

Script 3rd Grade Introduction  
What is a historical society?  
School Life Records and Types of Materials at BRHS

Welcome/Introduction: 10 minutes

**How many of you have ever visited a historical society?**

**Who can tell me what a HS is?**

**How many of you have ever visited a library?**

**Town library?**

**What about a special library- like at DMR or a hospital medical library or a law library?**

Historical societies exist in many cities and towns throughout the United States. They specialize in materials that represent a town, a region, or even a whole state. For example there are historical societies in Bath, Newcastle, and South Bristol; the Lincoln County Historical Association is in Wiscasset; and the Maine Historical Society is in Portland. (The Brown Library at the MHS was just renovated and includes a state-of-the-art research facility, a new 13,000 square foot wing provides expanded storage, climate-control, and a home for the Maine Memory Network. Landscaping and planting the Longfellow Garden will be completed in the spring.) Large or small, historical societies are very **specialized collections of written materials as well as artifacts which pertain to the area that they serve**. Think of us as your **grandma's attic**, all of your grandma's attics combined into one and accessible to the public. **Today we are going to take a look at what you can expect to find at a HS, where these materials come from, how they are organized, and who makes it all possible.**

Activity: 15 minutes

We are going to begin by taking a look at a box of stuff similar to what you might find in your attic or your **grandma's attic**. These boxes are like **windows back in time**. They give us a glimpse of what life was like when your grandma was younger. You may have a similar box at home where you put your school pictures, newspaper clippings about your class activities or sporting events, a special shell you found on a trip to Florida, things that have **special meaning to you**. Boxes like these are given to the HS all the

time. It's our job to look through them and determine if the things in these boxes might have **important clues** to life in the Boothbay region at some point in time. **Help me** look through one of these boxes so you can get an idea of the items we are given.

*Box contents: card box of letters, mini photo albums, legal documents, Coastal Journal, Messing About in Boats, Maine State Employment Card, Employee ID card, car registration, wedding invitation, additional cards, postcards, letters, Lincoln County Directory and Map 1974, Shoreline Designs booklet, Navy patches, foreign money, birth certificate, Navy ID card, United States Navy Rating Description, 1946, receipt for dishes, The Region Aire October 1967, Launching program for Broward Marine 1956, Mirror and Identification Card (telephone # 663-W2), transcript from First Radio Parish Church of America, Navy Discharge papers, Out of Our Past, The Great Pogy Era Part II from the BRHS, Deed of Gift from Thompson Ice House, cottage contents list*

Now that you have an idea what types of materials are given to us, let's think about the best way to organize them. **Any suggestions?** Well, let's start by making a list of the types of materials we have. Maybe your teacher could make a list on this big sheet of paper. **PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKLETS, LETTERS, POSTCARDS, CARDS, ARTIFACTS, PROGRAMS, PAMPHLETS... STUFF THAT DOESN'T BELONG HERE**

Now imagine that we have boxes and boxes of this stuff that have been given to us over years and years of time. Over time, collections have emerged and these collections have become the historical society and museum. The museum part includes many **ARTIFACTS** that are arranged by subject here in this main room and in rooms upstairs which you will tour in a little bit. We have a **PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION** (over 10,000) that fills many cabinets and drawers in our research room and in the office. All of those neat pamphlets, booklets, clippings, and other printed materials are kept in our **HISTORY FILES AND DOCUMENT BOXES**. We have a large collection of **BOOTHBAY REGISTERS** from the 1880s to the present that are frequently used by members of the community.

Tour: 15 minutes

I'd like you to have an opportunity to look at our collections so we are going to divide up into small groups and take a short tour of the research room and the museum.

Now let's take a closer look at some materials from the museum. I have pulled some items from 6 different collections that relate to schools in the Boothbay Region. I want you to look at these materials and see if you can find clues about school life in our region. Consider the following:

What can this document tell us?

Why does this document have value?

Small Group Activity 15 minutes

1) PHOTOGRAPHS (EBS, BHS, BIS, BNS) This group will examine school photographs from 1890, 1900s, 1920s, and 1938. They will be looking at original photos that span 50+ years.

2) DOCUMENT BOXES (#31A, #31B) This group will be looking at school souvenirs from 1895, 1904, 1906, and report cards from 1916 and 1954. They will also look at a copy of the Oriole, "A Publication of the Harbor Grammar School" dated April 1931 and a BRES 8th grade yearbook from 1984. Please include Elizabeth Ham in this group.

3) ACCOUNT BOOK BOXES (BOXES 3, 7, 17) These students will be looking at a very old school register of all students in the different schools in the region in 1894-1901- very interesting and very fragile. **Please include an adult with this group to help read the cursive writing.** They will also be looking at a teacher's grade book for Damariscove Island in 1916.

4) HISTORY FILES (FO33, FO33A) Students will be looking at clippings describing the old high school, the dedication of the new high school, an old one-room school house on Barters Island, and the sale of 3 elementary schools following the opening of the grammar school consolidation.

5) BOOTHBAY REGISTERS **A volunteer will be here to assist.**

6) TOWN REPORTS Students will be examining a town report from 1880. This report includes a budget for each school as well as descriptions for each. Very interesting but need some adult help to interpret the information. **Please include an adult with this group.**

**Share your information with the group. 15 minutes**

WRAPPING UP: 10 minutes

**What types of materials can you expect to find at a HS?** Pictures and photographs, books, artifacts, newspapers, flyers, maps...

**Where do these materials come from?** YOU, your parents, grandparents and people from the community...

**How are they organized?** We put things that are alike together and we give them accession numbers to help us find them. We create indexes that help us

to look for information- just like an index in a book helps you to find information that is contained within.

**Who makes it all possible?** YOU, your parents, your great grandparents, their parents, people from the community that VOLUNTEER their time and DONATE their STUFF!!!

Please come back and visit us real soon. We are open W-S 10:00-2:00. I have given your teachers a handout for you to take home and share with your parents explaining your visit.  
Thanks for coming today.