



# OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society – Spring 2016

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

With Bristol's Sestercentennial now behind us, it's hard to believe that our town is beginning its march towards its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Last year's celebration certainly energized us here at OBHS and the opportunity that it gave us all to reflect upon the passage of time makes our mission to preserve and share Bristol's unique history feel all the more important.

Although the Society's outreach slows down over the winter months, we've nonetheless been busy with a number of activities. In February we hosted our first winter talk and were very pleased with attendance. We hope to continue and perhaps even expand the number of winter talks next year. We've also been busy scanning new additions to our Digital Images Archive and sharing them on Facebook. If you haven't been following us, we'd like to remind you that you do not need to have a Facebook account in order to view and enjoy our page. Simply type in the following address: [facebook.com/oldbristolhistoricalsociety](https://oldbristolhistoricalsociety.facebook.com), and enjoy! Finally, our genealogical group has received and responded to a number of inquiries from people trying to find out more about their Bristol ancestors, for example:

<https://oldbristolhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com/sestercentennial/rodney-lane-and-mary-melissa-humphrey/>

We're particularly excited to be continuing our outreach this spring as we plan a tour of historical sights in Bristol for our local 5<sup>th</sup> graders. As the day progresses, we'll be taking them on a trip through the centuries, beginning our tour at Colonial Pemaquid and ending up at Pemaquid Point with many stops in between. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> watch for a trolley full of students excited to be learning about their town's history!

We invite you to check out the rest of the newsletter for announcements concerning our upcoming events including our annual Clean-up Day in mid-June and a yard sale to be held later in the month. You'll also find the schedule for this year's Summer Lecture Series. We hope you'll agree that our programming director has done another excellent job of lining up speakers on a great variety of interesting topics. And please, don't forget to renew your memberships for 2016! We greatly appreciate your support!

Cordially yours,

Belinda Osier & Chuck Rand

## Old Bristol Historical Society Officers and Directors

### **Osier, Belinda--OBHS Co-President**

Belinda, daughter of the late Leonard Osier, grew up in New Harbor; studied history and Classics at Bates and Boston Colleges, Latin & Greek instructor; owner of Harborside Cottages; resides New Harbor & Falmouth; ancestors were early settlers of Old Bristol.

### **Rand, Chuck--OBHS Co-President**

Chuck grew up in Damariscotta; archeol.@ Colonial Pemaquid 70's-80's; anthrop. & hist. archeol. UMaine, library sci. & archives mgt. at U of MD; positions at ME Historical Soc. & Smithsonian Instit.; currently Librar./Archiv. at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community; resides New Harbor & Falmouth.

### **Mikulak, Debbie--OBHS Secretary**

Debbie grew up in Far Hills, N.J.; grad of West Chester U., (MBA) & Temple U., PA; retired human resources VP; owned & operated artisan goat cheese business; resident of Round Pond since 2011. Debbie is also Secretary of the Round Pond Schoolhouse Association.

**Means, Don-- OBHS Treasurer**

Don is a grad. of Melrose H.S. & UMaine (Educ.); retired banker of The First National Banks of Boston and Damariscotta; served Bristol on Appeals Board and committees for Budget, School, & Town Planning. Currently Bristol Appeals Board member, Town Meeting Moderator of Bristol and 4 other towns; Treasurer of Skidompha Library.

**Hannah, Kay--OBHS Past-President**

Kay grew up New Harbor, grad. of Bristol High, UMaine (B.A., Educ.), U of VT (B.S.); retired teacher and VT Speech-Language Pathologist; Treas. UCP of VT; Past-P. & current member of Pemaquid Group of Artists; paternal and maternal ancestors were early Bristol settlers.

**Hannah, Pete--OBHS Past-President, Building Com.**

Pete was born in Montreal, Canada, moved to VT & FL in youth, naturalized U. S. citizen; U Maine, Yale U. & U. of MI; BLM- OR; U.S. Forest Serv.- IN; prof. of forestry U of VT; PWA Past-Pres. & Lands Com.; forest mgt. consultant; resides New Harbor.

**Hayter, Margaret--OBHS Membership Chairperson**

Margaret was born in Portland, ME and grew up in MA; MPA, New York U.; BS, Bloomfield College; retired healthcare administrator; secretary Heron Cove Assoc.; founder, Midcoast Modern Quilt Group; resides Pemaquid Beach and Nutley, NJ.

**Hayter, Larry--OBHS Publicity**

Larry grew up in Bloomfield, NJ; Dartmouth (English) & Bloomfield College (Business, Economics); retired (business writer/editor, inventory manager); treasurer of Pemaquid Historical Assn.; resides Pemaquid Beach & Nutley, NJ.

**Ives, Robert--OBHS Chair of Programs**

Bobby grew up in CT; Bowdoin C.; U. of Edinburgh; pastor of churches at New Harbor, Round Pond, Monhegan and Muscongus Islands; co-founder & dir. of the Carpenters Boat Shop; resides Pemaquid Harbor; Bowdoin College Dir. of Religious & Spiritual Life.

