



OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society – Fall 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

2018 was another great year for the Old Bristol Historical Society. We were pleased to continue our important work with Bristol's fifth graders, both through classroom presentations and with our now "famous" (according to the 5th graders) spring Bristol History Tour. This year's new 5th graders were able to start their local history curriculum with a fall visit to Colonial Pemaquid and are already looking forward to the longer town-wide tour next spring.



We hope you were able to attend some or all of our 2018 lectures which were devoted to specifically local topics. Subjects covered were old photographs; caring for Bristol's poor; Bristol in the Civil War; the history of the Footlighters; history of the Bristol Fire Department; seining, shrimping and lobstering in Bristol; and the history of the Pemaquid Mill. We can't thank our local presenters enough for sharing their knowledge, experience and good humor with us during these entertaining and educational evenings. You can find several of these presentations available on LCTV.

This year we've added a significant number of items to our collections, both to our permanent collection, as well as through loans of photographs scanned and added to our Digital Images Archive (see inside for a list of donations and loans). Chuck has been very busy entering images into our Past Perfect Museum software and we feel that we're getting closer to our goal of making our Digital Images Archive available online. We continue to solicit loans of photographs that we can scan and add to the

Phil Averill shares the history of the Bristol Liberty pole and efforts to restore it with Bristol 5th graders, spring 2018

archive. Also, we apologize if you've already offered to loan us images and we haven't contacted you yet. It's rather slow and methodical work, but we haven't forgotten about you! When you receive your membership renewal form in January, please check the box and remind us that you have items to share.

2019 promises to be an exciting and challenging year for the OBHS. Our first goal is to complete the renovation of the kitchen area at McKinley School in order to provide a secure and environmentally safe storage space for our growing archival collection. The big news, of course, is the possible purchase of the Pemaquid Mill property (formerly Poole Bros.) by the Damariscotta River Association. If the DRA's Friends of Pemaquid Mill Campaign is successful, OBHS will be granted a 99-year lease on the mill building and become stewards of this very significant piece of Bristol history. Inside you'll find an article on the history of the mill written by archaeologist and Colonial Pemaquid manager



OBHS led 5th grade students on a fieldtrip to Colonial Pemaquid in September. Shown above, students take notes on the gravestone motifs and inscriptions found at the old burying ground.

Neill DePaoli. The DRA's fundraising campaign ends November 30, so we'll know by December whether the mill will become part of OBHS' future. If you'd like to donate towards this worthy effort to save the mill, you may do so online at: www.damariscottariver.org/get-involved/support-dra/pemaquid-mill-campaign/

On a final note, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge just how grateful we are as co-presidents to work with such a dedicated Board of Directors. Members may not realize all the things that your directors do throughout the year in service to OBHS' mission to preserve and share Bristol's history. It's an impressive list of contributions too long to share here and an impressive group of people who are most generous with their time. We know that the membership joins us in thanking them for all the work they do.

Cordially yours,

Belinda Osier & Chuck Rand
Co-presidents, OBHS

Officers and Directors of the Old Bristol Historical Society, July, 2018 - July 2019

*Co-Presidents: Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand
Vice President & Treasurer: Donald Means
Secretary: Jay Crooker*

*Directors: Larry Hayter, Margaret Hayter, Russ Lane,
Rachel Fossett, Bobby Ives, Mollie Perley, Pamela Rice,
Joyce Prior Thompson*

The Old Bristol Historical Society Welcomes Two New Directors

The Old Bristol Historical Society is pleased to welcome Rachael Fossett and Russ Lane to its Board of Directors. Fossett and Lane were elected at the annual meeting held July 22nd. Re-elected to the board were the Rev. Robert Ives, Pamela Tarr Rice, and Mollie Hanna Perley.

Rachel Fossett traces her roots back to the first Fossetts to settle in Bristol in the 18th century, brothers Alexander and William. She is the fifth-generation of Fossetts to live in her antique farmhouse on Harrington Road. Rachel worked in post offices in Bristol and South Bristol for 23 years, and currently holds the contract to deliver mail in Pemaquid and part of New Harbor. She has also worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and has a cleaning business. Rachel also serves on the board of the Harrington Cemetery.

