



OLD BRISTOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Biannual Newsletter of the Society – Spring 2021

A Message From Our President

As the alewives begin their migration upstream in the Pemaquid River and as the osprey enjoy their splendid fish banquet, we are writing our Spring Newsletter to share the progress, hopes, and gratitude that continue to inspire our work and mission at the Old Bristol Historical Society. So much has happened in the past few months. It has happened because of the generosity of so many of you. We are grateful for the 300+ donors who have contributed to our Annual Appeal. Your gifts have enabled us to begin our major projects:



Pemaquid Mill, 1910 (from the west-back side with alewives fish ladder)



Pemaquid Mill, 2021 (110 years later)

- Restoring our historic Mill.
- Reaching the half way mark on the Archival Vault.
- Creating a vision and plan for a new Pemaquid Falls Park.

We could not have done it without you.

Over the winter, gifts have come in so many different forms. There has been a flood of talented and enthusiastic volunteers helping with many aspects of the work to be done. Over 70 individuals have made winter at the History Center campus busy, collegial, and safe, despite the limits of the pandemic. Some volunteers have been dipping shingles for the Mill, some re-roofing the Mill shed, some sheet rocking the Bristol History Center, and some developing plans for the new Park, some working with our neighbors and the Town Office to make sure all concerns are expressed and considered. There has been tremendous progress, due entirely to the continuing efforts of this dedicated cadre of OBHS volunteers.

Physical work is not the only activity. Alongside this beehive of action, many Bristol residents and lovers of Bristol both near and afar are learning about the archival vault and are giving historic photos, journals and

Officers and Directors of the Old Bristol Historical Society, July, 2020 - July 2021

President: Robert Ives

Vice President & Treasurer: Donald Means

Assistant Treasurer: Shari Woodward Fredette

Secretary: Belinda Osier

Directors: Phil Averill, Jody Bachelder, Chuck Farrell, Kay Hannah, Larry Hayter, Margaret Hayter, Pat Porter, Chuck Rand, Alitha Young, Mark Ziarnik

documents to be preserved and shared for generations to come. We are grateful for this amazing growing collection of historical items that will inspire and educate us about what has been, so that we will imagine and envision what truly can be.

The Norwegian man who taught me boat building nearly 50 years ago used to say when he was deeply grateful, “tousand tak,” literally translated as a thousand thanks. Well indeed, a thousand thanks to all of you for your willingness to help, work, plan and contribute in so many ways. The great strength of any organization resides in the dedicated and devoted individuals who set their shoulders to the wheel to accomplish the task before them. To all of you who have put your shoulder to the OBHS mill stones of our museum and history center, we express our profound thanks for your dedication.

Please enjoy this spring Newsletter containing so many stories and accounts of our vibrant Bristol history, and the many activities in which we are engaged.

Gratefully,
Bob Ives, President

Tribute to Suzanne Collins (1931-2020)

Suzanne Collins, a resident of New Harbor and of Tesuque, NM, where she died at the age of 89 on Dec.19th was a member of the OBHS since its inception in 2003 and served as its first secretary. Her many creative interests included painting and membership in the Pemaquid Poets and the Willing Workers in New Harbor. Suzy will be remembered by the society for her cordiality and enthusiasm, as well as her contributions to Bristol’s local history records through the historical and publicity articles she wrote for us and the oral interviews she conducted and transcribed. She especially enjoyed interviewing local people in the area and transcribing the oral histories recorded by others, as well as by herself, as evidenced in her 2014 publication of “Voices of the Past.” The OBHS is grateful to have had the benefit of Suzy’s service and inspiration.



Progress Report for the Mill at Pemaquid Falls

By Phil Averill 4/21

A short report doesn’t mean little is going on. Our carpenters, Ed and Audra, are plugging away efficiently. They’ve worked their way around the building replacing rotten timbers as they go. Arriving at the back (west) wall they found more problems than anticipated. The wall is now suspended in mid air as they replace sills, beams and corner posts using vintage timbers plus modern hemlock logs. By early May they should be putting things back together again.

