



# OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society – Spring 2017

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## Dear Members and Friends,

Spring is finally here which means that OBHS is busy planning for another great spring and summer season! Please find and post in a handy spot the enclosed 2017 schedule of events. This year we're excited to start the spring by repeating our day-long town history tour with our 5<sup>th</sup> graders; we're also pleased to say that last year's tour has been expanded to include a separate day for various activities at Colonial Pemaquid. Students will be at Colonial Pemaquid on June 13, and on June 16 watch for the magical trolley that will be transporting them around town and across the centuries! As we move into summer, we're especially excited about this year's line-up of speakers and topics for our Summer Talk Series. As in the past, our schedule includes an interesting mix of local topics and topics of broader historical interest. Please note that this year we're trying something a little different by presenting our talks in various venues throughout town, so please check the venue carefully before heading out!



Hostess Margo Hope greets last year's Bristol Consolidated School 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Harrington Meeting House, Pemaquid.

Not on the schedule, but still in the planning stages will be some new events held during Old Bristol Days. Old Bristol Days offers such a perfect opportunity to share Bristol's history with others and we very much enjoy doing so with the many people who stop by our booth. This year we hope to expand our activities to reach even more people. So please stay tuned and look for us on the Old Bristol Days schedule.

In other news, this past February for the second year in a row, we added a winter talk to our schedule and were very pleased by the attendance; this gives us great encouragement to continue and perhaps expand our winter offerings. This year's talk which focused on our growing Digital Images Archive was also a great success in that a number of people stepped forward with photos to share with the Archive.

Finally, we'd like to invite you to consider volunteering for OBHS. Our Board of Directors has so many dynamic ideas, but in addition to financial support, we also need active members to help us turn ideas into action. While we are always in need of people willing to work on the McKinley Schoolhouse, we also need members willing to organize or work on fundraising events, to share a little bit of history with our school kids, to help us expand our activities at Old Bristol Days, to share photos with our Digital Images Archive, and that's just the beginning! We ask you to please think about it. Also, if you haven't done so already, please remember to renew your 2017 membership. We need every kind of support in order to keep our Society running, active, and successful in fulfilling its mission!

We look forward to seeing you all this summer.

Cordially yours,

Belinda Osier & Chuck Rand  
Co-Presidents, OBHS

*Editor's Note: You may notice that we are proudly displaying our newly decided upon logo for the first time. The story behind it will be in the next issue of our newsletter.*



### **Old Bristol Historical Society – 2017 Calendar of Events**

- June 13** OBHS participates in 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Colonial Pemaquid
- June 16** OBHS Local History Tour for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- June 17** Clean-up Day at McKinley School, 9:30 a.m. Pemaquid Falls, volunteers needed, please bring a rake if possible, other cleaning materials will be provided
- June 25** “18<sup>th</sup> Century Farm Machinery and Tools of Ernest Hatch” by **Paul and Jessica Yates**, 7 p.m. Ernest Hatch Archives, Rt. 130 (barn on right just above S. Bristol Route 129 turn off)
- July 9** “The Barns of Maine” by **Don Perkins** (author of The Barns of Maine: Our History, our Stories.), 7 p.m. Bristol Mills Congregational Church.
- July 23** “School Houses in Bristol” by **Phil Averill**, 7 p.m. Washington Schoolhouse, Rt. 32, Round Pond.
- August 6** “18<sup>th</sup> Century Taverns of Bristol and Lincoln County” by **Jay Robbins**, 7 p.m. Bristol Mills Congregational Church
- August 12 & 13** Old Bristol Days, OBHS booth and events (TBA)
- August 20** “The Abnaki – People of the Dawn” by **Kerry Hardy**, 7 p.m. Education Center, Pemaquid Point Lighthouse Park
- September 3** “The Hanna Family of Bristol: Captain Thomas Hanna Keeper of the Franklin Island Light and his descendants” by **Chad Hanna**, 7 p.m. Education Center, Pemaquid Point Lighthouse Park

### **Wish List**

The following items will enable us to make our collections more accessible to the public. If you would like to make a special donation to help us with this goal, your help would be greatly appreciated!

