# Old Broad Bay Family History Association Rewsletter

New Series Volume 3 No. 1 Winter 2006

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, P.O. Box 1242, Waldoboro, ME 04572-1242 On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

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#### Sons of Waldoboro During the American Revolution

by Carol B. Smith Fisher

It has been reported by many early sources that the German immigrants from Waldoboro (Broad Bay) did not side with the American cause during the Revolution. This may well have been true for some, but by no means was it true for all. Names such as Ulmer, Heyer, Ludwig, Ott, Gentner, Oberlack, Hoch, Winchenbach, Beornheimer, Hilt, Hofses, Werner, Hisler, and Heabner are some of the names found on the muster rolls in the Massachusetts Archives who served during the American Revolution from Waldoboro.

The Ulmer brothers, Philip and George, both distinguished themselves by their service and were awarded ranks of Major and General for their service to protect the Penobscot Bay region during this war. George Ulmer was assigned as the commanding officer for the defenses of Camden and commanded the important breastworks at Fort Pine Hill overlooking Clam Cove in what is today Rockport. Philip Ulmer was the Captain of a regiment of militia in the Expedition against Penobscot (Castine) in 1779. Philip Ulmer has the distinction of being one of the only officers able to keep his regiment together during the arduous retreat to Camden after the tragic defeat of the American forces. These brothers served with distinction and resided in the town of Lincolnville after the war.

Jacob Ludwig was Waldoboro s first representative to the Massachusetts General Court in 1780 and he commanded two companies of militia made

up primarily of men residing in Waldoboro. These companies were assigned to defend both Machias and Camden from 1777 to 1779.

The following information is from the Massachusetts Archives Muster Rolls for the American Revolution. It is obvious that some names are spelled incorrectly, but they are written here as they appear on the muster rolls.

Captain Jacob Ludwig s Company was raised on the St. Georges River and Broad Bay. It went in November to Machias and did garrison duty there through the winter of 1777, October 7 to December 22.

Jacob Ludwig, Capt.

Wm. Farnsworth, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut.

Caleb Howard, Serg.

Gotfry Bornhimer, Serg.

Jacob Winchenbach, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Peter Hill, Corp.

Jona. Nevers, Ensign Andrew Knowlton, Corp.

#### Privates

William Miller Michael Andrew Gotfry Hofses Francis Young Valintine Mink Charles Jamison John Werner **Ebenezer Davis** John Winchenbach John Hofman Henry Fortin John Brazur Andrew Malcom Loring Cushing **Isair Sarges** Joshua Smith

Jacob Ludwig s Company detached from Col. Mason Wheaton s Regiment for the defense of Camden, September 21 to November 1, 1779.

Jacob Ludwig, Capt. Jacob Winchenbach, Lieut. Gotfrey Bornhiemer, Serg.

#### **Privates**

George Hofese Martin Hiseler Charles Oberlock Christian Hofses Christopher Walch John Werner Conrad Hier Solim Mink Henry Walch Henry Miller Charles Kaler **Christian Smith** Peter Walch Jona. Stover Philip Mink Joseph Ludwig Mathias Heabner Paul Mink

## **New England Court Records**

Diane Rapaport s new book, *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, is due to be published in early February by Quill Penn Press. Those who have read Diane s Tales from the Courthouse column in *New England Ancestors* magazine know what a great writer she is.

This three part book will be a tremendous resource for anyone doing research in New England. Part I (Understanding the Basics) provides a glossary of legal concepts and terminology which is a big help for those of us with no training in the legal profession. Part II, the lists of court records for each state, is the meat of the book and will save researchers much time and effort in determining what

has survived and where to locate the records. Part III (Sampling the Sources) gives ideas and inspiration to researchers looking at court records in any state.

The cost is \$29.95, but Quill Pen Press is offering a special 20% discount to members of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association through May 1st. Ordering details are on the order form on page 8 of this newsletter. Order on-line at www.QuillPenPress.com, call toll free 1-866-784-5573, or use the order form. Be sure to mention marketing code NEG2 when ordering on-line or by phone.

### Closing the gap with DNA

by Isabelle Overlock Hallam [also published in the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society s First Landing]

Do you have people that you are sure you descend from but cannot find the proof? Here is how I managed to solve a really pesky problem. It was relatively easy to go from my father Clarence Overlock to my grandfather Hartley to my great-grandfather Henry to great-grandfather Godfrey with the help of the vital records and census records because I knew that my Massachusetts father had Maine roots. My only clue was that my great-aunt was buried in Stockton Springs, Maine, even though she had lived most of her life in Massachusetts.

After much research, I found that the family had resided in Stockton Springs since about 1825. However, I could not get back to the next generation. Based on census, records my Godfrey was born in 1778, but I could not find his parents. In trying to pick up the name in census records, I found four men with the German surname Oberloch/Oberlak: John Joseph (Johann Jost), John Charles, John Henry, and John Frank. They were all in Waldoboro, Maine in 1790 where, it turned out, their father had immigrated from Hessen-Nassau, Germany in 1752.

Since Henry and Frank were known names in my family file, it seemed that this must be my family. However, Henry was the only one of the four who registered the births of his children; my ancestor was not one on them. Therefore I needed to place all of the children in families. This is a task I am still working on. Not only was there no record of my Godfrey s birth, the four men in the 1790 census had a half brother by their father s second wife who was named Godfrey just like my ancestor.

It seemed that John Joseph was the only one of the four old enough to have had a son in 1778. I began to read land records as well as a great deal of information about early deeds and settlement patterns. It seems that men in the late 1700s and early 1800s in Maine had the possibility of squatting on land and eventually claiming it, passing it along to a son, eventually selling it out of the family. In some cases the deed was not recorded until the land actually passed out of the family. After all, it was quite a walk or horseback ride to the county courthouse in those days. These poor German farmers often could not take the time to take care of this.

