



# Counting House Times

## Spring 2021

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

[www.oldberwick.org](http://www.oldberwick.org)  
[info@oldberwick.org](mailto:info@oldberwick.org)  
207-384-0000

## Annual Meeting Announcement

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

Program begins at 6:45pm

Counting House Museum & Park

Celebrate a new museum season featuring the exhibit "Unwilling Immigrants: From the Scottish Battlefield to the New World, 1650" and its companion exhibit focused on the captured soldiers from the Battle of Dunbar who were sent as indentured servants to the colonies and settled in South Berwick.



Join us at the Counting House Landing for an evening of Scottish songs presented by award-winning father and son duo, the Fiddling Thomsons.

We will be requiring guests to sign-up online to attend the meeting to assure contact tracing as well as compliance with CDC guidelines. The exhibit will be open for viewing in shifts beginning at 5:30pm, and also require sign-ups. We ask everyone to please bring their own lawn chairs for the concert, and we will be seating everyone 6 feet apart by family. Masks are required. Rain date is May 21.

The annual meeting is for OBHS members; new members are welcome. Reservations required online at [www.oldberwick.org](http://www.oldberwick.org). If you are not able to sign-up online, please email [director@oldberwick.org](mailto:director@oldberwick.org), and we will contact you to confirm.

## By-Laws Vote

The Board of Directors has been reviewing our By-Laws, as all non-profit organizations should do every five years or so. We have made some updates to be better aligned with the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act. We also made some changes that will help us be more efficient, as well as some that reflect our Strategic Plan.

These changes must be voted on at an annual meeting, so we will be presenting them this year. You can find the proposed changes on our website's home page, where there is a link to an online document. If you are a member, please review the changes and email us with any questions at [director@oldberwick.org](mailto:director@oldberwick.org). We will have limited copies available at the annual meeting, in an effort to be eco-friendly.

# Old Berwick Historical Society

## Board of Directors

Nicole St. Pierre, President  
Trish Towle, Vice-President  
Sally Hunter, Secretary  
Jane Orr, Treasurer  
Brandon Elsemore  
Jim Flynn  
Harland Goodwin  
Norma Keim  
Kara Plank

## Committee Chairs

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

## Staff

Cari Quarter, Executive Director  
director@oldberwick.org

## A Note from the President...

As summer approaches, we are eager to get back to some routine at the Counting House Museum. We know that this will be a new normal, as we adhere to CDC guidelines and do what we feel is best for our volunteers and guests. The good news is that we are going to open the museum on Saturdays beginning on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and we are always open by appointment as well. We continue to offer History Hikes and Strolls, we are hosting lectures online, and we are eagerly planning an in-person fundraiser for fall (with a remote back-up plan).

We have to take a moment to thank all of our members for your support in 2020. In a year which we feared would set us back financially, you instead exceeded the membership dollars that we budgeted before COVID hit us! We have been truly humbled to realize how much you believe in our mission, and that you were determined to keep us afloat so that we could offer our quality programs again. Thank you, thank you!

We hope you enjoy reading about our upcoming programs and plans. 2021 is going to be a better year, and we are excited to get back to business, step by step.

Sincerely,  
*Nicole St. Pierre*  
OBHS President

## Welcome our new Board Member



**Brandon Elsemore** grew up in New Brunswick, Canada before moving to South Berwick with his wife and two kids. He is highly involved in the community as a board member of SOBO Central, a Rotarian at the South Berwick/Eliot Rotary and volunteers his time at multiple local events and festivals. He works for himself as a local full time Real Estate Agent licensed in Maine and New Hampshire. Brandon also produces the Great Works Quarterly, a quarterly newsletter that goes out to all residents of South Berwick where it promotes local events, activities, and festivals. Brandon started volunteering for OBHS on the Fundraising Committee for History Games- Trivia Night. He is leading this fall's History Games- Mystery Games, and is excited to learn more about the history of South Berwick and how it became the town it is today.

## Major Grant Award

We are pleased to announce that a \$30,000 grant has been awarded to Old Berwick Historical Society for unrestricted operating support by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for work through 2023! We will be using these funds to further our Strategic Plan by focusing on archives and research support; exhibits exploring diversity; track lighting updates and window glazing; curatorial projects; Planned Giving materials; and a virtual presentation to make the Second Floor exhibit accessible from the Main Floor.



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

# Piscataqua Company Encampment



Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
10am-4pm

The Piscataqua Company represents the settlers along the Piscataqua River, 1623-1640, including Dover, Portsmouth, NH, "Old" Berwick, York, and Kittery, ME. Unlike the Pilgrims at Plymouth and the Boston area under the Massachusetts Bay Company, these were not Puritans seeking freedom to worship as they wanted, they were men under contract by landed proprietors to establish economically viable communities. There was a focus on fishing, salting, lumbering, and trade. Part of their responsibility included defense of the communities. The Piscataqua Company attempts to remember those men and women who first settled New Hampshire and Maine.

Social distancing measures will be enforced, and masks will be required. The Counting House Museum will also be open during the encampment. Encampment and Museum admission is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

## 2021 Summer Camp for Middle Schoolers

This May, OBHS is inviting students currently in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to apply for our Summer Camp experience from June 21-25. The camp will be led by Caitlin Bishop, who will graduate UNH this spring with a degree in secondary education with a focus in history. Caitlin is currently a substitute teacher for middle and high school grades.

The focus this summer will be for students to become familiar with one of our larger, lesser-known collections, and to work to put together an exhibit at the South Berwick Library. They will spend time at the Counting House Museum, as well as some short field trips to view local sites and houses. We will be limiting the number of students accepted to the program to three, due to carpooling constraints. All participants will be required to wear masks. The application and deadline can be found on our website.

## *Unwilling Immigrants* is Open for Season

The Counting House Museum exhibit, *Unwilling Immigrants: From the Scottish Battlefield to the New World, 1650*, is now open. The panel and touchscreen exhibit, produced at Durham University in England, is expanded at the Counting House Museum with a display of artifacts and images that recount the experience of the 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 focuses on four soldiers from Scotland, who survived starvation, imprisonment, and travails at sea to become sawyers, farmers and carpenters in New England. It features items from our collection, including materials from the 17th-century Chadbourne house and sawmill site, as well as objects loaned from local collectors.



*The Counting House Museum is open June-October on Saturdays from 1pm-4pm, and by appointment. Limit of 5 guests per appointment and facemasks are required. Call 207-384-0000 or email us at [info@oldberwick.org](mailto:info@oldberwick.org). Free admission, donations gratefully accepted.*



**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: Please Check our Website for Updates**

**OBHS Annual Meeting & Concert:** Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date May 21<sup>st</sup>) at the Counting House Museum and Park (see details on cover).

**Piscataqua Company Encampment:** Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm (see details inside newsletter).

### **Lecture: Surveying Salmon Falls: Exploring the Village and Culture Through its Built Environment**

Thursday, September 27 @ 7:30 pm, Online

In 2020, architectural historian Peter Michaud began a weekly survey of the buildings and structures in the village of Salmon Falls (now Rollinsford). Using examples from his survey, Peter will explore how the built environment reflects the history and development of the village in the 19th and 20th centuries as well as larger historic contexts.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>- Fall Fundraiser-** A mysterious new History Game emerges...stay tuned for details

**The Lecture Series is Sponsored by Kennebunk Savings.**

**The Counting House Museum is open June-October on Saturdays from 1pm-4pm, or by Appointment.**

**Email [info@oldberwick.org](mailto:info@oldberwick.org) or call 207-384-0000**