

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. X, No. 3 (Summer 2010)

HISTORICAL LOOK AT HEAD HARBORS SEALAND SETTLEMENT

Local Historian and Selectman Danny Davis will offer an extremely interesting Power Point presentation on the hundred-year history of Sealand, a Head Harbor settlement of the 19th and early 20th centuries, on June 18th @ 7PM at the Beals Elementary School. This presentation will include the historical background of the island, its early settlement, the growth of industry (including quarrying and fishing) and the work of the Maine Seacoast Mission, featuring photos from the period. Danny would welcome any additional information on families that lived on Head Harbor during this period. Be sure to mark this on your calendar as you won't want to miss this presentation!



Alley Family in front of Head Harbor Boarding House.



Head Harbor School

2010

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Chairperson Eva Faulkingham reports that 126 members have renewed their 2010 Annual Membership.

The Annual Membership dues are used for the general operation of BHS. We thank you immensely for your continued support. We would love to exceed last years total of 184, which includes Lifetime members, and we only need 5 more to do so. Please check to see if your membership is current! Thank you for your continued support!

BRICK FUNDRAISER

BHS is pleased to announce that it has received the first shipment of 25 personalized bricks. The shipment contains bricks for the patio as well as the Veterans Monument Heritage Center Park. (Please see page 6 for more details.) Both of these projects will provide a beautiful display of Beals Island history in honor of the living as well as the deceased.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18 - 7:00pm

Danny Davis Head-Harbor Program
Meeting at BES

June 26 - 10:00am

Peoples Choice Award

MODEL BOAT RACE @ NOON

October 22 - 7:00pm

Jon Johansen - Boatbuilding on the
Maine Coast at BES

November 11 - 7:00pm

Veterans Program Meeting at BES

*Please mark your calendars.
We greatly appreciate
your attendance!*

EXCERPTED FROM MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM, MAY 31, 2010

Presented by Daniel F. Davis at Beals Head-of-the-Island "Old" Cemetery

HONORING OUR FIRST SETTLERS:

Another reason for our gathering [here today] is to pay tribute to those who first settled this island, a place that has become such a vital part of our common heritage. Today, we honor the memory of the first settler of Beal's Island, Manwarren Beal, Jr., from whom so many of us present are descended, and first settler of Alley's Bay, Captain John Alley.

THE FIRST SETTLER OF BEALS: MANWARREN BEAL, JR.

It has been forty years since a small group of Beals residents dedicated the monument that stands before us in honor of the first settler of Beal's Island-- Manwarren Beal, Jr.

We look to the historical research and writings of the late Delcena Lenfestey, herself a descendent of Manwarren Beal, for some insight into the origins of our community's founding father.

Delcena takes us back to the year 1621, when a small barkentine named Fortune left the shores of the Old World, loaded with people of mixed blood, bent on seeking their fortune in a strange new world, brought them to the shores of rugged New England.

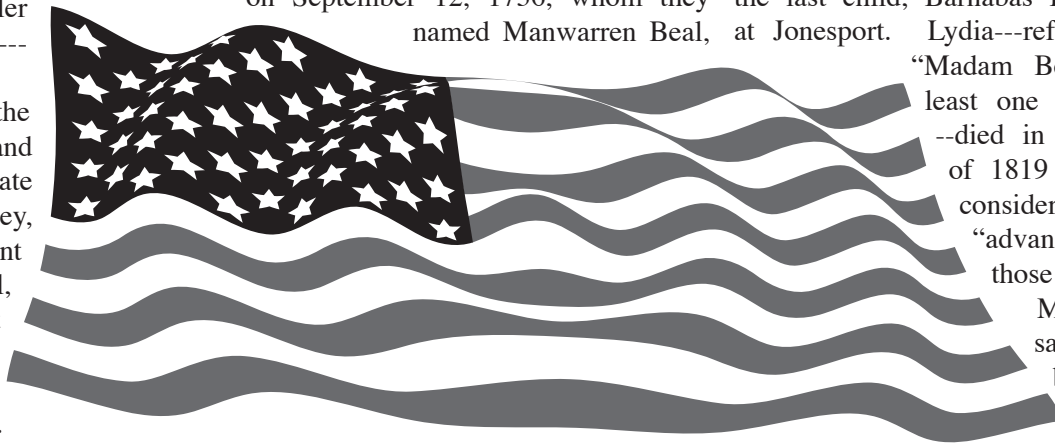
Faced instead with misfortune, extreme hardships, and even death during that first winter, many of these people left their seacoast settlements and moved inland. One man among them, Colonel William Beal and his family, remained in Plymouth until the year 1655 when they moved to York, Maine, then a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. William Beal died that same year and was buried in York.

Among those who made the voyage with Colonel Beal were a close friend, William Hilton, and his family-- including a daughter named Ann.

