

# Old Broad Bay



## Family History Association Newsletter

### To Search and to Share

Volume 14 No. 3 Summer 2016

#### President's Musings

*By David Putnam*

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Dear Friends, I hope this edition of the newsletter finds all of you well. Summer has returned to New England with a stretch of gorgeous weather. The Town of Waldoboro held its annual town celebration called **Waldoboro Day** on June 18th. The day was a resounding success. The weather was perfect and the trees and gardens were in full bloom. The lupines were particularly beautiful! The Executive Board of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association met at the Waldoboro Public Library and made plans for the annual meeting on August 6th. I hope to see all of you there! Our guest speaker will be Cheryl Patten of the Maine Old Cemetery Association. We will also serve refreshments and lunch. After lunch Jean Lawrence will conduct a tour of historic sites around Waldoboro. The meeting will be held at the Knox-Lincoln County Extension, 377 Manktown Road, Waldoboro. A \$5 dollar donation will be accepted at the door.



Lupines on the Friendship Road,  
photo by Deirdre Putnam

On Sunday, August 7th, the day following our annual meeting, The German Lutheran Society and Women's Auxiliary will sponsor their annual church service at the Old German Meeting House in Waldoboro. The

service will begin at 3:00 PM and a reception will be held after the service. If you have never toured the Old German Meeting House and cemetery you will enjoy seeing this extraordinary 18th century building.

I would like to take a moment and welcome some more new members. They are: **Tracie Ott**, a descendant of the Gross/Grosz Family. **Philip Thibault** and **Pauline Eklund**, descendants of the Benner Family, **Walter Ulmer**, a descendant of the Ulmer Family. On behalf of the entire membership allow me to welcome all of you to our group. We hope you find the OBBFHA fun and educational, and we hope to meet all of you at our annual meeting.

I recently received an email from a writer, David Overlock Stewart. Mr. Stewart is a descendant of the Overlock Family of Waldoboro and he is doing research for a work of historical fiction that will be set in Waldoboro. The book will be partially based on some Overlock family stories. During a recent visit, Jean Lawrence was able to arrange a meeting for Mr. Stewart with Bill Blodgett, a trustee of the Waldoboro Historical Society, a former history teacher and state legislator. Jean has advised me that the meeting was a great success and we look forward to reading Mr. Stewart's new book. If you are interested in learning more about Mr. Stewart he has a website at [www.davidostewart.com](http://www.davidostewart.com).

Our webmaster Fred Snell received an email from Jerry Vogler of Georgia. Jerry is the Chairman of the Genealogical Committee of the Philip Christoph Vogler Foundation. He informs us that Dr. Fred Vogler has passed away. Fred was listed on our website as a contact person for people researching the Vogler family. Jerry requested that we list him as a contact person for researchers and remove Fred Vogler's name. Jerry is also journeying to Waldoboro in mid-July to do some family research. He will meet with Jean Lawrence and she will assist him with any questions he may have. Jerry also has indicated that he wishes to join the OBBFHA and we would love to have him as a member! Jerry is a descendant of Philip Christoph Vogler who came to Broad Bay in 1742. He and some of his family left Broad Bay in 1770 and moved to one of the Moravian communities in North Carolina.

I received a note from one of our members, Anette Ruppel Rodriguez. Anette is a German language instructor at the University of Maine in Orono. She is also a historian who has done extensive research on the German soldiers and their families that were brought to America to fight for King George III in our Revolutionary War. Anette has also been a featured speaker at two of our annual meetings. She informs me that a group is forming to mark the 235th anniversary of the arrival of the Braunschweig and Ansbach-Beyreuth Regiments at Fort George in Castine. She reports that there are preliminary plans to have a commemoration at the fort on the weekend of September 9 and 10, 2017. Freiherr and Freifrau von Massenbach, descendants of Ansbach-Beyreuth Lieutenant Christoph Julius von Massenbach, will be attending. Lieutenant von Massenbach wrote several letters from the fort providing an insight into life at the fort. His letters are now at the New York Public Library. Several Waldoboro families are descended from German soldiers (aka Hessians) who were discharged or deserted from Fort George, or were captured elsewhere and paroled to Waldoboro. My family, the Welts, are descended from Blasius Welt, a Jaeger in the Ansbach-Beyreuth Regiment. I hope to attend the event and I urge you to consider it as well. Castine is one of the most beautiful towns in Maine.