The shed roof on the north side of the building (over section 5) has been stripped. There was far less rot in the sheathing than we thought. Still, patching was done where needed. We now look forward to the crew from the Carpenter’s Boat Shop to come over and shingle the roof with asphalt material.

Volunteers who have been dipping cedar shingles in preservative have helped us prepare to re-shingle the “new” back wall. It’s been fun to get out of the house and meet new people, as well as do something productive that does not need strength or special skill.

As you may know, we have little hard evidence as to when the mill buildings were built. We’ve had a number of historic building experts come through the mill who all agree early 1800’s but that’s about it. Is there any way to tell how old a large timber is? Yes, dendrochronology, also known as tree ring analysis! We’re working with Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, sending them cross-section samples of the larger timbers in the building. If successful, they will be able to tell the date the tree was cut down to within 2-5 years. How cool is that?

Pemaquid Falls Park

By Chuck Farrell

Less than a year ago the OBHS Board of Directors established the Grounds Committee – now named the Pemaquid Falls Park Team. Its mission is to create a safe, secure, inviting, learning park.

Except for an area to park vehicles and the two buildings on site, the property that OBHS purchased was, and still is, dead dirt, with invasive plants, poor to non-existent water run-off controls, and ankle-spraining rocks. The Park Team started to look around from different parts of the property and found places to stop and rest and places that offered wonderful views of the Pemaquid Falls and River. With a cadre of volunteers and the help of a landscape architect, this uninviting patch of land will be transformed into an attractive space that will prevent erosion and replace invasive plants with ground cover reminiscent of the days the mill operated. The park will include natural resources that will manage water runoff and cleanse the water before returning to the river. The park will have benches on which to sit and take in the scenes that only nature can provide, trees that offer shade while, at the same time, return oxygen into the air, pathways to safely wander from one place to another part of the park, and information panels that answer questions before they're asked.

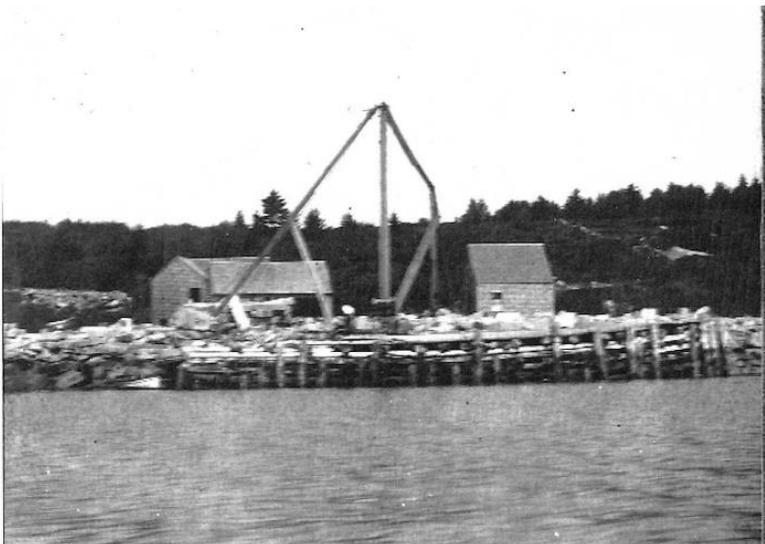
It is OBHS' firm intent to engage Bristol-based resources to convert the plan into a reality. And while "detailing" the plan and our needing to satisfy various permitting requirements will result in some changes, the final result will, for the most part, depend on you. Our success in raising the necessary funds will determine the final picture.

There's no question that we want to showcase the sole surviving mill of its era in Bristol as well as provide a beautiful natural setting in which to absorb the unique history as it's preserved in the Bristol History Center. The only question is whether you will help us create a pleasing destination that invites Bristol's residents and visitors alike to a place that welcomes all to the gateway of the Pemaquid peninsula.

Imagine -- Granite Quarrying in Round Pond!

by Kay Hannah

Of the many 19th century businesses that kept Bristol busy, the most unexpected and fascinating to me is the granite quarrying industry that started in the last quarter of the 1800s, just as the pogy (menhaden) fishing industry waned.