Sometime after establishing themselves in Plymouth, Ann married Arthur Beal, the oldest son of the Colonel. Arthur and Ann had a son named Edward, named, perhaps, after a relative back in England. Arthur and his family moved to York in 1663 and operated a ferry there until his death. Edward married Elizabeth Littlefield, and when their first son was born in 1697, they named him Manwarren. When Manwarren grew to be man, he moved from York to Cape Elizabeth (then known as Falmouth, Massachusetts and later Portland, Maine). There he married Sarah Deering Mitchell. They had a son born to them on September 12, 1736, whom they named Manwarren Beal,

Manwarren and Lydia were the parents of eleven children, from whom most of us gathered here today, are descended. Many of his descendants are buried within the confines of this burial ground. Their first offspring--perhaps twins--died in infancy (some sources say they were stillborn, but giving no indication of gender or age). The first living child was Sarah, followed by Lydia, Jeremiah, Lucy, Manwarren III, Asa (born at Bucks Harbor), and Ammi (born at Machias), all these born before Manwarren came to settle at Beals. Olive was born at "Moosepeak" or "Moosepecky", now Jonesport. Fanny died as a child, and the last child, Barnabas I, was born at Jonesport. Lydia--referred to as "Madam Beals" in at least one publication--died in early April of 1819 at age 79, considered an "advanced" age in those days.

Manwarren is said to have been a large man, well



Jr. Some records give August 12, 1736 as the date of his birth. Manwarren Jr. married Lydia Welch in Falmouth on September 22, 1758. Some sources indicate the date of their marriage to be November 15, 1758.

Manwarren and his young family left Falmouth and sailed the rugged Maine coast, settling in Mt. Desert in 1768. He later scouted the Down-East area for as much as six years, until he found a suitable site for settlement in the Machias-Bucks Harbor area, where two of their first eight children were born. Dissatisfied with that location, he moved back down the coast to what was then known as Little Wass Island, dropping anchor in what became Barney's Cove in the year 1776 (some sources say 1774), his home for the remaining 29 years of his life.

educated, and a leader among the local settlers. He was a trader by profession, transporting supplies from Portland to Boston. Manwarren Beal was a very influential man, who used his powers of persuasion in the late 1700's to promote the conservation of the fishing industry for future generations, an unusual cause to champion in his day. He foresaw more than 200 years ago what we realize today to be an obsolete industry in the Moosabec Reach community. His letters of petition to the courts to make a law against the torching of herring are prized among our local archives. During the Revolutionary War, Manwarren served on the Committee of Safety and Correspondence at Machias, under its chairman and local hero, Reverend Lyons.

It was during the Revolutionary War

period that a British officer boarded Manwarren's vessel in search of "incriminating papers", which he could not find. In anger, he used his sword to vandalize Manwarren's desk; then left in a rage. That desk was later restored and became a cherished piece in the home of the late Lawrence B. Norton of West Jonesport, Maine. He often recounted its significance as a part of our local heritage and pointed out to me on my many visits the marks and stains associated with that particular incident. The desk later became a part of Barna Norton's estate, and today is in the possession of his granddaughter, Whitney Norton of Jonesport.

Another anecdote of local lore, which has been in circulation for generations, involves the captain of a British privateer that anchored in Barney's Cove. The story goes that the Captain and some of his crewmembers went ashore to Manwarren's cabin, while he was sick in bed with a low-grade fever. The British ransacked the little cabin, and confiscated food and supplies that Manwarren and his wife had worked hard to store for the long, hard winter months that would soon fall upon the islands. The Beals' daughter, Sally, stood helplessly by witnessing the random destruction and theft of their most precious commodities. Upon observing the tearful young girl, the British officer took his fine silk handkerchief from his pocket and tossed it to her as he was about to leave, a theme, recounted in other writings set on the Maine coast during the Revolutionary War period, likely based on this local incident.

This monument to Manwarren Beal was dedicated on October 25, 1970 to the memory of a great local hero--- some 170 years after his remains were interred on this site in August of 1800. An additional tribute was bestowed on the legendary Manwarren Beal, when the Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a Revolutionary Patriot Marker at the gravesite in his honor, in recognition of his service to the Down-East area during the war.

We are thankful today for the life and example of Manwarren Beal, and for the foundation that he laid so many years ago, a foundation upon which our island community has been firmly established and preserved for generations. What was once known as Little Wass Island later became known as Beal's Island, which later became a part of the Town of Beals, incorporated in the year 1925. We are thankful for the monument that stands before us, reminding us daily of that great man who walked the island's paths, through the woods and along its shores.

May this fitting monument remind each of us of the great man who first settled this small island on Moosabec Reach.



Floral Tribute: Carol Davis, President of the Beals Historical Society, then placed a floral arrangement on the gravesite in memory of Manwarren Beal, Jr. and his wife, Lydia.

THE FIRST SETTLER OF ALLEY'S BAY: CAPTAIN JOHN ALLEY

I think it appropriate on this occasion to honor the memory of the first settler of Alley's Bay as well, Captain John Alley.