**The Jasper J. Stahl Award:** Every year the OBBFHA presents the Jasper J. Stahl Award to an individual or organization in the community that has worked to discover and preserve the history and genealogy of the Waldoboro area. Some years, we have used the money in the Stahl Fund to undertake some project in the

community that we deem to be relevant to our mission. This year the Executive Board decided to use the award money to pay for a new sign marking the site of the Moravian Mission on Friendship Road in Waldoboro. The new sign has been manufactured and erected by the Maine Printing and Embroidery Company of Warren ME. The sign looks beautiful and I want to thank Maine Printing for the fine job. Every year I receive several inquiries about the Moravians. The following article by Jean Lawrence will explain who they were, where they went, and why. I know I speak for the entire membership in expressing our hope that the sign will be a source of information and pride to all the descendants of the Moravians who travel to Waldoboro.



The sign says: Site of Moravian Mission - On the river bank of this farm, Lot No. 9, allotted in 1742 to Hans Georg Vogler, was located the only mission established by the Moravian Church in Northern New England, erected in 1762. Georg Soelle, Pastor, 1758-1770. On Lot No 10, the next north stood the Second Lutheran Church and Cemetery, 1772-1792.

*Old Broad Bay Family History Association*

I want to remind you all that dues for the fiscal year running from 07/01/2016 through 06/30/2017 are due. Additionally, if you would like to make a donation to the Stahl Fund you can send it to Deirdre Putnam and the money will be used to fund our various projects in the community. If you go to our Facebook page you can see photos of some of the past recipients of the Stahl Award, along with some of projects we have completed. In closing, I would

like to wish all of you a great summer. Keep on searching and sharing!

**Queries:** Tracie Ott is trying to identify the parents of her 3rd great grandfather, Christian B. Gross b. 1812 in ME, d. 1887 in MI. Anyone who has any information can contact her at [tracott@comcast.net](mailto:tracott@comcast.net)

### Postcards Courtesy of Barbara Rogers Collection



Independence Day cards  
and the Pine Cone Maine State Card masthead.



## **The Moravian Mission in Waldoborough**

*by Jean M. B. Lawrence, Waldoborough Historical Society*

In 1742 when the first families of German descent settled in Waldoboro, they were of three religious persuasions: predominantly Lutheran, a few Moravians, and a few Reformed Lutherans. Life was very difficult during the early years. The winters were harsh, the ground was unforgiving with its rocky soil and many trees to be felled, the danger from Indian attack was eminent, and early on all found that in many ways they had been sold a bill of goods regarding their new home. At first, worship services were held in the crude structures called homes, and various leaders came from the settlers themselves. Attempts at building places for worship began first within the blockade, next within the building on Dutch Neck at Meetinghouse Cove, the Moravian Mission House on Lot 9 the east side of the Medomak River, the New Church on the lot next (10) towards the village, and finally the removal of this church (present Old German Church) to the west side of the river and its final site.

Two Moravian missionaries George Soelle (ordained in 1741) and Samuel Herr were in the New England territory in 1742 and were invited to visit the Moravian group in Waldoboro. They found a warm welcome, and Soelle later returned to the flock and became their pastor. In 1762, under his leadership seven families built close to the river a mission house, a rough log structure, on the grant originally given to Hans Vogler and his grown son Philip. The mission became a meeting house, school, and home for Soelle. Soon as many as 50 worshippers attended services. Soelle was a good pastor and also preached for the other “persuasions” in the area as he could speak both German and English. However, Soelle’s life was not easy. At that time, pastors were paid from the town’s taxes, and it appears that Rev. John Martin Schaeffer, the Lutheran pastor, was jealous of Soelle’s success and wanted more of the town’s pastoral salary for himself. He did as much as he could, along with his supporters, to make Soelle’s life untenable even to the extent of taking prisoner Soelle and one of his parishioners. The intent was to run them out of town; however, the plot failed.

