



OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An Occasional Newsletter of the Society – Fall 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

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In this Thanksgiving season, we would like to express our deepest thanks to Belinda Osier and Chuck Rand for their outstanding job over the last four years as co-Presidents of Old Bristol Historical Society. It is our hope that, as the new co-Presidents of OBHS, we will serve with the same dignity and excellence that Belinda and Chuck did so consistently.

2019 has been remarkable year for the Old Bristol Historical Society. In the forefront of all our activities has been the acquisition of the Hammond Lumber property in partnership with the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust (CRCT). This acquisition was to enable CRCT to preserve the land, and OBHS to own the historic Pemaquid Mill and retail building. Recently, CRCT decided to transfer ownership of all the property and buildings to OBHS, giving CRCT a conservation easement on the land. The deed transfer is planned to occur before the end of the year. We are deeply grateful to CRCT and thrilled with this remarkable opportunity for OBHS as we rebuild the historic Pemaquid Mill and refurbish the retail building as our new Bristol History Center.



5th graders from Bristol Consolidated School attending a day tour of the history of Bristol.

Although this acquisition has been prominent in our activities over the past two years, we have continued the regular life and work of OBHS with vigor and enthusiasm by offering the following throughout the year:

1. Seven Summer Lectures of local Bristol History
 - Carroll and Harney Hanna and their WW II Experience by Chad Hanna
 - “Resistance and Reprisal: The Scots-Irish of Mid-Coast Maine” by M. Dekker
 - After Dunbar: The Pemaquid Forts (1732-1909) by Chuck Rand
 - World War II and the Lives of Carroll and Harney Hanna by Chad Hanna
 - Down Memory Lane - Old Bristol Slides and History by Belinda Osier and C. Rand
 - A Story of Heroism by Russ Lane
 - History of the Pemaquid Mill by Dr. Neil DePaoli
2. Made these presentations available to view on local television station called LCTC.

3. Maintained our Digital Image Archive of photographs, letters, and rare documents, and making our Digital Image archive available online.
4. Began our Oral History Project interviewing our older residents to preserve first hand accounts of Bristol history from those who have lived it. Photographing the historical barns and fish houses of Bristol.
5. Provided educational talks on the history of Bristol for our local school children
6. Published bi-annual newsletters enabling our OBHS membership to remain up to date on our activities.
7. Provided educational talks on the history of Bristol for our local school children.

We also took a close look at framing the future of OBHS by:

1. Developing a strategic plan for the rebuilding of the Pemaquid Mill including a vision statement and an outline of what we will do to the Mill, how and when we will do it, to what period we will restore it, how we will use it within our community, how we can fund it, and a variety of other fundamental recommendations concerning our historic mill.
2. Returning in 2020, the McKinley School (our former headquarters) to the Town of Bristol
3. Acquiring the original Poole Brothers portable saw mill from the early 1900's.

On a final note, we would like to share how grateful we are as co-presidents to work with our dedicated Board of Directors. Members and friends may not realize all the things that our directors do throughout the year in service to OBHS' mission to "collect, preserve, and share Bristol's history." It is an impressive list of contributions from an outstanding group of people who are generous with their time and talents.

-Bob Ives and Russ Lane - Co-Directors of OBHS



Maine Governor Bert Manfred Fernando addressing the crowd at the dedication of the Fort William Henry Memorial, July 22, 1909. Photo donated by Boothbay Region Historical Society.

Officers and Directors of the Old Bristol Historical Society, July, 2019 - July 2020

Co-Presidents: Robert Ives & Russ Lane
Vice President & Treasurer: Donald Means
Summer Secretary: Larry Hayter
Winter Secretary: Belinda Osier