**Lockhart, A.J.--OBHS Past Co-Chair of Programs**

Sandy grew up outside Boston (Brookline); flew corporate jets worldwide; partially owned several aviation companies; retired and resides in Winston-Salem, NC and Pemaquid Harbor; has roots in Pemaquid.

**Perley, Mollie--OBHS Past Secretary, Fund Raising**

Mollie grew up in Round Pond, grad. Bristol High; previously owned and operated Perley Realty & later River View Market; co-designed/renovated/built homes in the area with her husband; has lived in New Harbor in Poland family home for 35 years.

**Purdy, Ddan--OBHS Vice President, Past Secretary, Building Com. Chairperson**

Dan is a native of Pennsdale, PA, with B.A. & J.D. degrees from Southern Methodist U.; attorney living and practicing in Waldoboro. Roots in Round Pond date back to the original settlers in 1743.

*Editor's note:* The Old Bristol Historical Society hopes to add to its list of directors and fill vacancies at its annual meeting in July and would appreciate any suggested names or volunteers for consideration.

## Old Bristol Historical Society 2016 Summer Lecture Series

June 26, 7 pm *Early Maine Gravestones and Epitaphs*  
Speaker: **Ellen Dyer** At: Educational Center, Pemaquid Lighthouse Park

July 10, 7 pm *History of the Pemaquid Point Hotel*  
Speakers: **Ann Lewis with Jack Brackett** At: The McKinley School,  
Pemaquid Falls

July 24, 7 pm - *Poggie Fishing on Muscongus Bay*  
Speakers: **Nelson Webber & Peter Hope** At: McKinley School, Pemaquid  
Falls

August 7, 7 pm - *Early Bristol Photographs of the 20th Century*  
Speaker: **Earle Shettleworth Jr.** At: Educational Center, Pemaquid Lighthouse Park

August 21, 7 pm - *Tilting at Windmills: The Seemingly Unending Adventures of Col. David Dunbar*  
Speaker: **Chuck Rand** At: McKinley School, Pemaquid Falls

September 2, 7 pm - *Distilled in Maine – A History of Alcohol in Maine*  
Speaker: **Kate McCarty** At: Educational Center – Pemaquid Lighthouse Park



## Old Bristol Historical Society 2016 Summer Events

June 11, 8 am-12 noon *Clean-up Morning & Noon Cookout* At: McKinley School

June 25, 8 am-12 noon *Yard Sale* At: McKinley School

July (date & time to be determined) *Annual Meeting of the Old Bristol Historical Society*  
At: McKinley School

August 13 & 14, 9 am-5 pm *Old Bristol Days Booth-Exhibits* At: Old Fort Grounds  
Open House at McKinley School after Lobster Boat Races

## Digital Images Archive

With the help of several generous donations made over the winter, OBHS is happy to announce the purchase of two items that will dramatically move forward its digitization project. OBHS now owns an Epson Perfection V800 Photo Color Scanner and a new 4TB external hard drive to back-up and store the digitized images. OBHS wants to thank the donors that made these purchases possible.

If you have images that you would like to share with the OBHS archive, please call Chuck Rand (553-0034) or Belinda Osier (677-2996) to arrange for your images to be scanned. We are particularly interested in old photographs or postcards that depict old village, harbor or landscapes scenes and images of ancestors at work or in interesting settings, as well as formal or multigenerational portraits of former Bristol natives.

*(Editor's Note:* The following article will be of interest to the many Tarr descendants born in Bristol.)

<https://oldbristolhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com/sestercentennial/tarr/>

## Samuel F. Tarr of Bristol

By Chuck Rand

In June 1834 Samuel F. Tarr was born to parents Samuel F. Tarr and Lucretia Gamage in Bristol. Father Samuel, born in Massachusetts in 1812, had married Lucretia on October 29, 1833. In 1858 Samuel married Isabel Petersen who was born January 1837 in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada. By 1861 the 27-year old Tarr was a fisherman living with his wife Isabel, son Joseph E. Tarr, and daughter Clara A. Tarr.

On April 12th of that year, the Civil War began when the Confederates bombarded Union soldiers at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. During the Civil War between 70,000 and 80,000 Maine men served in the U.S. military as soldiers and sailors. They were organized into 32 infantry and two cavalry regiments, and seven light Artillery batteries and one heavy artillery regiment.

The war would have a dire effect on Samuel personally as well as his family. The five foot seven inch, 150-pound Tarr enlisted as a private on October 1, 1862 at Bristol in Company I 21st regiment of Maine infantry. From the beginning of his service, the war was extremely unkind to Tarr as he described in a June 19, 1896 deposition: "I was sick with measles at East New York about December 1862, and was in hospital there about three weeks. I fully recovered + do not know of any permanent bad affects from the measles. The next of my sickness was at Baton Rouge La. in March 1863. I had neuralgia in my head, and was in hospital (a convalescent hospital) for about two weeks as near as I can recollect. I got some better + went on duty, and I was shot at Port Hudson + lay in Baton Rouge General Hospital about two months."