The Peter Svensen Quarry loading dock on Muscongus Bay, Round Pond (Photo, courtesy of Craig Elliot, Bristol)

Josh Hanna in his book, [Pemaquid Peninsula: A Midcoast Maine History](#) (2015), wrote about the industry and there are a few photos but one wishes there were more information. Hanna reports there had been some sporadic granite quarrying in the early part of the century in the part of Bristol that later became South Bristol and on the west bank of Biscay Pond, but "the Pemaquid quarry industry of fame and profits began and ended in Round Pond."

In 1876 Browne and McAllister, a New York firm, purchased the "northern point" of Round Pond Harbor and began quarrying a highly prized fine-textured medium-to-dark gray stone known as "black granite" that became quite in demand. By 1880 the industry was thriving. At its peak employees

included skilled quarrymen and cutters from Ireland, England and Sweden and more than 100 local farmers and immigrants from Waldoboro.

William Smith of Round Pond tells me his grandmother's three brothers, George, John, and Jim Monro worked there. Also employed was his grandfather Will Smith who died with what was called "stone cutters consumption." Most likely they were among those who are reported to have earnings of about \$30 a month.



Round Pond Quarry, 1890 (OBHS Collection)

The work required removal of granite from the upper northwestern quarry, approximately 100-foot square as measured in 1905, and a lower one measuring about 400 by 100 feet with a depth ranging from 10 to 65 feet. Once removed, the granite was split and lifted by derrick and carted to a wharf about 100 to 300 or so yards away. It was then loaded onto the decks of schooners built at local yards like the Samuel Kelsey yard in South Bristol. Typically every two to three weeks it was sailed to New York and other ports mainly out of state.

The granite had many practical uses, including to build bridges, jails, lighthouses and breakwaters. It was most valued for buildings and some well-known monuments, such as the base and die of the General Sheridan monument in the National Cemetery at Arlington, VA and for the Tomb of Ulysses S. Grant in NY. It was also used in the Die of the Maine monument at Andersonville, GA, but its main use was for small monuments.

In spite of high hopes, like the fishing industries before it, the granite industry also began to wane. Sources vary, but sometime between 1885 and 1894 the already smaller industry had been sold. Peter Svensen, who came to Round Pond from Sweden, operated the Peter Svensen Quarry for the Round Pond Granite Company.

U. S. Census records reveal that stone was still being quarried and cut by town locals and a few immigrants in 1900, but competition from other larger and deeper quarries in Maine, as well as the increasing availability of other building materials, led to the ensuing inevitable collapse of the short-term once-thriving industry. Today a water-filled quarry and the rubble of cut stone being slowly hidden by nature's cloak is evidence of what once was. And, of course, we have the stories, or a few of the many from those days, and we have the well-used nearby "Granite Hall" (made of wood) that can be seen in the village along the way to the quarry.

What Could Bristol Possibly Have To Do with Anne of Green Gables??

By Phyllis Lockhart Ives



Rev. Arthur John Lockhart



Lucy Maud Montgomery

My grandfather Alton Lockhart grew up in the Methodist-Episcopal Church parsonage at Pemaquid Falls and graduated from McKinley School. There he met his future wife, Amy Sproul, and hung out with his future brother-in-law, Frank Sproul. He was there because his father, Arthur John Lockhart, was the pastor of the Methodist churches in Pemaquid and New Harbor.

Arthur John, also known by the pen name "Pastor Felix," was from away. Once, when living in

Boston in the early 1870s, he sent a note of admiration to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, identified himself as “a stranger from the land of Evangeline” and received an invitation to dinner as a result. Born in 1850 in Lockhartville, Nova Scotia, Pastor Felix never lost his sense of connection to Maritime Canada, despite his life as a minister and poet here in Maine. So it was much to his delight when he learned in 1908 that a young woman from Prince Edward Island had just published a book that was receiving good reviews. He made a point of acquiring the book and reading it. Although he thought Anne of Green Gables was perhaps not the most interesting title, he was much impressed with the content and wrote to its author, Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942). Thus began a relationship that continued for the rest of his life. Lucy and Pastor Felix never met, but they were connected by a special bond of written correspondence until he died in 1926. Lucy wrote in her journal, “...he writes delightful prose and his letters are among the most enjoyable I receive.”