It was the custom for fathers to get land for their sons when the sons turned 21. In order to find land for several sons, they tended to follow the rivers northward to find territory that had not been claimed. I decided to study the geography of the area. After reading dozens of deeds, I found a cluster of Overlocks on land that became partitioned into corners of four different towns [Putnam/Washington, Jefferson, North Waldoboro, & South Liberty]. It was possible that they were all John Joseph's children.

I found two Godfreys in the land records for Lincoln County in the early 1800s. One had land

surveyed in Nobleborough in 1805 and another sold land in Putnam (later Washington) in 1816. The latter seemed most likely to be my ancestor. Then I found a Godfrey who had registered his wife and first three children in Jefferson, the next town over, in 1815. This Godfrey, his wife [Lydia], his oldest son [Gardiner], and several more children appeared in the census for Stockton Springs in 1830. It seemed clear that it was the Godfrey in Putnam who was John Joseph s son and the same Godfrey who moved to Stockton.

Several years ago I met an Overlock researcher who had grown up in Warren, Maine. She had been able to trace her line back to John Joseph s youngest child, Michael, Godfrey s half brother. She agreed with me that John Joseph had to be Godfrey s father, but that no solid proof existed.

With the advent of DNA testing, it occurred to me that the perfect way to prove my ancestry was through Y-DNA testing. To do this, I needed DNA samples from confirmed male descendants of John Joseph and a male descendant from my Godfrey. I secured DNA samples from my only male cousin (descended from Godfrey), from the other Overlock researcher s brother (descended from Michael), and a sample from her uncle who was descended from Godfrey s half brother Martin.

In reading about DNA testing and by looking at the discussion on the DNA mailing list on rootsweb.com, it seemed advisable to select the testing company based on the laboratory is used. The Sorensen Laboratory, connected to Brigham Young University, had the highest recommendation, so I chose Relative Genetics as my testing company. Having the option of 12, 25, or 37 markers, I decided to pay for 37 markers to be tested since I was advised that if I didn t, I would probably be wanting it done later and that would cost more. I also felt fairly certain of a positive result. After anxiously waiting about two weeks for an answer, I received the report that the three men were a perfect match on all 37 markers with not even one mutation (unusual)! Now I can be sure of my ancestor.

As another suggestion, you can join a DNA surname project. These projects collect lineages with DNA results which can then be used to confirm genetically other people in the same lines, but who have no or only paper proof of relationships. There are six well-known companies in the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom. A Google search can bring them up. One of them, Family Tree DNA, has no connection with the Family Tree Maker genealogy software. Joining a project is a good way to sort out different family lines. However, beware! You might stumble onto a non-paternity event!

## Query

Patricia DeCiccio is searching for the parents of Catherine SCHWARTZ / BLACK. Catherine was born 25 February 1789 in Waldoboro and died in Linneus, ME 3 April 1879. She married in Waldoboro 3 March 1810, John S. TAYLOR. Catherine is mentioned in Rev. M. T. Runnels book *History of Sanbornton, NH* vol II, p. 762. Anyone having information on this lady may contact Patricia at deciccio3@netzero.net.

#### Correction

It has been brought to the editor's attention that the web site address for the World War II Army

enlistment cards published in the last newsletter contains an error. The correct address is www.archives.gov/aad.

That site has also been recently updated. To reach the WW II enlistment cards (and a multitude of other databases) click on Genealogy/Personal History.

## **Genealogy Conferences 2006**

The **National Genealogical Society s** 2006 conference will be held June 7-10 (Wednesday through Saturday) at the Hyatt Regency O Hare in Rosemont, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). The program and registration information are available on-line at www.eshow2000.com/ngs/. This looks like a great program for those whose families moved to the mid-west. While the hotel is well outside the city proper, the rapid transit line (the El) is reported to be within walking distance.

The 2006 **Federation of Genealogical Societies** conference will be in Boston August 30-September 2 (Wednesday through Saturday) at the Hynes Convention Center. The conference hotel is the nearby Sheraton. While the entire program is not yet on-line, there is a list of speakers, including this editor who will be giving two presentations: The Sociology of Cemeteries and The Identity of George Sidelinger of Rockport, Maine; A Case Study in Deductive Genealogy. Registration information is available on-line at fgs.org.

#### Some on-line resources

In addition to the National Archives web site noted above under Correction, there are many sources for original data and indexes to original data which can be accessed on-line. The big link to most of these is www.Cyndislist.com, but, frankly, one can get lost in this over abundance of wonderful links.

Ancestry Daily News recently published a list of Unsung Genealogical Heroes (3 January 2006) which described web sites created by five genealogists to the benefit of us all. One that caught this editor s eye was created by Joe Beine titled Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records which can be reached at www.deathindexes.com/.

In the same vein is a site called *Where to Write for Vital Records*, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control. The site address is www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm. Simply select the state of interest from the alphabetical list. This site provides rules and directions for accessing vital records for all states.

For those of you interested in seeing what genealogy data (and other interesting information) might be available on-line for individual states, but don t know the official state web address, try this formula: www.state.[insert 2 letter state postal code].us. For individual towns try: www.town.[insert town name].[insert 2 letter state postal code].us. Not all towns have web sites.

#### For example:

Maine s official state website is www.state.me.us The official website for the town of Rockport, Maine is www.town.rockport.me.us

## Every name index to Vol 2 (new series) 2005 OBBFHA Newsletter

The following index includes cross-references between the maiden name and married name for women when both are known.

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