Russ Lane is also a native of Bristol. He worked as an aircraft maintenance manager for several aviation companies which maintained everything from small personal aircraft to helicopters and jetliners. He returned to Bristol when his father became ill to run the family fishing business and help care for him, and has worked with Dr. Chip Teel in devising new ways to use technology to help the elderly stay in their homes. Russ enjoys film-making as a hobby and has shown his film "Looking for a Hero" to audiences across the state. Russ recently produced a short video titled "Down Memory Lane" inspired by the local Campaign for Pemaquid Mill.

Leaving the board in 2018 were Kay Hannah, director 2003-2018, who served two terms as secretary and two as co-president; Pete Hannah, director 2012-2016, who served two terms as co-president; Dan Purdy, director 2012-2018, who served one term as secretary and two as vice president; and Anne Lewis, director 2016-2018, who graced our board for one term. The OBHS is most grateful to them for their many contributions and years of service.

Boston Post Cane



Georgina "Gina" Rayburn, 98, was presented with Bristol's Boston Post Cane and honored as Bristol's oldest citizen during a brief ceremony at her home on July 20. Attendees included the Bristol Board of Selectman, members of the Old Bristol Historical Society's board of directors, and a number of her friends and family members. During the gathering, Gina recounted stories from her adventurous life which included her days as a store owner in pre-statehood Alaska and as a dancer touring with her late husband.

Photo to left: Gina Rayburn, 98, recipient of Bristol's Boston Post Cane
(Photo: Jessica Picard, LCN July 29, 2018)

Update on McKinley School Archival Storage/Kitchen Renovation Project

Since announcing plans in our spring newsletter to convert the present kitchen area at the McKinley School into a secure, climate controlled storage space, we have received about \$2,000 in donations dedicated to this project. We are now seeking additional funding through a grant and through a general petition to the town of Bristol to support our society's mission to preserve Bristol's historical records, documents, and photographs. Current estimates are that the project will cost somewhere between \$12K and \$15k (materials and labor). We continue to welcome donations specially earmarked for this project and also pledges to donate labor which would help greatly to defray the total costs.

Collections

The Old Bristol Historical Society's collections continued to grow this year through the support and generosity of Bristol community members. Fourteen people donated items to our permanent collections, while another 13 people and one organization loaned us items to scan and add to our Digital Images Archive. Archivist Chuck Rand has been busy processing these additions to our collection. At the same time, he's also been making great progress in his project to create and enter a unique record for each item in our collection into our searchable PastPerfect catalog. So far, he's created 807 records, distributed over four categories: Archives (37), Library (113), Objects (4) Photos (653). He has also entered over 750 names into the People Biography category, a great boon to genealogists, and created over 700 search terms to facilitate research. The OBHS hopes to be able to make this growing and searchable catalog available to the public online in the near future.

Donations

David Andrews - 52 postcards related to Bristol

Florence Bourgon - 9 card photographs, 1 snapshot, 1 photographic postcard, 1 teacher's certificate, 1 trivet, 1 souvenir mug, and 15 Bristol town reports

Jack Brackett - 6 school books, 1897-1902

Julie Crooker - 3 5x7 black & white photographic prints; 1 4x5 photograph album, "Class of 1937-38" containing thumbnail prints of students; 1 Bristol High School diploma, Richard Rollins Crooker, June 12, 1930

Susan Emanuel - 1 8x10 photograph "New Harbor, March 1933" by G. L. Richardson; 2 8x10 color lithographic prints of New Harbor, ca. 1905 & 1909; 9 14x11 black & white photographic prints, scenes of New Harbor; 1 Book - John Johnston, A History of the towns of Bristol and Bremen,"1988 (c.1873)

Marilyn Harvie - 81 postcards related to Bristol

Steve Hope - 5 audiotape reels of Footlighters shows (1957-1960); 1 Album of 15 Footlighters' photographs & newspaper clippings; 2 Souvenir programs of Old [sic] Bristol Day (1953 & 1955); 35 Bristol Footlighters programs, 1954-2013

Jeanne Lane - Jack Lane Photography collection including negatives, contact prints, slides, and aerial photo samples

