



Counting House Times

SPRING 2020

Location: 2 Liberty St., South Berwick, ME 03908
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 296, South Berwick, ME 03908

www.oldberwick.org
info@oldberwick.org
207-384-0000

Bicentennial Exhibit: *Unwilling Immigrants*

In 2020, the year of Maine's bicentennial, Old Berwick Historical Society will be hosting the traveling exhibit *Unwilling Immigrants: From the Scottish Battlefield to the New World, 1650*, an investigation of the storied Scots prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar.

OBHS is expanding this panel and touchscreen exhibit, produced by a research team at Durham University in England, with a display of artifacts and images that recount the experience of our own Dunbar prisoners who arrived in southern New Hampshire and Maine as indentured servants and settled in the Berwicks, leaving a long and proud Scottish legacy in our town.



The companion exhibit will focus on four soldiers—Alexander Cooper, Thomas Holmes, James Grant and James Warren—recruited from across Scotland, who survived starvation, imprisonment and travails at sea to become sawyers, farmers and carpenters in New England. It will feature items from our collection, including archaeological material excavated from the 17th-century Chadbourne house and sawmill site, as well as objects loaned from local collectors.

Please check our website to find out when the museum will open for the season. Typically, the Counting House Museum is open June-Oct on Saturdays & Sundays from 1pm-4pm, and by appointment. Call 207-384-0000 or email us at info@oldberwick.org. Free admission, donations gratefully accepted.

Our Stories: *Talking about Tatnic*



The 2019 Tatnic exhibit will remain up through the end of 2020. Learn about life in the indeterminate northeastern corner of South Berwick, where farming families have populated the landscape since the settlers of the early 1700's. Explore the stories of the Hasty/Warren/Young and Gray/Rodier families. This exhibit touches on the lives of the people of Tatnic - past and present - through maps, deeds, photos, artifacts and stories. Thank you to John Demos and Terry Johnson for creating this exhibit.

Photo: 1922 Plowing the lower potato field – Waldie Rodier in the back.

Old Berwick Historical Society

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Committee Chairs

Collections- John Demos
Education- Nicole St. Pierre
Finance- Jane Orr
Fundraising- Jim Flynn
Programs- Open

Staff

Cari Quater, Executive Director
director@oldberwick.org

A Note from the President...

As you probably know by now, many of OBHS' activities have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Our beloved monthly lectures have been postponed. We cancelled our hugely popular (and delicious!) Colonial Dinner in March. The installation of our *Unwilling Immigrants* exhibit has been delayed, though we are still working on it from home as much as possible. Our Annual Meeting and Opening Day are also postponed.

Now for the good news...Memberships have been coming in steadily- **Thank You!** On social media, we have been promoting historic sites to see in South Berwick, as well as treasures from the Counting House Museum, and those posts have stimulated engagement and conversations. We look forward to rescheduling as many programs and events as possible.

At the moment, our big project is the creation of a new website. Our website is a valuable resource- schools rely on it for articles and maps, and researchers rely on it for family history. The website is currently on a very outdated platform which crashed two years ago. We need to preserve this valuable info, and fast! We received a grant for \$5000, and OBHS can match that amount, plus a bit more. We are launching an appeal to our supporters to raise the remaining balance of \$2700. If you are able, please consider visiting our website and making a donation to the **"Website Appeal"** in the feature article. We are looking forward launching it this summer.



We hope you are in good health, and eagerly look forward to seeing you soon. Stay well!

Sincerely,

Nicole St. Pierre, OBHS President

Volunteer Opportunities- For more information, email info@oldberwick.org

Property Manager

Help us stay on top of maintenance and improvement tasks for our 1830 Counting House Museum. No experience in old building preservation needed. We are looking for a person (or a couple!) who would be available to look at issues, pursue leads for maintenance, schedule maintenance appointments, and to be on-site during repairs or maintenance.

Finance Committee Members

Seeking two or more committee members for our finance committee. The Finance Committee makes recommendations to the Board about budget items, investments, large gifts, and writes financial policies (with Board approval). No experience in investment policy is needed, but it would be helpful. This committee meets quarterly.

Program Committee Chair

We have a robust committee of volunteers which participates in planning programs for OBHS. We are seeking someone to Chair meetings, including writing an agenda. This person would work with our Director to ensure that yearly programming goals are being met. This committee meets every other month.