Little did Pastor Felix know that the model for the novel’s character Gilbert Blythe (Anne’s first nemesis, then boyfriend, then husband) was his nephew Nathan Lockhart, who was a schoolmate of Lucy’s in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island. But unlike the famous story, there was no happy ending for this pair.

“When I was fifteen, a boy of fifteen said to me ‘I love you.’ Nathan Lockhart and I had been good friends for a year, finding in each other an intellectual congeniality which we could find nowhere else in Cavendish. I liked Nate as a friend...seeing me home from the hall and setting certain other girls wild with jealousy.” “It was really glorious fun. I was a minx, I am afraid.”

“Nate was not good looking.... Yet sometimes he had an air of distinction of appearance and used to make the other C[avendish] boys, even the handsome ones, look commonplace and ‘bumpkin-y.’ He was very clever and had a fine voice for singing.”

“I have most of his letters still, tied with ribbon in my old trunk. Once in a while I take them out and read them. They always bring back those old days very vividly.”

In 1917, Lucy wrote, “For the last eight years, I have carried on a very delightful correspondence with an uncle of Nate’s — the Rev. A. J. Lockhart. He is a writer of essays and verse. Years ago, Nate’s possession of this uncle cast a glamor over him in my eyes. It was to me quite wonderful that I actually knew a boy whose uncle had written and published books.” “Of course, he knew — and knows — nothing regarding my old love affair with his nephew.” Three months later, she wrote about Nate again. “Last night, being alone, I read over all Nate Lockhart’s letters for the first time since my marriage. He was living in Saskatchewan, was a lawyer and had two sons. Nate’s letters are now retied and relocked away. It is not likely that I will think of them again for many more years. Neither can I ever quite forget them.”

Where Have All the Houses Gone?

By Bob Ives



The Village of Pemaquid Falls ca. 1910 (OBHS collection)

My story today is about the old Methodist-Episcopal parsonage in Pemaquid Falls. I share this story to complement my dear wife Phyllis’s story about her great-grandfather, the Rev. Arthur John Lockhart, who served the Pemaquid Falls and New Harbor Methodist Episcopal churches from 1899 -1904, and lived in that parsonage located in this picture between the former Redman’s Hall to the left and Jeanne Rottner’s home to the far right, all seen in the background of the old mill, complete with work horses. The mill was recently acquired by the OBHS.

In 1965, the State straightened Route 130 to eliminate the serpentine curves of Fir Hollow

Road where it originally was. The Methodist parsonage was located where the new Route 130 was to go. Thus

the parsonage had its roof removed to get under the power and telephone lines and was relocated about 2 miles, and set on a new foundation on Pemaquid Harbor Road just beyond Walter Johansson's home. They moved the house, the ell, and the barn, but when they rebuilt the house they changed the lines from a gable roof to a hipped roof house. Soon after the move, the old parsonage was purchased by Donald and Dorothy Chatfield who sold antiques out of their barn. In 2011, Brendon Donegan purchased the home and is its current owner.



Original Methodist Parsonage after moves to Pemaquid Harbor Road, finally to become the home of current owner, Brandon Donegan.

There's one more chapter in this story however. The Methodist parsonage did not originate in Pemaquid Falls. Like the Harrington Meetinghouse, it was originally built in Bristol Mills around 1810, and used as the parsonage for the Methodist Episcopal church there as well. The original Methodist church was located about a 1/4 mile up on the Benner Road, but around the turn of the century the church was moved down into Bristol Mills. The original Parsonage in Bristol Mills was then moved to Pemaquid Falls in 1888.

History is told in so many different ways and the moving of this simple building from Bristol Mills to Pemaquid Falls to the Pemaquid Harbor Road reveals not only its unusual peripatetic history, but also the heritage of ingenuity, frugality and hard work that personifies so much and so many in our wonderful community of Bristol.

An Interview with Two Passamaquoddy Elver Fishermen

By Bob Ives



Cousins Charles Libby and Larry Libby of the Passamaquoddy Reservation in Princeton, Maine with interviewer, Bobby Ives (on right).