Floyd Reeves - 3 framed items including portraits of Frank Seifert Tarr and Hannah Sproul Coombs; poster of "The Seventh Day" directed by Henry King in New Harbor, Maine, October 1921

Pamela Rice - 1 Bristol High School yearbook "The Bristolite", 1951; 1 Bristol High School student publication, "Echos", Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 1922); 1 Poster- Bristol American Bicentennial Celebration, Summer 1975

George Sawyer - 20 Scrapbooks created by Marilyn Sawyer dating between 1945 and 2002

Loans

Alex Beaudet - a selection of 23 photographs related to Pemaquid Harbor & Mills, 1920s

Jack Brackett - 49 family and fishing photographs and 31 family photographs

Bristol Town Office - 5 black & white prints

Carla Chadwick - 12 card photographs belonging to Carla Chadwick's grandfather Leon Plummer Munro; 1 Loring Munro snapshot album "Round Pond in Winter, Dec. 25, 1910" and 1 Compact disc entitled "Zina's Diaries 03" [Elzina Partridge Chadwick] containing photographic and postcard images

Paula Hanson – a selection of 42 photographs from an album
 Larry Hayter - 30 lithographic postcards and 1 cancelled stamp envelope
 Carol Baker Joyal – 74 photographs related to the Windemere Hotel
 Belinda Osier – 63 photographs & 1 album
 Donald Osier – 7 snapshots related to Helen and Elmer Osier
 Pemaquid Historical Association – a selection of 79 photographs from 4 3-ring binders
 Patricia Porter - 116 Postcards (belonging to Brenda & Frank Savaro); 1 DVD of scans of Pemaquid Point Photo Album; and 1 3-ring binder "Cottages with entries in Edith's [Hary] Notebook"
 Leona Reeves - 2 minstrel show instruction booklets and 6 Bristol Footlighters' programs
 Pamela Rice - 16 photographs, 12 b&w negative strips (24 frames), and 1 "Welcome Home to Bristol's Soldiers and Sailors" Grand Ball at the Surf Casino Dance Card, July 4, 1919
 Merle Thompson – a selection of 68 photographs from 2 photo albums tracing the history of the Thompson family and business; a selection of 31 photographs from a storage box; 125 cabinet photographs and carte de visites from 3 19th century family albums

The Partridge Family



Here's one of the many wonderful images that became part of the OBHS Digital Images Archive this year. Six of the eight children born to James and Sarah (Erskine) Partridge appear in this photo taken c. 1900. Sitting left to right: Lincoln, Fred, and Henry; Standing: William (Penn), Jim, and Clara. This image was shared by Carla Chadwick who is the great granddaughter of Lincoln Partridge, who lost his life in 1907 in a sawmill accident trying to save fellow worker, George Tarr, whose clothing became caught in the machinery. Lincoln left behind a wife and five children.

“The Old Mill at the Falls” by Neill De Paoli (11/10/2018)

The site of the recently closed Hammond Lumber at Pemaquid Falls has been a familiar landmark to locals and folks “from away” for generations. Most people remember “the old mill building” and store as the home of Poole Brothers Lumber, the popular family run lumber business established by Carl Poole Sr. in 1923. Carl Sr., and eventually his son Carl Jr., ran Poole Brother's until c. 2010. Over the last ten years, the store was owned by LaValley's Lumber and finally Hammond Lumber until its closure in the summer of 2018.