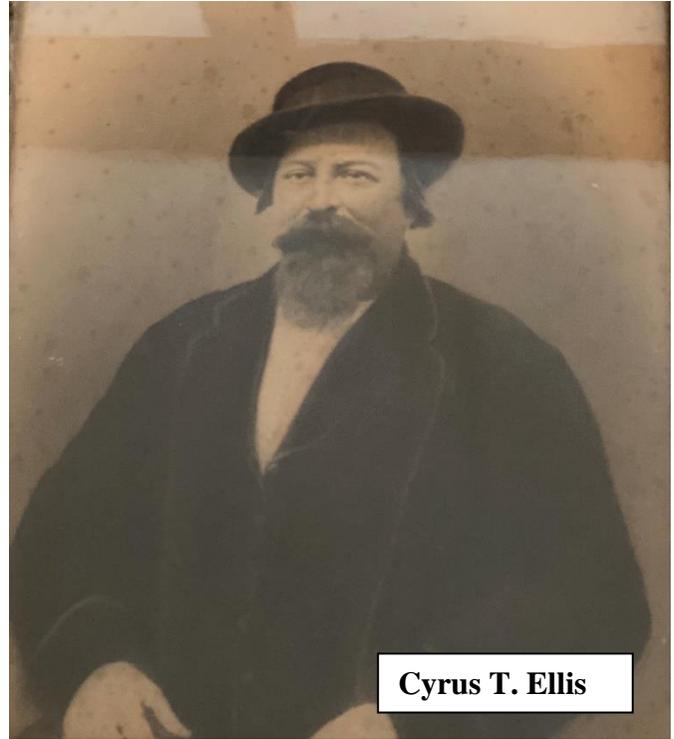
Directors: Phil Averill, Larry Hayter, Margaret Hayter, Pat Porter, Rachel Fossett, Alitha Young, Dan Purdy, Kay Hannah, Chuck Rand, Jay Crooker, Pamela Rice

“The Ties of Time” The Ellis - Crocker Family

What is it that keeps us connected to a place, what is the invisible thread that ties us there generation after generation? We leave for bits of time to explore or to just say that we did or perhaps just to have that feeling of returning. New Harbor makes answering that question so simple.....it is beautiful, it is untouched, deep with history, and filled with people that value it beyond measure.

Cyrus T. (d. 25 Feb. 1896, 65y 10m) and Narcissa (d. 28 July 1920, 82y 1m) Ellis are the beginning of my family’s New Harbor story as I know it and it is their house that is still occupied by my parents. Their names were spoken so often in our home, I realize, upon writing this, how that made them a part of my life even though I never knew them or much about them. Cyrus and Narcissa were my great great great grandparents. In the mid 1800s, they settled on Huddle Road in New Harbor and it is their house that has been occupied by family ever since. The story

passed down is that Cyrus visited the area with Native America friends from northern Maine. Although details are unclear, we know that Narcissa and her family were land owners in Pemaquid already when she and Cyrus met, married, and purchased their home from Capt. John Upton. I don’t know how they spent their time or made their living, but they were the beginning of a generations long love affair with, and connection to, our peninsula with its most current form being my son and his need to “just go sit at The Point” because that is where you find whatever it is you’re looking for.

