



# OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society – Fall 2017

---

## Dear Members and Friends,

We'd like to thank you all for helping the Old Bristol Historical Society have another successful year! We enjoyed seeing so many of you at Old Bristol Days or at one (or many) of the eight programs that we hosted this year. As in the past, our local presenters attracted the largest audiences, so a special thank you goes out to Paul Yates, Phil Averill and Chad Hanna for sharing their memories and research with us. For those of you who weren't able to join us, you will find several of our programs available under the Old Bristol Historical Society tab on LCTV.org.

This year we were thrilled to once again organize our second Bristol History Tour for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Since the class was able to spend a separate day at Colonial Pemaquid, we were able to add a few more stops to the jam-packed schedule. We are so thankful for this opportunity to nurture a love of history in the next generation and we were certainly impressed and encouraged by the enthusiasm the students showed.

We hope you'll enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter. In it you'll find various announcements including the creation of a new official website for

OBHS. You'll also find reports about our growing collections and exciting news about the progress we're making with the OBHS Digital Image Archive. In addition, you'll find a short article about the story behind our new logo and an article relating a tragic incident from Bristol's past.

In closing, please look for your membership renewal forms to arrive in the mail late January/early February. It is very helpful for our bookkeeping if you send them back at the beginning of the year instead of waiting until summer. Until then, we hope you have a wonderful winter and we'd love to see you at our upcoming February presentation!

Cordially yours,  
Belinda Osier & Chuck Rand, Co-Presidents



BCS 5<sup>th</sup> graders in June at historic Granite Hall Store in Round Pond

---

### ***Officers and Directors of the Old Bristol Historical Society, July, 2017 - July 2018***

*Co-Presidents: Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand*

*Vice President: Daniel Purdy*

*Secretary: Jay Crooker*

*Treasurer: Donald Means*

*Directors: Kay Hannah, Pete Hannah, Larry Hayter,*

*Margaret Hayter, Bobby Ives, Mollie Perley*

*Anne Lewis, Pamela Rice, Joyce Prior Thompson*

## The Old Bristol Historical Society Elects Two New Directors

The Old Bristol Historical Society is pleased to announce the July 22nd election of Jay Crooker and Joyce Prior Thompson to its Board of Directors.

Jay Crooker moved to Maine four years ago with his wife and two young sons, restoring a farmhouse in Bristol that has been in his family for five generations. His fourth-great grandfather, Captain Elijah Crooker, settled in Bristol after the Revolutionary War. Jay is the new secretary of the OBHS and is also the secretary of the Bristol Village Improvement Society in Bristol Mills. He will be serving as the administrator of the society's new web site. While obtaining a graduate degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina, Crooker launched his internet business which licenses specialized training software to coaches of distance runners. More recently he started a photo organizing and scanning service after digitizing his family's photographs.

Joyce Thompson grew up in Bristol Mills and is employed as office manager for Ronald Pendleton Inc. Plumbing & Heating in New Harbor. She is former secretary-treasurer of local Bristol charity, Caring for Kids. She was also treasurer of the Congregational Church of Bristol for ten years and has been a long-serving member of its fund-raising and other committees. She and her husband, Edgar, operate two businesses out of their home in Pemaquid Falls; Embroidery for All Seasons and Reasons, and Pemaquid Vinyl Lettering and Signs in New Harbor. Joyce has already joined in helping the society with its fund-raising activities.

## New Logo for the Old Bristol Historical Society

This past spring OBHS unveiled its new logo! The design prominently features an image of the three masted schooner, the H.H. Chamberlain, which not only represents Bristol's connection to the sea, but also has its own interesting story to tell. Built in Phippsburg in 1891, the Chamberlain was loaded and moored off Pemaquid Beach when the infamous Portland Gale of November 1898 struck. Crewman Alexander "Pug" McLain and another crew member had been left on board to tend the ship, but when it started dragging its mooring, word was sent to Captain Warren Fossett to hurry back from his home in Round Pond. Cutting the line, Captain Fossett and three crew members hoped to get to Boothbay's more protected harbor, but instead ended up being blown out to sea about 160 miles off Nantucket! As days passed and word began to spread of the approximately 150 vessels and 400 souls lost in the storm, the Chamberlain and its crew were presumed lost. Imagine the joy and relief when word came 8 days later that the Chamberlain and its crew were safe in Nantucket! It's said that they delivered their cargo of pogy oil and machinery before returning home two weeks after their ordeal began.



Rev. Robert Ives, Pam Rice, and Don Means, stand next to our newly erected sign at McKinley School at Pemaquid Falls on Nov. 10th, 2017. The clean-up and sign erection crew of the day, also included Belinda Osier, Pete and Kay Hannah, and the picture's photographer, Mollie Perley.