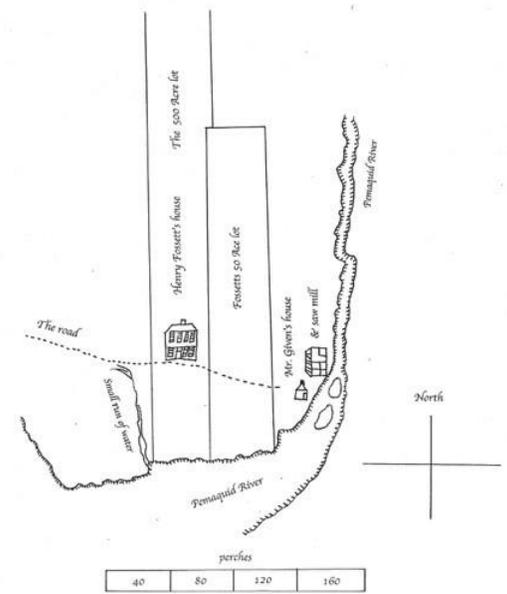
Much less well known is the long and complex story of the Poole/Hammond property. Archaeological and historical research has revealed a place that was home to Native Americans for over 5,000 years and English settlers since the mid-1600s. Archaeologists have unearthed on the two properties immediately above and below the mill building lot extensive evidence of the prehistoric inhabitants of Pemaquid Falls. The Native Americans were drawn to Pemaquid Falls by the wealth of wild game and fish that lived in the fresh and brackish waters and the fertile land abutting the falls. Archaeological finds have included stone arrowheads, knives, hide scrapers, axes, ceramic storage and cooking vessels, and fire and food storage pits that testify to the range of activities of the prehistoric inhabitants.

By the early 1600s life on the Pemaquid peninsula underwent dramatic change. The Wabanaki likely continued to establish seasonal encampments in the Pemaquid Falls area. However, they were probably hard hit by a series of European introduced epidemics that raced through New England in 1616-1619 and the early 1630s. In about 1610, English fishermen set up seasonal fishing operations on the islands of Damariscove and Monhegan as they fished the offshore waters for cod, haddock, and hake. A little more than a decade later, an

English fishing and trading settlement emerged at the mouth of the Pemaquid River and New Harbor. By the early 1650s, English families began establishing farms on the fertile lands overlooking Pemaquid Falls. The newcomers netted fish, such as alewives and shad, at Pemaquid Falls. They sold these on the market, used them as fishing bait, or ate them. Historical research suggests the settlers also operated a saw or grist mill on the “Great Falls” in the vicinity of the Hammond Lumber property.

All of this came to a violent end during the late 1670s and 1680s with the outbreak of Anglo-Wabanaki warfare in Maine. Wabanaki forces attacked and destroyed the English settlement of Pemaquid in 1676 and the reborn plantation thirteen years later. English settlers did not return to the Pemaquid peninsula until the early 1730s. Wabanaki may well have returned to the Pemaquid Falls area to resume their seasonal routines in the intervening decades.

The early 1730s brought new life to Pemaquid as Scotch-Irish planters and heirs of late 17th century residents resettled the abandoned settlement. Once again, a small farming village emerged in the Pemaquid Falls neighborhood. In the early 1760s, Robert Given established a farmstead on the lot immediately above (northeast) of Hammond Lumber. There, archaeologists have uncovered evidence of the Given home and a related blacksmith shop. Given also operated a two story saw mill on the west side of the Pemaquid River roughly two to three hundred yards above today’s Pemaquid Falls bridge. He also held the coveted right to catch alewives at the Pemaquid Falls during the spring. Robert Given established himself as the richest man in Bristol. Given, at the time of his death in 1796, had an estate of slightly more than \$7,100 with 300 acres of crop, grazing, and wood land on both sides of the Pemaquid River from just below the lower Falls north to the Eastern Branch. He also owned a large herd of livestock (included 28 cattle and 38 sheep), was part owner of a sloop, schooner, a grist and fulling mill, and possibly the shipyard just below Pemaquid Falls.



Map of the property of Henry Fossett, Pemaquid Falls, April 20, 1763.

The three-story wooden mill that currently stands on the western side of the “Great Falls” probably began operating during the tenure of Captain Thomas Miller, Jane Given’s son-in-law. Miller purchased Given’s estate at public auction in 1823. He was a prominent local businessman who invested in coastal shipping and milling. The mill was powered by a cast iron turbine manufactured by the Chase Manufacturing Company of Orange, Massachusetts. New England’s smalltime saw and grist mill owners had begun replacing the age old wooden waterwheel with the more compact, efficient, and powerful turbine by the 1840s. The Given and Miller mill provided New Harbor and Pemaquid Falls farmers with a ready means of processing their corn and wheat into meal and flour and sheep’s wool into finished woolen textiles. In turn, locals could have had the mill cut their pine, spruce, and hemlock logs into firewood, lumber, shingles, and clapboards for sale to southern New England merchants and/or personal use.