In March of 2021, I spoke with Charles Libby and Larry Libby, brothers who live on the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation in Princeton, Maine. A little over 700 people live on the Reservation with another 650 living on the Pleasant Point Reservation in Perry, Maine. Over 2,000 Passamaquoddies live off the Reservations. The Passamaquoddy were among the first Native Americans to have contact with Europeans when they first came to these shores. The name "Passamaquoddy" is an anglicized version of the Passamaquoddy word *Peskotomuhkat* which literally means "the place where the fish are plentiful." I find it fascinating that both Charles and Larry are continuing in their tribal fishing traditions that reach back thousands of years.

Larry and Charles have been coming to Pemaquid for about 5 years. They have also gone elvering in the Presumpscot, Machias, and St Croix Rivers, but find the Pemaquid one of the earliest to have elvers and one of the better rivers in which to fish. Originally they came in pickup trucks which they lived out of for the three-to-four weeks they fished here in Pemaquid

Falls. With OBHS now offering hospitality, many have now brought their RV's and campers which have made

their living conditions considerably easier. Both Larry and Charles shared that this has been the first time that any community in Maine has welcomed them, and not harassed them with racial epithets hurled from passing vehicles. They had hoped to offer the people of Bristol a special barbecue of moose and deer meat, but their elver quota was reached before they were able to do this. Each Native American elver fisherman can catch up to 10 pounds per person, but when the Tribe has reached 1200 pounds, their season is over.

When Charles and Larry return to Indian Township near Grand Lake Stream, they work at a variety of jobs including being carpenters, blueberry rakers, sternmen on a friend's lobster boat, and meat butchers. Last fall they butchered 47 moose and over 100 deer for members of the Indian Township Reservation. Charles also attended culinary school and currently is a chef at a restaurant in Princeton, ME.

In Pemaquid, Larry and Charles stayed in the RV of Joe Socobasin, a former Tribal Chief and current tribal elder. Joe shared how grateful they all were for the kindness and hospitality of the people of Bristol. In return, he's inviting all the people of Bristol to attend the annual summer Passamaquoddy Celebration of Tribal Events which will take place this year at Pleasant Point Reservation in Perry from August 13-15, 2021. The celebration is conducted in partnership with the Indian Township Reservation and features canoe races, powwows, and dancing. Joe asked that, on behalf of the Maine Indian tribes, we pass along to all people in Bristol their heartfelt thanks for hosting and supporting their annual fishing here in Pemaquid.

Your Donations Put to Work

By mid-May the OBHS has received just under \$160,000 in the 2020-21 fund-raising campaign (\$120,300 for the Mill, \$27,300 for the Bristol History Center, and \$10,260 for the Pemaquid Falls Park). With your help we hope to reach our campaign goal of \$250,000.

Much has been accomplished with volunteers and professional contractors. We've re-shingled the front wall of the mill and re-roofed the north addition. Restoration carpenter Ed Blaiklock and assistant Audra Ziobro have been replacing deteriorated beams and posts in and under the mill since mid-February. In the new Bristol History Center we have replaced most roofs, renovated first floor rooms, and are half-way through construction of the walk-in archival vault as we wait for contractor availability. Our Pemaquid Falls Park Team is evolving a landscape plan that will support the mill and history center within a beautiful natural setting.



Watercolor by Peggy Farrell

A new \$7,500 matching grant from The 1772 Foundation in co-operation with Maine Preservation will pay for repair and re-shingling of the rear (west) wall of the mill. Still planned, if we can raise sufficient funds, are a new accessible entrance and bathroom to make the history center ADA compliant, new roofing for the mill, and work on the park.

New Harbor artist Peggy Farrell has donated a lovely watercolor of the mill, which will be reproduced on t-shirts and gift items. Christine Zuromskis has donated a Model A Ford with rumble seat owned by her late husband Michael. It will likely be sold by OBHS at the Owl's Head Transportation Museum's summer auction.