South Berwick Sites to See

Explore History

Home

Tour South Berwick Village

People

Places & Landmarks

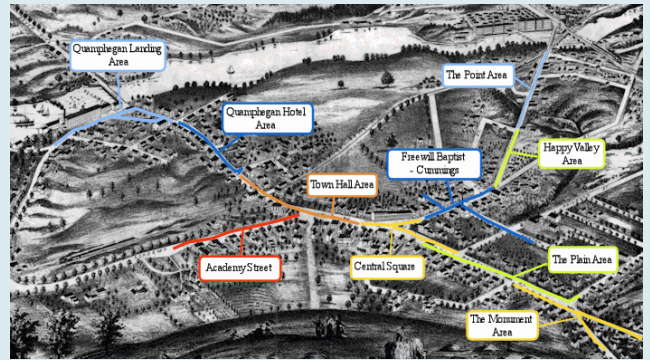
Trades & Occupations

Historic Events

Contact Us

Search

Have you explored this menu on the home page of our website? Under “Tour of South Berwick Village,” our virtual tour will lead you through town using the historic buildings, homes, and landmarks to tell the stories of the people and events that have shaped the town of South Berwick. Going for a walk through town? You can pull up the information on your phone, or print out the Area you are visiting ahead of time.



For ease of viewing the tour, the village is broken into ten areas to lead you through some of South Berwick's historically important features. Click on the tour area name on the map to go to each section of the tour. This feature will be highlighted on our new website!

From the Archives: Frost Tavern/Paul Hotel – 224 Main Street

This building is part of South Berwick Historic District as well as the South Berwick Village District on the National Register of Historic Places. A tavern starting from 1817, the building was first built more than a decade earlier as a private home by Winthrop B. Norton. Sarah Bartlett Frost opened the Frost Tavern here after her husband, George, was lost at sea. Her inn welcomed President James Monroe in 1817 and General Lafayette in June 1825. After Mrs. Frost's death, Josiah Paul expanded the facility and was innkeeper until his

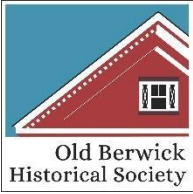


death in 1892. In the early 1900s, the building became St. Rose's School, St. Joseph's Convent and later the Academy of St. Joseph. The building will soon reopen as the Stage House Inn. OBHS has been providing historical research for the project throughout renovations.

“In 1824-25, when the Marquis de la Fayette visited this country,” states the *History of York County* published in 1880, “he was received by a delegation of the most prominent citizens of Maine on his entrance to the State through this town. The party breakfasted at Mrs. Sarah Frost's inn...and an address of welcome was delivered there by Judge Benjamin Greene. Hon. William Allen Hayes also participated in the reception. The marquis also called upon Mrs. Olive Cushing, whom he had known in Boston during the war... On this occasion there was a grand parade of the school children of the town.”

Things to do during Quarantine...

- Set aside items for OBHS' next **Estate Sale** in June 2021. We had so much fun seeing so many familiar faces at last year's sale. Please consider us as you do your spring cleaning.
- Look through **scrapbooks, photos, and documents**. While we must be mindful of space constraints, a few carefully selected items that tell a story of a family, place, or event, are always welcome for consideration by our Collections Committee.
- Explore **local history** on our website, or read *Placenames of South Berwick*. *Placenames* is available for purchase through our website- we will ship to you.



Old Berwick Historical Society
P. O. Box 296
South Berwick, ME 03908

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
Town of South Berwick
Permit No. 33
S. Berwick, ME 03908

Upcoming Programs & Events: Please check our website for updates

- June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19** **Archive Saturdays** at the Counting House Museum from 1-4pm. Two archivists will be on-hand to answer your questions, and to show you how to begin a history search using the museum's archive collection.
- Sept. 24, 7:30pm** **Lecture: Reflections on Editing the Historical Atlas of Maine** at the Arts Center at Berwick Academy. Key benchmarks in public interpretation of Maine's history since the 1990's will be presented by Dr. Richard Judd. These include developments at the Maine Historical Society, Maine State Museum, the University of Maine, the publication of the state's first modern survey history, and the Historical Atlas of Maine, which Judd co-edited. The origins of the Atlas will be explained, as well as descriptions of some favorite plates, and reflections on what the Atlas means for understanding Maine History.
- Oct. 22, 7:30pm** **Lecture: Destroyed and Reborn: South Berwick Fire and Brick Business Block, 1870-2020** at the Arts Center at Berwick Academy. One hundred fifty years ago, South Berwick's town center lay in ruins following a cataclysmic fire on the night of July 25-26, 1870. Citizens then pulled together and raised the iconic brick business block that defines the village today. Local historian Wendy Pirsig presents this dramatic community story in treasured photos, maps and eyewitness accounts from the Old Berwick Historical Society archives.
- Nov. 7, 7pm-10pm** **Trivia Night: Hats Off to History** is back! Mark your calendars for another night of fun!

The Lecture Series is Sponsored by Kennebunk Savings
The Counting House Museum is open June-October every Saturday & Sunday from 1pm-4pm.