The “Great Falls” mill appears to have reached the pinnacle of its success under the ownerships of Captain Thomas Miller (died in 1832) and his successor Oakman Ford. Ford, who had a successful and varied career, first entered the milling business in 1822 in Bristol Mills with his brother Benjamin. However, he relocated in Pemaquid Falls by the late 1830s. There, he built his home on the “town road” nearly opposite Hammond Lumber. The story and a half Cape still stands today. Over the next 30 years, Ford operated a retail store, a saw, grist, and carding mill operation, and held part ownership in two ocean going vessels the “*Vandelier*” and the schooner “*Mary*.” He had the former built in the shipyard just below Pemaquid Falls in 1845. Ford undoubtedly used these two vessels to ship the mill cut boards, lumber, and shingles to ports for sale such as Portsmouth, Boston, and New York. By then, the mill turbine, pulley, and belt powered equipment included a double carding machine, a shingle machine, a circular saw, and an outdated vertical saw.

Oakman Ford’s son, William P., assumed control of his father’s Pemaquid Falls farmstead and mill after his death in 1865. William Ford partnered with William Boyd, his brother-in-law, operating the Pemaquid Falls mill during the 1870s and 1880s. During those years, the mill cut timber (e.g., pine, oak, maple, birch) into long

and short lumber, shingles, and laths. The Ford mill also continued to mechanically card sheep's wool for local farmer clients. However, the mill operation was a shadow of the glory years of the pre-Civil War era thanks to the extensive deforestation of the Pemaquid peninsula's woodlands and the decline of local shipbuilding, farming, and fishing.



Despite these changes and those that followed in the 20th century, the Pemaquid Falls mill remains an important icon of another time and place in Pemaquid's and Maine's past. This is best represented by a photograph taken of the mill not long after 1910. The image shot from the other side of the "town road (today's Rt. 130) shows an aging but intact three story mill building with the log filled mill pond in the foreground. Looking closely one can make out the still active wet ramp where the cam shaft and steel cable pulled logs up onto the saw mill carriage inside the mill shed addition. Inside the shed's open tracked doors sits a large conical pile of saw dust. Off to the left of the ramp, one can

see the wooden trash rack that stopped wood debris from entering the penstock and damaging the turbine below. Carl Poole Sr. and Carl Jr. continued many of these traditions during their nearly ninety-year ownership by preserving the mill building and much of its antiquated equipment. Let us hope that these traditions and memories will continue to live on for generations to come.

Thank You's

It takes a lot of volunteer hours to run and maintain even a small society such as ours. Our board members work tirelessly, but they can't do it all. We are most grateful to the society and community members who stepped forward this year and helped OBHS in multiple ways. We'd like to send out a special thank you to the following:

- Program Presenters: Pete Hope, Lisa Peters, Dave Andrews, Phil Averill, Paul Yates, George Sawyer, Sandra Lane, Paul Leeman, Jack Brackett, Brian Sawyer, Neill DePaoli, (and board members Belinda Osier and Chuck Rand)
- School Tour Participants and Docents: Neill DePaoli (Colonial Pemaquid); Margo Hope & Annie Winchester (Pemaquid Historical Association); Cynthia Wright, Bill Smith, Bethia Callahan, Frank Poland (Round Pond Schoolhouse Association); BJ Russell & Lori Crook (King Ro Market); Sarah Herndon (Granite Hall Store); Judy Duggan (Hotel Pemaquid); Craig Elliot (Fishermen's Museum); Phil Averill (and board members Kay Hannah, Larry Hayter, Bob Ives, and Belinda Osier)
- Those who made donations to our permanent collections: Susan Emanuel, the late Jeanne Lane, Julie Crooker, Marilyn Harvie, George Sawyer, Florence Bourgon, Steve Hope, Floyd Reeves, Pamela Rice, Dave Andrews, Phil Averill and Jack Brackett
- Those who loaned items to our Digital Images Archive: Carol Baker Joyal, Paula Hanson, Patricia Porter, Donald Osier, Town of Bristol, Belinda Osier, Jack Brackett, Merle Thompson, Carla Chadwick, Pemaquid Historical Association, Larry Hayter, Pamela Rice, Leona Reeves
- The Bristol Mills Congregational Church and Bristol Parks and Recreation- for providing comfortable venues for our lectures
- Pemaquid Vinyl Lettering & Sign and Embroidery for All Seasons- for providing OBHS's new vinyl banner
- Pendleton's Plumbing, Heating & Electric- for checking out the electrical panel at McKinley School
- Dave Svens and LCTV- for recording our talks and posting a number of our presentations online