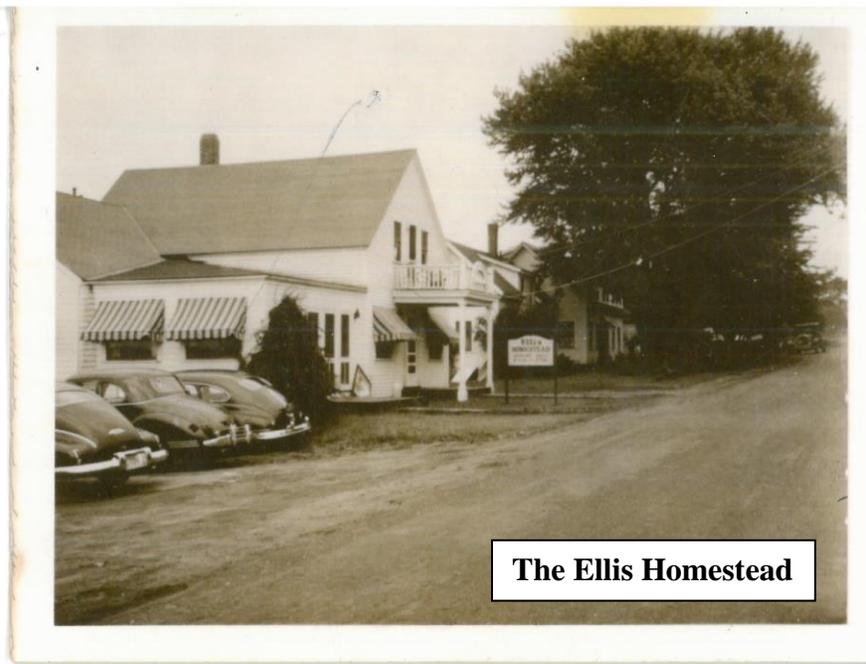


Cyrus T. Ellis



Myrtle Parmenter Crocker McLain

I should have listened when the stories were being told, instead of squirming in my chair and waiting to get outside or waiting to drive off to wherever I thought was more important to go. I should’ve listened, because even though Cyrus and Narcissa and everyone after them (William C. 1860 -28 March 1950, 90y and Ernestine L. Parmenter 1864-1943) (Myrtle Parmenter Crocker McLain d. Dec. 22 1943 62y? and Ray E. Crocker 1880-1964)(Capt. Claude P. April 25 1901- May 22 1988 and Mrs. Barbara B. Stilphen Crocker July 4 1907-April 20 2008) are buried in the New Harbor cemetery, my knowledge is quite blank until we get to my great grandmother Myrtie. My impression is that Myrtie was a bit of a force, a woman ahead of her time. In the 1930s she turned the family home into the Ellis Homestead, which was an inn during the summer with a restaurant next door. Her businesses were very popular and successful and created



The Ellis Homestead

many jobs for young people in the community. It was a home away from home for many travelers. She ran it until her death and it was thereafter run by my grandparents, Capt. and Mrs. Claude P. and Barbara Crocker, with one of their daughters, Claudia, growing up absorbing the skills and the atmosphere that would later become her trademark. My grandparents ran the businesses seasonally until the 1960s when it came to a natural conclusion. The restaurant building was taken down and the house that had been the inn was then solely the family home. The house was then, and continues now, to be a wonderful sanctuary where so many of us have retreated when we simply needed to

catch our breath for awhile or figure out our next move. Myrtie's work began the tradition of family, food, and community that lives on today with The Cupboard Café, started by Claudia, her husband Fred Hatch, and daughter MaryDee Grant, here on the same patch of ground.

Each generation would have their own stories to tell, their own impressions of our peninsula. There may have been toil and hardship or angst and wanderlust or happiness and success but they all lived out their lives here, either in part or the whole and they are very tangibly a part of me and "my now." The depth and connection that the love of my family and ancestors gave me is comprised of many, many things.....a 'stick to it' entrepreneurial spirit, community, the ocean, its sound and its smell and the diversity of people that seek it, laughter at the dinner table, swamps and frogs and acorn cap whistles, Russ Blaisdell's horse-chestnut tree, a game of bingo with Mrs. Duncan, the neighbors that had treats waiting for us when we stopped in to say hello on one of our walks or bike rides, our beaches and catching tiny crabs in the seaweed, skunk cabbage on the road side, prucker bushes.....the freedom that came of growing up with the ocean as one of my elders.



Barbara Crocker, Claudia, Claude Crocker

These memories and stories play in my mind like a melody. A melody formed by remembered voices and laughter and feelings. I can hear it when I'm willing to listen. This is a gift. It is family and love and solid ground and it is, I'm quite sure, the invisible thread that connects us to our place.

MaryDee (Lyons) Grant
November, 2019

New Directors of OBHS

The Old Bristol Historical Society is pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors, elected to serve their first term during the annual meeting held July 21, 2019.

Phil Averill spent his summers growing up in New Harbor which he always considered his true home. He attended Bates College, majoring in history, before beginning a career in marine biology. Averill worked as a fisheries engineer and as a marine educator, providing enrichment programs in the classroom and guiding school field trips to the Pemaquid area. Now retired, he serves as president of the Harrington Cemetery Corporation, is a trustee of the Bristol Congregational Church, and is active with the Bristol Village Improvement Society. Recently, Averill served as coordinator for the Friends of Pemaquid Mill, an ad hoc group which facilitated the purchase of the Pemaquid Mill property.