## Digital Image Archive News

For those of you who are interested in the OBHS Digital Image Archive, we have exciting news to share! OBHS has recently purchased PastPerfect, a museum collections management software. PastPerfect allows for the creation of records which will enable users to search for images in a variety of ways including by subject, names, dates, keywords and advanced searches using a combination of fields simultaneously. Our co-president Chuck Rand has already begun the work of entering data on each image into the program, which is bringing us closer to our goal of creating a searchable database of images available to the public. For more information, we invite you to attend our up-coming winter lecture on February 17 entitled “Searching Bristol’s Past: a demonstration of the PastPerfect software.”

We’re also pleased to report that the archive continued to grow this year with the addition of 403 new images, bringing the total number of images found in our archive to 2598. Of the new images added, 157 were through donation (described above in new accessions), while 246 images (described below) were “shared” by participants. If you have images that you would like to “share” and have become a part of this important archive, we encourage you to email us at [OldBristolHistoricalSociety03@gmail.com](mailto:OldBristolHistoricalSociety03@gmail.com). We’ll be happy to arrange a time to pick up and return your photos after scanning. Thank you to the following for sharing their images:  
**Paula Hanson** – 41 images from snapshots in an early photo album belonging to Elva Osier Chamberlain.  
**Carol Baker Joyal** – 74 images from snapshots related to Fred and Mary Baker and the Windemere Hotel  
**Ann Lewis** – 8 images from cards and photographs  
**Donald Osier** – 7 images related to the house-in-the-harbor of Helen & Elmer Osier  
**Patricia M. Porter** – 76 images from postcards belonging to Brenda & Frank Savaro; 1 DVD of images scanned from a Pemaquid Point Photo album; 40 images from photos and postcards contained in a 3-ring binder scrapbook/album compiled by Edith Hary in the 1990’s

### A Medal for a Local Resident

Perhaps few in the Bristol Area, other than the descendants of the people involved in this story, know that a silver Carnegie Medal was awarded to a resident of the town of Bristol.

It was more than 110 years ago on November 23, 1907 when Lincoln J. Partridge, his older brother Fred, and George D. Tarr were working at a sawmill located on a stream, off the road at Pemaquid Beach that is now named The Trail when a heart-breaking accident occurred.

The two Partridge brothers were feeding wood into a circular saw with a 3-foot diameter blade from which Tarr, aged 62, was removing the sawn wood. Suddenly Tarr’s coat and shirt became entangled in the saw. Seeing the life of his co-worker endangered, Lincoln Partridge reached from the other side of the mechanism to grab him but unfortunately fell and was injured by the saw before thrown free; he died within minutes of the accident. Partridge was 42 years old and the father of five children.



In addition to receiving the Carnegie Medal awarded posthumously to Partridge about a year later, his widow, Emma (Wallace) Partridge, was given a monthly grant by the



The late Betty Prescott of Pemaquid Beach is pictured above holding a copy of the medal and citation awarded her grandfather by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

institution for herself and the children, Sadie, James, Tina, Wallace, and Doris, until her death in 1925. This grant, according to the late Betty Partridge Prescott, the granddaughter of awardee, Lincoln Partridge, helped the family barely get through its hardships of daily living following this tragic accident.



Note: Lincoln J. Partridge is also the ancestor of the Reilly family currently of the area. George D. Tarr was the brother of Samuel F. Tarr, the Civil War veteran, about whom an article appeared in the Spring issue of the 2016 OBHS Newsletter.

James Partridge, the young boy in the photo to the left taken in the late 1860's, is seated next to his parents, James W. Partridge and Sarah Erskine Partridge with 3 out of 7 of his older siblings.

## OBHS Collections accessioned in 2017

**Harry Bell** – 4 identification items for Stephen Keene, ca. 1944-46

**Arthur Patstone** – 5 photogravure postcards (Gilbert's lobster Pound & Fort William Henry) ca. 1947

**Sherrill Callahan** – 10 Bristol Footlighters photos, 1950-1960; 17 Bristol Footlighters programs, 1955-1969

**Carol Baker Joyal** – 1 Neighborly Club 1923 booklet

**Phil Averill** – various Town of Bristol reports, 1880-1890; Steamship schedules, 1896 & 1926; and Railroad schedules, 1925-1926

**Carol Ropes Kelsey** – 138 photographic prints of Johns Island by William A. (Alex) Ropes Sr. its caretaker, 1950s-1977

**Mark Jespersen** – 1 souvenir plate "Ancient Jamestown, Pemaquid, Maine," ca. 1908

**Pamela J. Rice** – 3 Lorimer Brackett photographic postcards & Mildred Bowman's handwritten Valedictory, class of 1913 Bristol High School

**John Jicha** – 2 framed black & white photographs by J. Warren Crozier- "Down East Fog" and "The Old Timer"

**Jean Case** – 1931 Bristol High School Diploma awarded to Clifton Carroll

**Julie Crooker**—Bristol High School Diploma awarded to Richard Rollins Crooker

**Patty Kempton**—2 Footlighters programs, 11 Footlighters photos

## Winter Talk

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming winter talk which will take place on Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the Russell Parish House at the Congregational Church in Bristol. The talk entitled “Searching Bristol’s Past: a demonstration of the PastPerfect software” will focus on how this newly acquired software will greatly enhance the public’s access to and searching of images found in our Digital Images Archive. Speakers Chuck Rand and Belinda Osier will demonstrate how easily users will be able to locate a specific image or how best to browse by general subjects or dates. As at our past archive talks, there’ll be lots of images of old Bristol included in the presentation!