Tarr had participated in the first infantry assault on the Confederate fortress at Port Hudson, Louisiana on May 27, 1863 where he received a gunshot wound in his right hand. Major General Nathaniel P. Banks's frontal assault was repulsed and a 48-day siege ensued. On July 9, 1863, after hearing that Vicksburg fell, the Confederate garrison surrendered. To put Tarr's wound in perspective, Banks commanded between 30,000 and 40,000 troops of which 5,000 were killed and wounded and 5,000 died of disease.

Tarr was one of the fortunate ones in his regiment. During its nine months' service, the 21st Regiment lost one officer and 26 enlisted men that were killed and mortally wounded while one officer and 144 enlisted men died by disease.

Tarr was discharged at Augusta on August 25, 1863. In a claim for compensation dated June 7, 1864: "Dr. James B. Bell, of Augusta Me. on Sept. 21, 1863, certifies that applicant is one-half disabled by wound of right hand; ball passed through the right hand, directly across the back, cutting off all the extensor tendons of the fingers and injuring the four metacarpal bones, and resulting in entire immobility of all the fingers." From another claim for an increased invalid pension dated June 17, 1867: "Dr. Ford certifies that applicant is disabled by the passage of a ball directly across the right hand, going through all the bones, the cords as well as bones were destroyed and so much of nerves destroyed as to leave the hand in a state so nearly dead as to be a very uncomfortable appendage to the arm and unfit for use and wholly irremediable."

Back in Bristol the Tarr family expanded by four with the births of sons Charles S. Tarr on June 18, 1866 and Augustus P. Tarr in March, 1868 and daughters Annie Belle Tarr on September 30, 1872 and Emma J. Tarr in 1873. The 1870 and 1880 census records show that Tarr was working as a farmer. Father Samuel died June 28, 1894 and his wife Lucretia died two months later on August 23, 1894. By the 1900 census Tarr is listed as a pensioner. On August 18, 1906, his wife Isabel died. On November 19, 1910 Samuel Tarr died.

Samuel's legacy continued through his children's marriages. In 1881 Joseph married Ella Jane Poland; Clara married Leonard Leland Poland; Charles married Hattie Gray; Augustus married Lena J. Benson; Annie married Charles W. Etheridge; and Emma married Everett Poland.

## Recent Acquisitions



Through the energetic middleman efforts of Paul Aldrich of Topsham, D. Wayne Russell, of Lexington, Virginia, donated a vintage 1857 map of Lincoln County. We hope to frame this map, which measures 59 x 59.5 inches, and display it semi-permanently on a wall in the McKinley Schoolhouse for all to view and admire.

Jack Brackett of New Harbor donated his grandfather Walter Brackett's ice harvesting tools which were used to cut ice at the Frog Pond and supplied ice to the Pemaquid Hotel.

The tools include 4 ice tongs, 7 ice picks, and 2 ice saws. Walter John Brackett was born December 2, 1888, married Verena E. McLain on June 1, 1909, and operated the Pemaquid Hotel for a number of years beginning in 1923.



## Notice: Yard Sale Items Sought

OBHS is seeking donations of the following items for a yard sale to be held on June 25, 9 am-noon at the McKinley School: furniture, house wares, decorative items, small electronics in good working condition, shop and garden tools, sporting goods, books, and children's toys. Please no clothing, TVs, computers, or other large or outdated electronics. Items may be dropped off at the McKinley School at the following times: Saturday May 21 and June 4, 9-10 am and Friday June 24, 9 am –noon. Alternate drop-off times or home pick-up of items may be arranged by calling Mollie Perley at 677-2380. Additional drop-off times will be announced on Facebook.

## In Memory of Susanne Russell Holmes



The board of the Old Bristol Historical Society would like to acknowledge and express its regrets at the passing of Susanne Russell Holmes. Susanne was born October 27, 1937 and passed away on March 27, 2016. She was the wife of Merrill Homes and mother of four children, three of whom still reside in the area. Susanne contributed to the community through her many years of service to the Bristol Area library, serving almost 20 years as its librarian.

Susanne's interest in genealogy and her extensive research in that area has also benefitted the community. She was a member of OBHS' genealogy group which met monthly at the home of Jeanne Rottner in Pemaquid Falls. The Old Bristol Historical Society is grateful to have been given her genealogy library along with that which she herself was given from the estate of the late Patricia Lailer Elliott of Round Pond. These papers have been sorted and archived for future use by our co-president, Chuck Rand, a professional archivist.

The Russell family tree of memorials is found on our website at:

<https://oldbristolhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com/sestercentennial/russell/>

# 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.**

## 2016 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

Lifetime Membership: \$200 Single or Family

*A non-profit organization - Tax-exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code*

**Old Bristol Historical Society**

**P. O. Box 87**

**Bristol, ME 04539**