

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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BEN FULLER OF THE PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM TO SPEAK

The January 15 program meeting, of the Beals Historical Society, will feature Ben Fuller, Curator of the Penobscot Marine Museum.

In a recent communique, Mr Fuller states, "The Maine Lobsterboat is the symbol of coastal Maine. Today most are built of fiberglass but only 40 years ago wooden boats were flowing out of Maine shops. Most of them were coming from Beals. Many are now gone and most are reaching the ends of their working lives. The majority were built without drawings and without models so that their shapes are not recorded. Last Spring Penobscot Marine Museum organized a lobster boat-measuring project. Working with a researcher from the National Park Service and one from Mystic Seaport Museum, in three days a dozen boats were measured from Cranberry Island to Stonington. This talk will give people a chance to look at the preliminary drawings and the gear used to measure them. What we would like to do is a similar field trip to Beals this Spring to measure some Beals boats. We would want to get representative samples of builders and notable boats with emphasis on boats whose plans don't exist."

This is a great opportunity for all boat builders and the general public to learn firsthand about this important historic preservation project. The meeting is open free to the public and will be held Monday, January 15, 2007, at 7PM, at the Beal's Elementary School. Light refreshments will be served. Please come and enjoy the evening with us!

REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN...

Jonesport's first settler's were Native Redmen? According to a 1905 Jonesport Census, the race, in all probability, was of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Loon Point, Cross Cove and many other places were their frequent camping grounds. Cross Cove was so named because of a cross erected there by the Native Americans. The Reach, then spelled Mooseckey, now Moosabec, is a Native American name given by this race. Perio Point on Beal's Island, received its name from a noted N.A., known as Perio Checkers. On this point is a steep cliff and Perio was, says tradition, the only one of his race who could run up its almost perpendicular sides.

Elihu Norton was an early settler in Jonesport. Relocating from Addison, where his father, Seth Norton, had first settled. It was said that Elihu was very friendly with the N.A., and was a noted moose hunter. He had several moose snares, at a creek on the Indian River road now known as "Snare" Creek.

There was also a settler named Thomas Hicks, who lived on a point of land known as Old House Point, in Jonesport, by the Mansfield fish plant. He also had a residence on Beal's Island known as Hicks' Cove. Could this be Hixey Head? Interesting to note that it was believed that his wife was a witch.

A body of water known as Mason's Bay seems to have received

its name, from an early settler, who lived on Mason's or Ballast Island. French House Island is said to have been settled at a very early date by a Frenchman. These two sites were the first settled places in town.

In 1775 Francis Cummings moved to Jonesport. He moved from Damariscotta Maine and first settled on Roque Island in 1772. When he arrived in Jonesport, he found two settlers, Thomas Kelley and Manwarren Beal. The former, the first permanent settler, on the mainland, known as Kelley Point; and the latter, holding the same distinction, settling, on Beal's Island, at Barney's Point. The approximate arrival time for Thomas Kelley was 1773.

Thomas Kelley and his wife (name unknown) had five children. Joseph the first male child born in this region, married the first female child born on Beal's Island, Olive Beal. Yes, she was the daughter of Manwarren and Lydia Welch Beal. Joseph and Olive were the first of many marriages between Jonesport and Beal's Island.

Manwarren originally moved to York Maine from England. Then moved to Cape Elizabeth, then to Mt Desert Island, to Bucks Harbor and finally became a permanent settler of Beal's in 1774. He was a man of strong character and large physique. He is said to have sent away to have a chair made for his especial use. Manwarren and Lydia had 11 children. The first child died in infancy. The

last child was Barnabas Coffin, Tall Barney's father. The census also indicates that Manwarren's children were the foremost enterprising citizens of the town.

Another early settler, in Jonesport, was John Sawyer, grandfather of two of the town's most enterprising and respected citizens, Daniel J. and Edward Sawyer. John and his wife, Mary Jordan came to this town from Limington Maine. They had nine children. Mary originally came from Cape Elizabeth.