Pat Porter made her first trip to Maine 50 years ago and knew that she wanted to live here someday. She and her husband bought their first house here about 40 years ago and purchased their current home 33 years ago. In her previous life, her job took her on the road three weeks of the month. Pat retired 14 years ago and has been fulfilling that “someday” dream ever since. She is President of the Pemaquid Point Association, Vice President of Caring for Kids and was very active in the Friends of the Pemaquid Mill Save the Mill Campaign.

Alitha Young spent her summers growing up in Round Pond, where she learned to love the beautiful nature, wonderful people and amazing spirit of the mid-coast region. After a career in accounting, culminating as a CFO with a commercial real estate lending company, Alitha and her husband bought and renovated the family home here in 2014. Alitha is now involved in many aspects of life in and around Bristol. She creates art in her studio barn, manages vacation rentals for a portion of the home in Round Pond, helps others with design of their home interiors and is a real estate agent. Alitha has volunteered for OBHS at Olde Bristol Days for the past few years and looks forward to serving as a board director.

Also, returning to the board after a one year hiatus are Kay Hannah and Dan Purdy. The following directors were also re-elected to a new term: Bob Ives, Russ Lane, Don Means, Belinda Osier, Chuck Rand, Larry Hayter, Margaret Hayter, and Jay Crooker. Rounding out the board of 15 are Rachel Fossett and Pam Rice whose terms will expire in 2020.

Leaving the board are Mollie Perley and Joyce Prior Thompson. The OBHS is very grateful to them for their many contributions and years of service and looks forward to their continued participation as active members.

Collections News

It's been a wonderful year for our growing collections, thanks to the generosity of donors and loaners alike who have shared historically significant items with us. As you can see from the list below, we have collected or scanned an impressive number of archival documents, records, postcards and personal photographs this year alone. The OBHS is especially excited to start moving our collections into our new home at the Bristol History Center (formerly the Hammond Lumber/Poole Bros. retail store in Pemaquid Falls). Once settled and organized, this will allow much greater public access to our collections. We are also continuing with our fundraising efforts in order to build our planned climate-controlled archival vault. Approximately \$15k is still needed and multiple



Zilpha and Warren Munsey (L & R) in front of the Munsey House posing with stylish Anne Cornwall (center) who starred in *The Seventh Day*, a silent film shot in Bristol, 1922. (loaned by Paul Cullen)

grant applications are currently being prepared. One last piece of good news: our Digital Images Archive will soon be going online! Start looking for a link to the archive on our website sometime early in the new year. The archive currently has over 1800 records, including over 1400 images, which can be searched using over 1100 subject/search terms.

Donations: **Paul Aldrich**- photocopy of article, "Families of Color in Early Bristol, Maine," 2017. **Boothbay Region Historical Society**- 8 postcards, 3 photographic prints, 1 snapshot. **Bristol Area Library** - boxes containing more than 1545 slides originally donated to them by Susanne Russell Holmes. **Carolyn Bryant**- "The New Harbor Cook Book," reprint of early 1900s. **Julia Crooker**- Bristol High School diploma, 1938; 3 Handwritten letters re: genealogy, 1983; Genealogical research pages; 1 typewritten manuscript; 2 clippings; 2 booklets, 1970 & 1974; 1 typewritten letter (copy) from Dr. Elijah Crooker to Prof. John Johnston, April 16, 1874. **Susanne Genthner**- 4 scrapbooks created by members of the McFarland Family between 1919 and 1960 including: 1 brown with lion rampant on cover- possibly Stanton McFarland its creator, 1945-1950; 1 spiral bound with Gene Autry on cover- possibly kept by Tess McFarland, 1927-1960; 1 totally unbound pages with 2 puppies on cover- seemingly Maynard McFarland's memorabilia, 1939-1947; 1 with scissors on cover- probably kept by Thedessa B. Witherspoon McFarland (b. May 9, 1906), 1919-1935; Additionally 1 wallpaper sample book with clippings of