The Moravians by 1766 were asking the church headquarters in Bethlehem for a permanent church instead of a mission. Even though Philip Vogler was ready to deed over the land, Bethlehem delayed action. Bishop John Ettwein made a survey visit and preached and visited in homes in the area for several days and then headed for Boston by boat along with Soelle and a young man who was about to enter service for the church. During his visit, the bishop told about the new Moravian settlement in North Carolina. After he left, people began to talk about moving south even though at first, Soelle advised against it. One must remember that the Moravians are famous for their agricultural products, and besides the dealings with the locals regarding their worship, many were discouraged by the poor growing conditions in Maine. In 1769, the first group of 28 left for NC, and in 1770, Soelle and 8 more families removed to the Salem, NC area. Soelle’s health was not robust when he left Waldoboro, and he died in 1773 in Salem. A total of about 100 members of the Moravian persuasion relocated from Waldoboro.

About the time that the Moravians left the area, an influx of land developers became interested in purchasing many of the original grants on the east side of the river. The land on which the mission stood was purchased by Captain Stephen Andrews, a wealthy Boston sea captain, who built the existing house well away from the shore on what would become Friendship Road. The mission house decayed over time and disappeared. Today a sign on Friendship Road near mailbox 595 gives information on the mission, though no remains exist.

Interestingly, the original site of the present Old German Church was Lot Number 10, the next north up river towards the village. The lot was purchased from John Newbert and building began in the summer of 1772. That church was dismantled and removed on the ice to the west side in the winter of 1794-1795. Now known as the Old German Church, it is an historical site along with its grave yard and is open to the public each summer during the month of August.

Sources consulted: Samuel Miller's *History of Waldoboro*, 1910 and Jasper J. Stahl's *History of Old Broad Bay and Waldoboro*, 1956.

## THE OLD DUTCH PLOW



If I live into the next century (hopefully), my father and I will have spanned three centuries! Born in the year 1897 he was born at the tail-end of centuries of very little progress. The horse was still the fastest and most dependable mode of transportation and means of heavy draft pulling. But that was to be short-lived. Steam engines had made their appearance and other methods of power were being investigated and experimented with. The Industrial Revolution has begun but we were still an agrarian society. And the horse was the chief means of brute power, and would continue to be so for several more decades.

My father spoke of the first steam-powered threshing machine he saw and the first steam-powered tractor to pull several 'gangs' of plows, the first gas-powered and electric cars that 'popped' their way into his small town, the first airplane, glider, hot-air balloon, all of these things he witnessed. In fact, name just about any invention up through 1987, and his life spanned it.

Dad never got around to being a dad to his sons, he was too busy trying to support six boys and three girls working for a dollar a day (during the Great Depression). But he left us a legacy of work. He taught us to "hoe to the end of the row"! In many ways, I feel fortunate to have had a large farming background (though I wouldn't have admitted it at the time.) But he did teach his children to work. I remember he would wake us about 5:30 a.m. and say "Boys, let's get chores done so we can go to work (or school, whatever)." (The girls had their 'chores' but mostly around the house.)

We would then proceed with the 'chores', which included feeding 500 head of sheep, cows, horses, pigs, chickens, cats, dogs and the occasional 'bum' who had slept over, milking 6-10 cows and using the hand-operated Sears separator to get cream to send to the Creamery. 'Chores' would include feeding the 'bummer' lambs, (pouring milk into bottles with a rubber nipple) and trying to get them all fed at once, cutting wood and kindling for the kitchen stove and fireplace, hauling water for the kitchen, hauling water for the animals, etc.

After the 'Chores' were finished, we would come into the kitchen for a breakfast of hot oatmeal, home-made bread and butter and jams, sausage or pork in some form, bacon and eggs, steak, if we felt we needed it, hot pork and beans, and whatever happened to be in season, lamb chops, hot cakes with home-made syrup, and fruit of many kinds, either fresh or canned: peaches, tomatoes, pears, cherries, apricots (we had an apricot nectar that was out of this world), hot rolls, cinnamon rolls, etc. We didn't have any money but living on the farm, we did eat well. We were poor but we didn't know it. We had breakfast, dinner (at 2:00) and supper. The big

meal of the day was dinner when the hired men would also be fed. Some of these would be neighbors helping in the harvest and frequently men on the “bum”, using the train to get from one place to another and stopping over to work for a few days ‘to get ahead’ and then to move on.

I have used horses to pull a leveler, a dirt dump, a plow, a “buck” rake, a mowing machine and to pull the stack of hay up the “Mormon derrick” to build large hay stacks. Also with a hand cultivator and other uses around the farm. So I had a taste of that. I was using horses when I was too small to ‘harness’ them, but had to have Dad or an older brother harness them for me.