- Ken Perley- for all his yard and maintenance work at McKinley School and for providing an estimate for our kitchen renovation project
- Laura Sproul Stubbs- for being a great neighbor and keeping an eye on the McKinley School
- Walt Johansson- for gathering fallen limbs and branches at McKinley School
- Dave Kolodin- for publicizing our events on the Bristol school sign
- Kay Hannah, Sally Woolf-Wade, Alitha Young and Bob Hutchinson- for helping OBHS directors tend the Old Bristol Days booth
- Suzy Collins, Pete Hope and Sally Woolf-Wade- for displaying their wonderful books on the OBHS table at Old Bristol Days
- Mackenna Dunstan and Julia Rose- for carrying the OBHS banner during the Old Bristol Days parade
- Kay Hannah- for organizing and gathering signatures for the society's petition to the town of Bristol
- Phil Averill and Neill DePaoli- for contributing articles to our 2018 newsletters
- Debbie Mikulak- for formatting our newsletters
- To all society members- for supporting us through your membership dues

Enjoy Old Bristol Historical Society Online

Nine programs presented by the Old Bristol Historical Society are now available on LCTV. Three focus on topics of general historical interest: New England gravestones, the Wabanaki language, and the taverns of Lincoln County. Six address specifically local topics: the history of the Hotel Pemaquid, the old schools of Bristol, the Hanna Family, the Bristol Footlighters, and two programs dedicated to photographs of old Bristol. You can find them by going to [LCTV.org](http://lctv.org), click on Watch, scroll down and click on Community, scroll down and click on History, and scroll down and click on Old Bristol Historical Society Lectures. Or simply follow this link: <http://lctv.org/category/community/history/old-bristol-historical-society-lectures/>

You may also be interested in Belinda Osier's talk on the Hunter Farm Diary presented to the New Gloucester Historical Society: <http://lctv.org/hunter-farm-diary-belinda-osier/> and in several videos dedicated to the local Campaign for the Pemaquid Mill. OBHS director Russ Lane produced a short video titled "Down Memory Lane": <http://lctv.org/pemaquid-mill-campaign-psa/> and LCTV's Abby Ingraham interviewed Campaign for Pemaquid Mill's Steve Hufnagel and Neill DePaoli (Sept. 21): <http://lctv.org/category/community/interviews/>

Membership Report

In 2018 the OBHS counted 131 paid memberships including 14 brand new memberships and 57 lifetime memberships, our highest count to date! We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members: Lin & Rick Berke, Kathy & Sean Bilodeau, Jay Crooker, Rachel Bizarro & Rob Davidson, Susan and Kerry Emanuel, Ricard & Tamar Francis, Russell & Sandra Guibord, Russ Lane, Patricia Porter, Judy Reed, James Stano, Wendall & Stephanie Stevenson, Dave Svens, John & Carlarae Twaddle. We'd also like to thank members John & Kathleen Reny and Wayne & Karen Reilly for becoming new Lifetime Members this year. As always, we greatly appreciate the support of ALL our members, so please remember to look for your renewal forms to arrive in January and maybe encourage a friend or two to join as well!

Things To Do This Winter

- Browse through old newsletters on the OBHS website: oldbristolhistoricalsociety.org
- Browse through old Bristol photos posted on our Facebook page
- Get caught up with OBHS offerings on LCTV
- Look through old family albums for interesting photos to share with the OBHS Digital Images Archive (to be scanned and returned)
- January--renew your OBHS membership!
- February--OBHS winter presentation, date and topic TBA

Looking for places to increase your year-end charitable giving? The Old Bristol Historical Society is a non-profit organization under section 501(c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible. Donations may be mailed to: Old Bristol Historical Society, P.O. Box 87, Bristol ME 04539

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We always need help! Here are several ways you can volunteer:

- 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!

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