cartoons, comic strips, and illustrations glued to most pages. **Sandy Guibord**- 2 card photographs, 1 photographic print, 1 lithographic print. **John Hanna**- 3 "The Bristolite" yearbooks, 1941, 1944, & 1946. **Kay Hannah**- 4 diplomas. **Steve Hope**- 4 Bristol High School Yearbooks: 1947, 1949, 1950, 1953; 2 Bristol Footlighters Programs: 1958-1959 & 1992; 1 Tom Thumb Minstrel Program, 1969. **Robert Ives**- Meeting Minutes of Loudville Church Society, July 26, 1912 - July 25, 1919, includes membership lists, 1912-1915 and financial ledger, 1917-1919. **L. T. Merrill**- stack of 3x5 in. index cards, probably reference information for insurance on commercial properties 1960-1987. **Lorraine Morong**- The Louds Island Archives. **Jannine Osier Oates**- The Kilton Todd Osier Genealogical Records; Books: Old Bristol and Nobleboro, Maine Vital records, Vols. 1 & 2; Cemeteries in Old Bristol; & Cemeteries in the Old Bristol area; photo album, 1926-1937; 1 "United States Coast Guard" photo album, 1956- ; loose photographs and snapshots. **Margaret Orrick**- 245 stereographs created by Dr. Peregrine Wroth ca. 1925-1926; 1 stereoscope; 1 manuscript, "Memories of Pemaquid Point" by Charlotte M. Hunt, June 30, 1967; 1 manuscript, "A brief resume of the house known as 'Meadow House'....," by E.T. "Rufus" Wroth, Fall, 1998; Pemaquid Point Association stock certificate, April 9, 1923. **Bonnie Otis**- 1 Accordion folder of booklets, brochures, clippings, manuscripts. **Mollie Perley**- 2 manuscripts: Poem, "The W. C. House" by Harriet Redonnett, February 1944 & "Bristol Mills 1946" by William Benner. **Carol Jeanne Rottner**- 2 maps: Map of the United States by H. F. Welling, 1861 & Topographic map of Lincoln County, 1857; Archival materials related to the Methodist Churches in Pemaquid Falls & New Harbor, 1831-1916. **Warren Riess**- 1 Poole Brothers' cap, ca. 1980s

Loans:

Paul Cullen: Lorimer Bracket postcards; miscellaneous printed items; 2 Bristolite yearbooks; 1 photo album from the Munsey family; miscellaneous photographs (114 items). **Kay Hannah**: 15 aerial shots of New Harbor taken by Ken Sawyer; 3 photos of group involved in the Washington Schoolhouse restoration; 2 copies of postcards showing Gaffney's Store and the Munsey House. **James Lyon**: 27 jpg images related to Long Cove

Point. **Patricia Porter:** Newspaper clippings re: the Mill at Pemaquid Falls, 2018-2019; 3 photographic prints; 1 photocopied typed manuscript re: Bristol Ladies Aid quilt, 1976; 1 photocopied newspaper clipping re: above quilt, May 6, 1976; 1 photocopied "Pemaquid Point Bulletin," November 1931- contains constitution & by-laws of Pemaquid Point Property Owners Association. **Betty Ann Reilly:** 1 Framed card photograph of Methodist Church in New Harbor, ca. 1903. **Pamela Rice:** 57 35mm slides, 1960-1967 & 1 DVD "Pemaquid," 2006. **Carol Jeanne Rottner:** 8 photographs. **B. J. Russell:** 2 3-ring binders containing postcards and photographs created by Marian Jones Russell (139 items).

Pemaquid Mill

After our truly amazing fundraising campaign to purchase the Mill at Pemaquid Falls, the work has not stopped. A lot has been happening over the summer and fall though many of our efforts are inside and therefore are not visible when one is driving by the site.

You will notice that two buildings unrelated to the mill operation have been removed and recycled. Improvements to the parking lot have been made in the form of boulders to keep cars from going over the edge into the Pemaquid River. Thanks to Hanley Construction for providing and placing the boulders.

