bark *Hattie G Dickson* on which he made one transatlantic voyage. Arthur retained a financial and personal interest in the *Ivy Bell* until 1898. On September 24, 1892 Arthur noted that the schooner came into Round Pond Harbor carrying 600 bushels of corn for Willy Loud's store. This building is now an antique store across from Granite Hall. On November 7, 1898 "A fearful storm. The *Ivy Bell* was lost." Arthur must have been very sad at the loss of this beautiful schooner and his friends and neighbors.

Genealogy Group

Our genealogy group continues to meet periodically. We have a number of inquiries that are followed up by members of the group. Photos and family information are welcome at our Facebook page and website, www.oldbristolhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com. We heartily welcome new members to the group. Contact Jeanne Rottner (677-2095) for meeting information.

Church Group Visit



Bobby Ives (left) supervising teenagers from the Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge, NJ, who repaired and re-shingled the roof of the outhouse behind McKinley Schoolhouse. This was the church group's 30th annual one-week work trip to the Carpenter's Boat Shop to perform community service projects.

Membership Report

This past year, the membership committee completed an update of the OBHS Membership List. We mailed two dues solicitations resulting in a doubling of paid dues for the 2015 membership year.

Our current membership is: 29 single, 67 couple/family, 13 Life Members (11 of which are couples and 2 single) for a total of 109 paid memberships.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Officers and Board Members of OBHS and the following people, some among many, for their welcome contributions in 2015:

Collection Donors--Pam Rice, Family of Susanne Holmes, Sylvia Becker, Sally Sapienzo, Jack Lane, Georgetown Historical Society, Kay Hannah, Chris Coombs, Josh Hanna, Sylvia Loud Estate

Digital Photo Archive Participants - Suzanne Collins, Chris Coombs, Larry Hayter, Belinda Osier

Sunday Evening Program Presenters - Dr. Warren Reiss, Dr. Neil DePaoli, Julia Lane & Fred Gosby of Castlebay, Josh Hanna, Belinda Osier

Bristol Parks and Recreation - hosting and facilitation of 3 summer programs

Historical Photo Presenters - Gordon Fossett and Craig Elliott

Article Writers - Larry Hayter, Peter Hope, Phyllis Lockhart Ives

Website Administrator and Content Contributors - Paul & Carol Ring

Facebook Administrators - Chuck Rand and Belinda Osier

Building & Grounds Helpers - Phil Averill, Larry Hayter, Kay & Pete Hannah, Debbie Mikulak, Mollie Perley, Dan Purdy, Pam Rice, Alexandra Wilson, Kathy Wright, Bobby Ives & teens from the Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge, NJ

On-going grounds care---Ken Perley

McKinley School Display: American flag, Christmas wreath - Laura Sproul Stubbs

Antique Sale - Coordinator Kathy Wright; K. & P. Hannah, Larry & Margaret Hayter, Sandy & Bobbie Lockhart, Mollie Perley, Pam Rice, neighborhood friends, and to all the generous donors of antiques

Food Sale - Coordinator Kathy Wright; Sue Norcross, Cathy Spikula-Galvin, Sue Hanson, Diane Hall, Margaret Hayter

Old Bristol Days Booth Tenders - K. & P. Hannah, Pete Hope, Sandy Lockhart, Debbie Mikulak, Belinda Osier, Mollie Perley, Chuck Rand, Fran Wagner

School Outreach Advisory Group - Cathy Chase, Paula Hanson, Phil Averill, Judy Hope, Annie Winchester, Sara McCorkle, Mollie Perley, Larry Hayter, Kay Hannah, Belinda Osier

Genealogy Group Leader and Hostess - Jean Rottner

Newsletter Formatting, Editing, Printing, Mailing - Debbie Mikulak, K. Hannah, Margaret Hayter



OBHS is grateful for all of its program presenters for summer 2015. Here, left to right, are three of the presenters, Craig Elliott, Josh Hanna, and Gordon Fossett. In August, as part of the Old Bristol Days and Bristol Sestercentennial celebration, Elliott and Fossett, local collectors, displayed their photos at McKinley School and Hanna, author, presented a lecture about the Pemaquid Peninsula from 1815-1915.

School Outreach—Belinda Osier

At the beginning of Bristol's Sestercentennial year OBHS suggested the following writing prompt to Bristol 5th graders: "Should Bristol celebrate its 250th birthday and if so, why?" Much to our delight seventeen students under the guidance of their social studies teacher Ms. Hillary Gallione responded with well-written essays celebrating Bristol's unique history. To honor their work Kay Hannah and I visited Ms. Gallione's class on November 4 and presented students with OBHS pens and personalized merit certificates. As a special treat, we were accompanied by colonial reenactor Russ Guibord who addressed the students in the persona of Mr. Jonathan Bowman, Clerk of Lincoln Co., 1760. "Mr. Bowman" presented the King's proclamation of that year which encouraged citizens to organize and incorporate official towns, which served as background to Bristol's incorporation in 1765. To conclude our visit, we conducted a survey to determine what historical subjects most piqued the students' interest. The results of the survey were most enlightening and will be a great help to us as we plan projects for the future.



Collections—Chuck Rand



As a librarian and archivist, I'm happy to report that we've made great progress this year processing our collections and updating our policies and procedures. Items already in our collection, including photographs, letters, and documents, have been rehoused in proper archival storage containers. All books have been inventoried and Library of Congress call numbers applied. Other materials lacking source information have been given "found in collection" numbers. We've also implemented several new policies and procedures borrowed from standard library and archives practices. Besides referencing more frequently the OBHS mission statement and its collection policy, we have initiated the use of gift agreements to formally acquire items and a

loan agreement to enable us to borrow photographs and/or documents to share in our Digital Images Archive.

Our collections also grew this year. Besides the accessioning of several library volumes, among the items we acquired were a major genealogical collection, records from the Pemaquid Beach Community Club, an 1876 tax collector's list, the personal journal of Barker Loud (1833-1836), and a town document announcing a formal celebration ceremony to mark the end of the war of 1812.

Finally, our project to borrow photographs to scan, digitize and share (our Digital Images Archive) got off to a good start with the loan of numerous images photographed by the late Millard Richmond, 19th and 20th century images of Kenneth Coombs and his family, and several images from individuals. We're especially excited about the potential of this project and encourage anyone with photographs depicting former Bristol residents, industries, or landscapes to consider sharing them through the OBHS. (Contact: chuckierand@gmail.com)

Wish List

1. Epson Perfection Photo Scanner V700, \$650
2. Adobe Photoshop Elements 13, \$70
3. Three terabyte external hard drive, \$130-\$180

Membership

We invite you to become a member of OBHS. We also invite you to share your skills and interests to help us promote our local history. If you have ideas for potential events, speakers, or fundraising, please contact us or write on the back of your membership slip upon return. A sincere thank you for renewing or becoming a new member and lending your support! Your membership dues help significantly with our building maintenance and other expenses. **Thank you for dating the form for our record-keeping.**

2015 OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____ Renewal _____ Date: _____

Name _____
(Fill in address information only for a new member or changes.)

Address _____ Seasonal Address _____

E-mail _____ E-mail _____

Local Phone _____

Thank you for sending annual dues of \$10 Single or \$15 Family made out to: Old Bristol Historical Society
Early Special by 1-1-2016: \$7 Single or \$12 Family Lifetime Membership: \$200 Single or Family
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