Rubber Ducky Race

It is with great enthusiasm that the OBHS is announcing the revival of the **Rubber Ducky Race** sweepstakes which was originally run by the Pemaquid Watershed Association for 13 years. The duckies will race from the dam above the mill to the finish line above the falls. Bangor Savings is the business sponsor. Save the date: **Sunday, July 25, at 12:30.** Look for an OBHS sidewalk table in Damariscotta or Bristol to sponsor a ducky; the first ten duckies (and the last) will earn a merchandise prize for their sponsors.

OBHS Welcomes New Director

Jody Bachelder grew up in New Harbor and graduated from Bristol Consolidated School and Lincoln Academy. She worked for many summers at what is now the Contented Sole and then at the Gosnold Arms. Her fondest childhood memories include summer days at Pemaquid Beach, visiting her grandfather Lester Russell at his barber shop on New Harbor Hill, and eating her grandmother Wintie Russell's donuts. Her father Merrill ran the O.W. Holmes contracting business and her mother Susanne worked as the librarian at the Bristol Area Library for many years. The Susanne R. Holmes Genealogical Collection is a permanent part of the OBHS's archives.



After receiving a B.A. in French from Colby College, Jody taught school and then took time to raise her family. Later she received her M.S. in Library Science from the U. of S.C. and worked as a school librarian at Hall-Dale Middle and High School in Farmingdale Maine, where she was honored as Maine's School Librarian of the Year in 2013. Jody is currently in the process of publishing her first non-fiction book about Samoset and the Wawenock of Pemaquid and has plans to turn the story into a graphic novel for middle grade students. She currently resides in Brunswick with her husband Todd.

OBHS Yard Sale



OBHS held a successful furniture sale in May. Another will occur on Saturday, June 26th 2021, with other fund-raising to follow.

Membership

This winter, OBHS announced its new membership categories. We are very pleased with the response of members to support the ongoing work of the Society. We are a volunteer organization with no paid staff, however, we face additional operational costs for such items as utilities, insurance, software, maintenance, and mailing as the Society has taken on new responsibilities in the past few years. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you may use this form to do so.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Single	\$15__	Friend	\$50__	Benefactor	\$500__
Household	\$20__	Supporter	\$100__	Partner	\$750__
		Patron	\$250__	Preservationist	\$1,000__

Please note that we no longer have Life Memberships. However, all current Life Memberships will continue to be honored. We thank you for your Life Membership support through the years.

Volunteers

We always need help! If you have skills/experience in any of the following areas and would like to help, please check the box to let us know:

Web Design	Graphic Design	Social Media	Writing Articles	Library/Archives
Museum Exhibits	Photography	Fundraising	Marketing	Grant Writing
Database Mgmt.	Carpentry	Plumbing	Electrical	General Restoration

2020-2021 Fundraising Campaign

We are within \$90,000 of attaining this year's goal of \$250,000 towards restoring the mill, renovating the former Poole Brothers building to make a history center with archive, and beginning to create an ecologically sound park surrounding the property. If you would like to make a contribution to our 2020-2021 Fundraising Campaign, please specify the amount of your donation and which part of the project you would like to support.

\$ _____ The Mill at Pemaquid Falls \$ _____ Bristol History Center and Archive

\$ _____ Pemaquid Falls Park \$ _____ Where it is needed most

You may send your check to **OBHS, PO Box 87, Bristol, ME 04539**. If you prefer to pay by **PayPal**, please go to our website **<https://oldbristolhistoricalsociety.org/support>**.

Thank you for your membership and support of our projects.

OBHS is a 501(c)(3) organization

2021 Summer Talk Series – Sundays at 7:00 PM

Date	Topic	Speaker	Venue
July 11	Samoset & The Wawenock of Pemaquid	Jody Bachelder	Pemaquid Pt. Learning Ctr.
July 25	Down Memory Lane: OBHS (Old Bristol Historical Society)	Chuck Rand Belinda Osier	To Be Determined
August 1	A Family Diary	Jay Crooker	To Be Determined
August 15	How Maine Became A State	Dr. Zac McDorr	Pemaquid Pt. Learning Ctr.
August 29	The Passamoquoddys In Pemaquid	Dr. Neill DePaoli	Pemaquid Pt. Learning Ctr.

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