We have received advice on preserving the mill building from local architects, historic building preservationists, structural engineers and other experts. So far, all this has come to us pro bono. It never ceases to amaze us that



Pemaquid Mill
Photo loaned by Carol Rottner

there is so much talent and expertise available right here in Bristol. We have discovered that the mill building is in pretty good shape thanks to work over the years by

Carl Poole to keep the structure up. Still, some work needed to be done to keep it safe when it is opened to the public as a museum. Scope of work plans have been drawn up for reinforcing ceiling beams on the second floor (mostly done), replacing rotting timbers underneath the mill and reinforcing certain sections of the structure. Much of this work will have to be done by professionals rather than OBHS volunteers.

Most of the shafts and pulleys that made the mill equipment go are still in place under the mill along with the water-powered turbine. However, the only mill equipment left is a single circular saw, a planer and a baler for shavings. We were therefore quite excited to discover a portable sawmill previously owned by Poole Bros. and sold in 1966 that still existed in a field in Newcastle. Arrangements were made with the Libby family to acquire it and move it back to Pemaquid. This was accomplished in early October. It is in pieces and will take some work to reassemble it but our millwright, Richard Morgan, is confident he can handle it.

Since we bought the property, we have been moving ahead steadily in cleaning out the mill and starting repairs on windows, floors, etc. It soon became apparent that the work crews were getting ahead of the strategic planning folks. In July we ceased much of the manual labor and a small "visioning" subcommittee was formed. They met regularly and came up with a plan of how the property will be used as a museum. This plan was presented to and approved by the OBHS board in September.

While all this was going on, a small group of us filled out the application for the mill to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a National Park Service program. This was sent in in October and we await comments from officials on our offering. We have already been included on the state version of that program. We have also joined the group SPOOM – The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills. They have a very nice newsletter and recently offered some back issues to clean out their office. We requested whatever they had and were surprised (pleasantly) to receive 78 issues going from 1973 to 2018 ! They are full of great ideas and solutions to issues we will need to address as this project unfolds. These newsletters are available for the public to use at the Bristol Area Library.

Work on the mill will continue through the winter into the spring. Keep an eye out for announcements about work parties, research needs and fundraising events. Keep up to date with our blog: pemaquidfallsmill.blogspot.com.

-Phil Averill

The Mill at Pemaquid Falls

After the successful effort in 2018 to acquire and save the historic mill located on the old Poole Brothers property at Pemaquid Falls, this past summer a seven-member subcommittee was recruited to draft a vision for the treatment and use of the mill, as well as outline a plan to bring that vision to reality. The subcommittee comprising Nancy Evans, Fred Gumkowski, Alexandra Jansen, Roger Panek, George Parker, Chuck Rand and Mark Ziarnik presented their findings and recommendations to the OBHS Board of Directors on September 29th which the board subsequently voted in their October meeting to accept.

A Vision for The Mill at Pemaquid Falls

“The Mill at Pemaquid Falls is a unique historical structure that testifies to human ingenuity, industry, and technological adaptation. As a physical manifestation of the early industries that were instrumental in the evolution of the town of Bristol, the Mill can continue to teach us today about how people have interacted with their environment in the past, how human technology adapts to changing social and economic conditions, and how communities can come together to serve a common good.



Once internal components are stabilized and the mechanical equipment preserved, the external appearance of the Mill will be brought back to resemble what is visible in early photographic images preserved by OBHS. Completion of the crucial structural work will

then allow the Mill to serve as a space that memorializes the interactions of citizens, historical events, and economic activities that have occurred at this site since the mid-17th century. Exhibitions will highlight significant architectural and construction details, showcase the mill’s wide-ranging functions through time, and explain the existing equipment, shafts, gears and pulleys. Seasonal thematic exhibitions will reflect the historical trades and industries of Bristol, including timber harvesting and processing, boatbuilding and fishing, farming and grist milling, and textile production.

Bristol residents through the years built and adapted the components of the Mill to suit their needs, and they ultimately preserved the technology even when it became obsolete. The preserved Mill will honor the care and effort of those past generations by educating, informing and delighting the present and future generations. The Mill at Pemaquid Falls project will bring this rich and unifying heritage to life again by engaging students and educators, local residents and visitors, contemporary artists, craftspeople, and volunteers in a shared experience of learning, creating, and community pride.”