## Thank you!

OBHS wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our members and donors for their continuing financial support of the Society through membership dues and special contributions. We couldn’t exist without you! We would also like to recognize the following for their greatly appreciated contributions of materials and time:

**Collection Donors:** Harry Bell, Arthur Patstone, Patty Kempton, Jean Carroll Case, Julie Crooker, Sherrill Brackett Callahan, Carol Joyal, Phil Averill, Carol Ropes Kelsey, Mark Jespersen, Pam Rice, John Jicha, Long Cove Point Association

**Loans & Digital Image Archive Participants:** Paula Hanson, Carol Joyal, Ann Lewis, Patricia Porter, Brenda & Frank Savaro, Don Osier

**2017 Program Presenters:** Chuck Rand & Belinda Osier, Paul & Jessica Yates, Don Perkins, Phil Averill, Jay Robbins, Kerry Hardy, Chad Hanna

**Venue Hosts:** Paul Yates/Earnest Hatch Archives, Bristol Parks and Recreation, Bristol Mills Congregational Church, Round Pond Schoolhouse Association

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade History Tour participants:** Annie Winchester, Margo Hope (Pemaquid Historical Assoc.); Phil Averill; Bristol Parks and Recreation staff; Cynthia Wright, Bill Smith, Donald Leeman, Patricia Crook Benner, Bethia Steer Callahan (Round Pond Schoolhouse Assoc.); Sarah Herndon (Granite Hall Store); Lori Crook & BJ Russell (King Ro Market); Judy Duggan (Hotel Pemaquid); Fred Gosbee & Julia Lane (Castlebay); Larry Hayter (OBHS Board).

**Olde Bristol Days Booth Tenders:** Kay & Pete Hannah, Larry Hayter, Sandy Lockhart, Mollie Perley, Pam Rice, Robert Hutchinson, Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand, Sally Wolf-Wade, Fran Wagner, Alitha Young

**Building & Grounds Helpers:** Dan Purdy, Don Means, Pam Rice, Kay & Pete Hannah, Belinda Osier, Mollie & Ken Perley, Bobby Ives

**Newsletter Production:** Debbie Mikulak, Kay Hannah, Margaret Hayter

**And a special thank you to:**

Mary Boothby for her graphic design help with our new logo

William Schwanneman for his donation of our new OBHS sign

Will Chapman for his website design services

Lincoln County TV and videographer Dave Svens for taping our programs and making them available on LCTV

**Photographers wanted!** OBHS is looking for a few volunteers who would be interested in photographing the old barns and fish houses of Bristol. Inspired by Don Perkins’ talk last summer on the barns of Maine, we would love to document these interesting structures that have stories to tell about Bristol’s past. Please look for another announcement in our spring newsletter about how you can participate in this important project.

**Coming soon!** OBHS is in the process of creating a new official website with improved capacity to share news, upcoming events and to display and link to items from our collections. Please check our progress as we continue to build this new site throughout the winter and spring and visit us at [OldBristolHistoricalSociety.org](http://OldBristolHistoricalSociety.org)

## Membership Report

We are very pleased to have increased our membership to a total of 156 single, family and life memberships. We would like to especially thank our life members for helping to sustain our mission.

Jim & Ann Acheson  
Jan Bacon & Phil Averill

\*Dewey & Bea Chase

Joyce Dodge

Pete & Kay Hannah

Madeline Hobbs

\*Sara Peslan & Bill Kelly

Ben Harris & Rebecca Mitchell

\*Jeanne Rottner

\*Laura Sproul-Stubbs

Paul & Kathy Anderson

\*Jack & Isabel Brackett

\*Robert & Maggie Conger

Charlie & Judy Duggan

\*Charles & Paula Hanson

Peter & Judy Hope

\*Jim & Jamie Levis

Kern & Mollie Perley

Richard Russack

Jock & Ann Winchester

Jo Ashby

Thomas & Peggy Buchanan

Nancy Dodge

Emory & Valerie Gott

\*Larry & Margaret Hayter

\*Carol Baker & Richard Joyal

\*Robert & Roberta McLaughlin

Paul & Carol Ring

Eric & Judy Speck

\*indicates new life membership in 2017

The Old Bristol Historical Society is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. All donations to OBHS are tax deductible.

**Old Bristol Historical Society**

**P. O. Box 87**

**Bristol, ME 04539**