I remember once hitching the horses to a hay rake that used large curved tines to roll the hay into a windrow. One had to hold his leg on the release trip until the hay had all rolled up and then release it, the tines would then spring up and release the hay and then one had to push hard to snap the lever into place again and the tines would be touching the ground, ready to gather more hay. I had a good team, “Lady and Gent” and they were good steady pullers, though “Gent” tended to be lazy and let “Lady” do more of the pulling. I had to check him often to make sure his “tugs were taut”.

Well, we were doing fine, the windrows were straight and everything was working well, until I got impatient. They were traveling too slowly for me. So at the bottom of the field, I got off and cut a long willow to use as a slight incentive to make them go a little faster. Getting back on the rake, perched high above the curved tines, on a small, hard metal seat, with nothing to hang onto, not knowing this team had been trained to the willow, I said “Gidyap” and swished the willow over their heads.

That old, lethargic team woke up. And shot off with surprising speed, straight up the field, with me bouncing along behind them. A bucking horse isn’t harder to stay on as that seat. I would be bounced from side to side, straight up and down again hard, my one leg trying to hold down the release lever, but it was bouncing up and down in direct proportion to my bouncing. I managed to stay on the seat (and not get myself killed). I got rid of the willow very quickly, I believe on the second bounce and then just hung on to the reins with my hands and wrapped my free leg around the seat post. The horses were not brought under control until after we made three passes up and down the field. Gone were my straight windrows. Gone as the neat field of carefully raked hay and gone was the willow whip and any thought of making that team go faster. Well, I have had some experiences with horses.



Well, all of this to introduce the old ‘Dutch Plow’ that you can see in this picture. Does anyone know of a plow like this still in the Broad Bay area? Pulled by a yoke of oxen, one in the furrow one out, with one heel in the furrow and the other out. The plow and moulding were made of wood, but often the point was tipped with iron. Handles would be used to steer the plow and to keep it from going too deep, I believe this plow would be an improvement over the one I used, which used to throw me around all over the place. I never could make a straight row, being too small to ‘hold her steady’!

**This article in its entirety is from Old Broad Bay Bund und Blatt, Volume 3, Number 3, 1994**



## 2016 Calendar of Programs – Waldoborough Historical Society

The public is invited to attend all programs; no admission

**July 13, Wednesday** – Annual Meeting, with election of officers, and “Remembering Times Past: Panel Discussion” Dessert and beverage will be served at 6:30 P.M.

**August 6, Saturday** – In conjunction with the Old Broad Bay Family History Association Annual Meeting, Jean Lawrence will lead a tour of Historic Waldoboro beginning at the Museum at 3 P.M. The tour will move first to Thomas’ Hill, Waldoboro Village, Old German Church, Dutch Neck, Main Street Cemetery and then back to the Museum. In the evening, the Paint the Town reception and auction will take place at Cider Hill Farm. On Sunday, the annual service at the Old German Church will take place at 3 P.M. and will be followed by a reception. There is no admission fee for any listing.

**August 28, Sunday** – 1 P.M. “Rug Hooking Demonstration” with Kathie Hills, local hooking expert and museum trustee. The Museum’s Waldoboro rugs will be on display.

**September 10, Saturday** – Mark Biscoe, Waldoboro historian, will reprise his “Walk around Waldoboro” tour. Meet at the Town Landing at 10 A.M. Wear comfortable shoes! Following the tour, water will be available at the Museum which will remain open until 3 P.M.

**September 24, Saturday** – Barn historian and museum trustee Jim Derby will lead a Barn Tour of local barns. Participants are asked to meet at the Museum at 8 A.M. The group will tour by vehicles.

**October 12, Wednesday** – Local metal artist Jay Sawyer will present a program “Making New Art from Old Items” at the Broad Bay UCC on Main Street. The program will begin at 7 P.M. and will be preceded by a Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 P.M. in the vestry. Bring a casserole or salad; desserts and beverage will be provided. Kathie Hills will coordinate.

The Museum will be open Wednesday through Monday from noon to 3 P.M. beginning June 19 through September 2. It will open weekends in September and on through October 9. We feature new exhibits every year!!