If you would like to help bring this vision to life, please contact OBHS and someone from the mill project will gladly get back to you (**e-mail:** oldbristolhistoricalsociety03@gmail.com, **phone:** (207) 677-3203, or **snail mail:** P. O. Box 87, Bristol, ME 04539).

Thank You's

OBHS directors volunteer countless hours to the society, but we would not be able to accomplish the things we do without the support of the community. We would like to thank everyone who made financial contributions this year, as well as the following people who shared their collections or donated their time and/or professional services to the society:

Friends of Pemaquid Mill: OBHS wishes to thank those individuals (some representing organizations) who came together last fall to form this ad hoc group. Their efforts, in addition to the generosity of many donors, ultimately led to the purchase of the Pemaquid Mill property. We sincerely apologize, if we have omitted anyone. -- Phil Averill, Alex Beaudet, Margaret Brown, Sandi Day, Neill De Paoli, Jesse Ferreira, Susan Foster, Richard Francis, Chris Hall, Kay Hannah, Peter Hannah, Jim Hatch, Larry Hayter, Margo Hope, Steve Hufnagel, Bobby Ives, Don Loprieno, Karl Mcletchie, Belinda Osier, Roger Panek, Pat Porter, Chuck Rand, Ellen Wells

OBHS Mill Project volunteers: Kathryn Armstrong, Joan Atkinson, Alex Beaudet, Phil Blomquist, Bill Claflin, Brad Craig, Sandi Day, Nancy Evans, Chuck Farrell, Tamar Francis, Fred Gumkowski, Jack Hanson, Richard Huffman, Dan Hunter, Zandie Janson, Walt Johansson, Bill Kelley, Bob Kline, Tom Kronenberger, John Lappan, Susan Lucore, Richard Morgan, Bill Mullin, Margaret (Pigeon) Orrick, Roger Panek, George Parker, Mary Piasecki, Linda Shaffer, Elizabeth Thompson, Bill Worth, Mark Ziarnik,

Donors of professional services: Ed Blaiklock, Otis Carroll, Fred Gumkowski, Bill Haney, Jack Hanson, Tom Kronenberger, Peter McCready, Roger Panek, George Parker, Darryn Peterson, Randy Smith

Our 2019 Speakers: Chad Hanna, Michael Dekker, Jim Lyon, Chuck Rand, Russ Lane, Neill DePaoli

Bristol Parks and Rec and Bristol Mills Congregational Church for providing our talk venues

LCTV- for airing our programs

Donors and Loaners to our collections: Paul Aldrich, Boothbay Region Historical Society, Bristol Area Library, Carolyn Bryant, Julia Crooker, Paul Cullen, Suzanne Genthner, Sandy Guibord, John Hanna, Kay Hannah, Steve Hope, Robert Ives, James Lyon, L.T. Merrill, Jannine Osier Oates, Mollie Perley, Lorraine Morong, Margaret (Pigeon) Orrick, Bonnie Otis, Patricia Porter, Pam Rice, Warren Riess, Carol Jeanne Rottner, B.J. Russell.

Bristol History Tour: Margo Hope (Pemaquid Historical Assoc.), Cynthia Wright, Bill Smith, Bethia Callahan, Ernest Richards (Round Pond Schoolhouse Assoc.) BJ Russell, Lori Crook (King Ro Market), Sarah Herndon (Granite Hall Store), Judy Duggan (Hotel Pemaquid), Dom Pucci, Clayton Chapman (Friends of Pemaquid Point Lighthouse), Sally Woolf-Wade

Old Bristol Days Booth Volunteers: Suzy & Tracy Collins, Pete Hope, Carol & Dick Joyal, Mollie Perley, Cathy Ronan, Sally Woolf-Wade

Parade Float: Ken & Mollie Perley, James Brown & daughter

Barn Photography Project: Alex Beaudet, Ken & Mollie Perley, Pete Hannah

Maintenance help: Ken & Mollie Perley Walt Johansson

Newsletter article: Mary Dee Grant

Newsletter formatting: Debbie Mikulak

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
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