Jonesport and Beal's were originally a part of Jonesboro, which also included Machiasport, Machias, and Roque Bluffs. This tract of land consisted of 48,160 acres and was given to John C Jones, who, according to the book, "Early Jonesborough Families of Washington County" by Leonard Tibbetts and Darryl Lamson, was a prominent businessman, from Newbury Mass, by the Commonwealth of Mass, as compensation, for the loss of a sloop, during the Revolutionary War siege of Castine, Maine. This was part of the efforts of Mass to encourage settlement of lands in Maine as a way to increase the state tax base, in order to eventually pay off the state debt from the war.

This history lesson will continue with the Summer issue of BHSN. Church History, Industry and Facts of Interest are upcoming topics. Please remember to renew your membership, which supports this mailing. Thank you!

TALL BARNEY BOOK SALES

Thank you for your book orders! Currently we have sold 190 books! AND?? Fortunately for you we still have lots of books remaining to sell. We hope you have family and friends with whom you wish to share "Tall Barney and His People".

Did you know that Tall Barney's name was Barnabas Coffin Beal, III? And that his forefather's, Arthur Beal Jr. and later Sr. came to York Maine c1655 from Plympton, Devonshire, England? And you wonder why our accent sounds similar to Englands?

Did you know that "Tall Barney" is a National Folklore hero? Right up there with Paul Bunyan and John Henry.

You may not realize that you are a descendant? But it's possible you could be. Either way the book has interesting facts, stories and poems regarding Barnabas Coffin Beal III and his descendants. Who knows? It may assist you in finding your long, lost relatives!

Check our website address at www.moosabec.org for more info regarding Barney and the book.

If you would like to place an order, send \$20.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling for each book, to: Beals Historial Society

Attn: Almena Alley
PO Box 280
Beals ME 04611

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15-Program mtg/7PM
March 19-Annual/Program meetings/6:30PM
April 16-Boatshow/7PM
May 5-Talent Show/7PM
June 18-Program mtg/7PM
June 30-Mini Boat Races/Time TBA
September 17/Program mtg/7PM
Please mark your calendars. We need your attendance!!!

LIFE MEMBERS

*Almena Alley
Mario Argentino
Dean & Norma Beal
Earlon & Leta (Lenfestey) Beal
Lowell Edward "Don" Beal
Prof and Mrs. Luther M. Beal
Mitchell & D'Anna Beal
Stanley & Carolyn Blish
Marcia Beal Brazer
Albert & Beth B. Carver
Chelsie M. Carver
Guy and Ruth (Lenfestey) Carver
Richard C. "Buzz" & Suzanne Carver
Walter Carver
The Rev. Gary DeLong
Nathan & Jenny Fagonde
Kenton & Terry L. B. Feeney
Debbie & Darrell KE Kelley
Ernest Jr. & Myrtle Libby
Franklin A. & Margot Lindsay
David K. & Louisa O. McKown
Jesse F. & Bettina C. Merchant
Velton Peabody
Leon R. Jr. & Angelena Smith
Lovina (Alley) Smith
Nancy Sullivan & Steve Kent
Cheryl (Peabody) Szacik
Walter & Karen Thompson
Richard & Marie Walston*

OFFICERS

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Model Boat Show Chairman:
Brian Smith
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RECENT GIFTS

From Arlene Moore, high school memorabilia and various local merchant sales promotional items.

From Mercy Beal, Jonesport Packing Co labels.

We do appreciate all gifts and donations. If you have any memorabilia or pictures you would like to donate, please contact Paula McCormack at 497-2954.

HOPES AND DREAMS

It is the vision, of BHS, to one day own a building in which it can display its local artifacts and memorabilia for the public to peruse. Hopefully, these will include items regarding Tall Barney, Basketball and the fishing industry. All of which play a vital role in the history of Beal's Island.

Currently, the society is working towards raising funds for such a building. It would be nice to have an old homestead with local character. Too many are being razed without us being aware of the event.

Please help us to locate the perfect building/house. We are willing to relocate it if necessary and costs are in line with our budget.

We are anxious to share and display the history of Beal's Island. But we need your help in finding a suitable building/house. We may be forced to build. Which is fine but would not hold the historical charm we are searching for.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It's that again! Time to renew your membership for 2007! We appreciate you and hope you continue your support! Your membership dues help with the general operation of BHS including the printing and mailing of this newsletter! Thank you!!!