### Web Links and Contacts:

The Old Broad Bay Family History Association, on the web at: [www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/)

Editorial comments & queries to [pmkriso@gmail.com](mailto:pmkriso@gmail.com)

Visit the OBBFHA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/waldoboromaineancestors>



## BROAD BAY'S FIRST FULLING MILL

Broad Bay had a fulling mill! This may come as a surprise to the Historians of Broad Bay. At least, I have never seen one mentioned in any of the histories I have read. Stahl, who is usually so complete, does not mention one in either book. This is the first of my research into the milling industry in Broad Bay and Waldoboro. There are several saw mills and grist mills described but this is the first fulling mill that I have run across.

The following deed of George Verner (Warner, Werner), millwright, to Benjamin Sylvester is of some interest:

George Verner, millwright, of Waldoboro, for £ 50 sold to Benjamin Sylvester, clothier of Waldoboro-to begin at a stake and stones on the West side of the Medomak River-at the center between Verner's Grist Mill and Sylvester's **FULLING MILL**-1  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres including the whole of Sylvester's Fulling Mill and the trough or spout that leads the water unto the same and also an equal share of  $\frac{1}{2}$  part of the Mill Dam. 3 Mar 1791. John Martin & George Doelhrein, witnesses.<sup>1</sup>

This is the only mention I have found of Benjamin Sylvester in Waldoboro records. It appears he was only here a short time and then turns up in Warren on the St. Georges River where Eaton informs us that Benjamin had the first Fulling Mill on the St. Georges River.

.....Mr. Copeland this year (1793) erected a Fulling-Mill at the Head-of-the-tide, the first establishment of the kind on the river. The first clothier was Benjamin Sylvester, who carried on the business about five years and removed to Newcastle.<sup>2</sup>

Eaton also relates the following, presumably of Benjamin Sylvester's family:

.....Wm. Lermond,.....sold another portion for a burying-ground. As if hastening to occupy this newly appointed resting-place, great numbers of children were carried off, this season (1793), by the scarlet fever, or throat distemper, as it was then called, which was very malignant and mortal....but in May, 1794, when the town voted to fence the old burying-ground with pine logs and the new one with stone wall and board fence, it was restricted to a line.....By this restriction, the graves of several children were left outside, on the common; and the town voted "to remove such of them, whose relations were willing, within the said limits." This was done; but some were allowed to remain; and the graves of Mr. Sylvester's children were enclosed by a fence, which remained on the common for many years.

To be profitable a fulling mill must have a large supply of raw material, cotton, or wool, flax, etc. This may be one of the reasons that Benjamin Sylvester was unable to stay long in either area.

<sup>1</sup> Lincoln County, Maine, Deeds, FHL#11372. 28.220.

<sup>2</sup> Eaton, Cyrus, A.M. Annals of the Town of Warren, etc. Second Edition. Hallowell 1877. P. 253

This partial article is from Old Broad Bay Bund und Blatt newsletter, Volume 4, Number 3, 1995.

**September 22**





# Membership



The Old Broad Bay Family History Association is a group of people interested in studying and maintaining the history of the founding families, and in particular the founding German families, of what is now Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Maine.

There are three types of membership: individual, family, and library. An individual membership confers the right to one vote. A family membership confers the right to two votes. A library membership is solely for the purpose of allowing distribution of the newsletter to libraries and historical societies and confers no right to vote.

The membership year is July 1 to June 30. The newsletter is issued four times a year: Winter edition-third week of January, Spring edition-second week of April, Summer Edition-first week of July, and the Fall Issue-second week of October.

Membership checks should be made out to OBBFHA and mailed, along with this form, to: Deirdre Putnam, OBB Treasurer, 17 Bush Hill Rd, Ipswich, MA 01938.

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### Old Broad Bay Family History Association Application for Membership

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Second member in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### How do you want to receive the newsletter?

Individual membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ US mail \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership: e-mail (pdf format) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ US mail \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a list of your Broad Bay ancestors or write the list on the back of this form.**

**Research facilities (libraries, archives, historical societies, etc.):** We welcome the placement of this newsletter in your collection. Please fill out this portion of the membership form. Once you are on our subscription list you will receive a renewal invoice by mail each year. **Subscription: \$15 per year.**

Name of research facility: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