- Archival framing for our 1857 Lincoln County Map (to be displayed at Town Hall): \$2250
- An OBHS dedicated computer: \$600-\$800
- Software: Microsoft Office \$190; Adobe Photoshop Elements \$80
- Past Perfect museum software (to catalog our Digital Images Archive): \$870

## Memories and Musings on a Maine Heritage and the Pemaquid Group of Artists

By Jane Bowman

Growing up in a family of artists and coming to Maine every summer from Massachusetts furnished me with wonderful memories of Pemaquid. The strongest of my Pemaquid recollections began the summer of August 1945, V-J Day, World War II. My parents, Donald and Betty Bowman, had bought an old salt water farmhouse on a cove in New Harbor and we were in it. This was to be our summer place. We joined our new neighbors next door at Hillcrest Farm, then a boarding house for summer folk as well as a small farm, cheering and banging on pots and pans, celebrating war's end. Everything, at that time, seemed upbeat. New beginnings were settling over the USA.



Jane Bowman (center) with her parents, Don & Betty Bowman

The following musings are not meant to be definite in dates or descriptions. They are just memorable thoughts, I wanted to write about, record to share and keep for reminiscing on from time to time. Both of my grandfathers, a Bowman from Maine and a Jeffrey from Massachusetts, were born with artistic talent. They passed this on to my parents, to my cousin, Bill, and to me. I feel blessed with this gift.

Imaginative adventures - drawing, painting in all different types of mediums and those "pleine aire" family excursions on the Bristol rocks and shores were always cherished life experiences for me, even as a youngster. So, too, were visits to museums and galleries, seeing the work of the great Masters, important current art of the time and artwork of my family entered into exhibitions. Such experiences provided me with warm memories of one gallery, the one the family felt closest to---being practically a next door neighbor and part of our community---the Pemaquid Group of Artists.

Getting acquainted with the Pemaquid Group probably began for me in the early 1950's, although I know that the group had formed back in the 1920's---1928, according to an Internet history clip. In this Post War-time, when Americans sought out summering in second homes, this group was becoming part of the ambiance of the Pemaquid peninsula, providing professionally created art by residents from the area. During those early years of the '50's, my family and I supported Pemaquid artists and exhibitions, going to shows held in such disparate locales as the Surf Casino, the old Mavooshen grammar schoolhouse, and the upper floor of the big building across from Reilly's Market, all on New Harbor Hill. At that time the Surf Casino, located in back of the bank in New Harbor, was the most exotic, encompassing all kinds of entertainment: a movie theater, a bowling alley and an ice cream parlor. The bowling alley, as one can imagine, was very precarious for Pemaquid show attendees, as I remember my grandmother Bowman twisting her ankle, trying to view my grandfather's artwork in a show.

The first in my family to become part of this Pemaquid Artist's Group was my grandfather, Milfred Bowman. He was born in New Harbor and, after years of moving his family out of Maine to find work during the major Great Depression period and once again during WWII's years, settled back into his home in New Harbor on the Huddle Road. He began his painting in oils of marine subjects, accomplished in the workshop part of his barn. He exhibited in the period of the 1940's - early 1950's. This was a time when early founders of the Pemaquid group, made up of talented artists such as Simon Blaisdell, Frederick Detwiler, Parker Gamage, Dr. William Harvey and Guy Halley Thompson, were active.

My father, Donald Bowman, an art director in Boston, schooled in fine art but seeking stable employment in advertising, followed my grandfather as a member of the Pemaquid Group. He was known for his creative ability in oils and acrylics, painting the rugged Maine coast, its surf, landscapes, harbor scenes and people.

Then, my mother, Betty Bowman, through her study accomplished with the Famous Artists' School in Westport, CT, brought her talents in skillful rendering of watercolor to the Pemaquid Group as a member at a later time. Still later I was pleased to have been chosen as Guest Artist and Seasonal Guest Artist in 2011 and 2012, carrying on the tradition of Bowman support of the Pemaquid Group of Artists.

My father greatly enjoyed devoting his talent and time to the Pemaquid Group, becoming President for a period during the 1970's - 1980's. He took over the position after Gene Klebe, a noted artist and visionary for the gallery's growth. Klebe, along with the help of my father, was instrumental in working to get permission to build a structure, plan its design and establish a new gallery. The location decided on was not only a Town of Bristol Park with its lighthouse, but also federal land housing the US Coast Guard. Alfred and Priscilla Dalmas, devoted patrons of the group, were also very important in their strong support as were the artists of the group and the Town of Bristol. The gallery found its site in 1960. A new building was constructed at Lighthouse Park at Pemaquid Point, its current home.

Throughout those many years from the 1950's on into the 1990's, the Bowman family truly enjoyed the venue and opportunity of exhibiting their artwork on our beautiful Maine coast, making friends and working with this vibrant talented group, still so much a part of the Pemaquid community.

*Jane Bowman moved to New Harbor permanently in May, 2005 from Massachusetts. She lives and paints at the salt water farm inherited from her parents, who had become full time residents of Bristol in 1979. Editor's note: The OBHS appreciates Jane's article and would heartily welcome other person's memories from the past.*

## The Digital Images Archive

The OBHS Digital Images Archive continues to grow. This past February Co-Presidents Chuck Rand and



Belinda Osier gave a presentation which featured over a hundred images out of the approximately 2000 images already in the Archive and outlined the Society's ambitious plans for the Archive's future which include an online presence. In the meantime, we continue to accept donations to our collection and, of equal importance, to scan, digitize and return items that people wish to "share" but not donate. You can currently view images from the Digital Images Archive on our Facebook page which

now has over 950 followers. So far this year OBHS has acquired a wonderful collection of Footlighters' photos along with associated programs that was kept by the late Leona Brackett (a long-time participant in the shows), and generously donated by her daughter Sherrill Brackett Callahan. We are also very grateful to Carol Baker Joyal who has given us the opportunity to scan family photographs of people and landscapes associated with the former Windemere Hotel that was located in Pemaquid Harbor. Carol is the granddaughter of Fred and Mary

Baker who ran the hotel between 1910 and 1935 before it was destroyed by fire. We also have a small but growing list of names of people who have photographs they are willing to “share.” If you would like to be put on that list or have items that you would like to donate, please contact OBHS.

Former Windemere Hotel,  
Pemaquid Harbor, circa 1914



## Membership Information

Thank you to our members who have already paid their dues for this year. Your dues help us to provide programs not only for the society, but also for school programs. In fact, the school program that we did last year for the 5th grade at Bristol Consolidated School was such a big hit that we are expanding it for this year.

If you have misplaced your dues statement for this year, we are enclosing another one. If you would like to volunteer some time to OBHS, you can see some of the areas where we could use your help.

We would like to thank our Life Members:

Jim & Ann Acheson	Paul & Kathy Anderson	Jo Ashby
Jack Brackett	Thomas & Peggy Buchanan	Joyce G. Dodge
Charlie & Judy Duggan	Emory K. & Valerie J. Gott	Pete & Kay Hannah
Madeline Hobbs	Pete & Judy Hope	Ben Harris & Rebecca Mitchell
Ken & Mollie Perley	Paul & Carol Ring	Richard Russack
Eric & Judy Speck	Jock & Anne Winchester	

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Old Bristol Historical Society, P.O. Box 87, Bristol ME 04539

### OBHS MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2017



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle:**

One year Single \$15	Two years Single \$30 (2017/2018)
One year Family \$20	Two years Family \$40 (2017/2018)
Lifetime: \$200	Additional Donation (amount) \$ _____

**We always need help! Please check if you'd be willing to help in any of the following areas:**

- Spring clean-up
- Maintenance Projects at McKinley School
- Help at Talks (refreshments, membership table, sale table, etc.)
- Help at Fundraising events (ex.: yard sales, bakes sales, etc.)
- Help during Old Bristol Days (booth, talks, open houses, etc.)
- Share photos with our Digital Images Archive

**Thank you!**

**Officers and Directors of the Old Bristol Historical Society, July, 2016 - July 2017**

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*Co-Presidents: Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand*  
*Vice President: Daniel Purdy*  
*Secretary: Alison Lee*  
*Treasurer: Donald Means*  
*Programs: Robert Ives*  
*School Outreach: Anne Lewis*

*Newsletter Editor: Kay Hannah*  
*Past President: Peter Hannah*  
*Membership Chair: Margaret Hayter*  
*Publicity Chair: Larry Hayter*  
*Fund Raising: Mollie Perley, Pamela Rice*

**Old Bristol Historical Society**  
**P. O. Box 87**  
**Bristol, ME 04539**