According to the research of Leonard F. Tibbetts and Darryl B. Lamson as found in their book, *Early Jonesborough Families of Washington County, Maine* (2004), John Alley was born in the town of Frankfort on January 22, 1783 and died at Great Wass Island on August 6, 1854 at the age of 71. He is buried at the Alley's Bay Cemetery. He was a sea captain who came to Great Wass Island in the mid-1820's and settled at Alley's Bay in Beals, then a part of the town of Jonesport. Captain Alley's first home was a humble log cabin located near the former residence of Clarence and Arlene Moore on the Backfield Road. He later built the house now occupied by Mrs. Parks, the oldest house in Alley's Bay.

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SPECIAL THANK YOU

BHS Executive Board wishes to extend a special thank you to Selectman Daniel Davis for the time spent in preparation and presentation of our Memorial Day Observance. It truly was a fitting tribute to our loved ones. Thank you, Danny!

BHS 2010 MODEL BOAT RACES



This year's boat races will be held Saturday, June 26 at Perio Point located on Beals Island. The races will be run by committee members Darek and Sabrina Merchant. Other members consist of Bill Faraci and Ray Beal. One huge task this group of privileged people will perform will be to solicit the many prizes given to winners and non-winners from local vendors. Classes for this years race will include: World's Fastest R/C Lobster Boat, Fastest R/C Unlimited Boat Afloat, Youngest Skipper, Fastest Rec Boat, 0-30" 12V, 30" & Up 12V, 60" & Over and Outboard. Registration will begin at 9AM. The race starts at NOON.

The People's Choice Award will be held from 10AM - 11:30AM and will be organized by Bill Faraci. Be sure to cast your vote!

BHS will once again be selling grilled food, crabmeat rolls, homemade fudge, needhams and much more! Much appreciation is extended to BHS board members and members who contribute to this portion of the event as well. This food sale would not be possible without these people. We hope to see you at this fun-filled family event!

THE EASTPORT "ALLEYS"

By Carl Young

One day not long ago while working at the Eastport City Hall the City Clerk came to me saying that a group of people were inquiring about the location of the former "Alley Farm" and asked if I might be able to assist them. You bet I said and went to the lobby to meet them.

Upon my arrival I was very pleased and surprised to find standing there my Grandmother Vergie's cousin the indomitable and somewhat out spoken Evelyn Jane Barker Alley Watt, along with Evelyn's Sister Thelma her Husband Whitney Newcomb, Annie Alley and John & Imogene Fickett. I will never forget that most wonderful day when those very special people came to visit!

It seems that on this particular day the group had gone to see Evelyn at her home in Jonesport, to offer to take her out for a drive to some place she would like to go. Evelyn informed them that it would be wonderful to visit her Grandparent's farm as she did when she was a young girl. The group set off envisioning a short and pleasant ride over to Beals Island. This was not to be as they were shortly informed by Evelyn that her Grandparents, Warren Kelly Alley & Tryphenia Merchant Alley's, farm was located 50 miles away on Moose Island in the City of Eastport!

Yes Alleys in Eastport! So who was Warren Kelly Alley and why did he go to Eastport? A good place to begin to look for the answer to this question would at the small family cemetery located on the former Lenfestey Farm behind the Advent Church on Beals Island. Buried there you will find Thomas Wallace and his wife Mariah Beal. It is probable that Thomas &

Mariah may have built and operated the farm at about the same time Maine was becoming a State. Thomas died at age 35 and left the farm to Mariah. The widow Wallace, surely in need of someone to run a farm, then married Eldad Alley, one of John & Tryphenia Alley's sons, a man 11 years younger. .

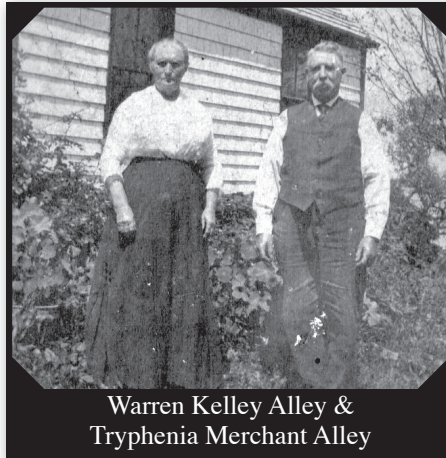
Mariah & Eldad had 4 sons and one daughter in the years just before the Civil War: Zebediah, Josiah, Warren, Eldad Jr. & Lucy. Zebediah & Warren are buried in Eastport.

(Note) Following the death of his wife Mariah, Eldad married Lucy Kelly a woman 20 years younger than he. Eldad and Lucy had 3 children Jerome, Lizzie & Sylvina. Jerome Peasley prior to his death was the last remaining grandson of John & Tryphenia Alley.

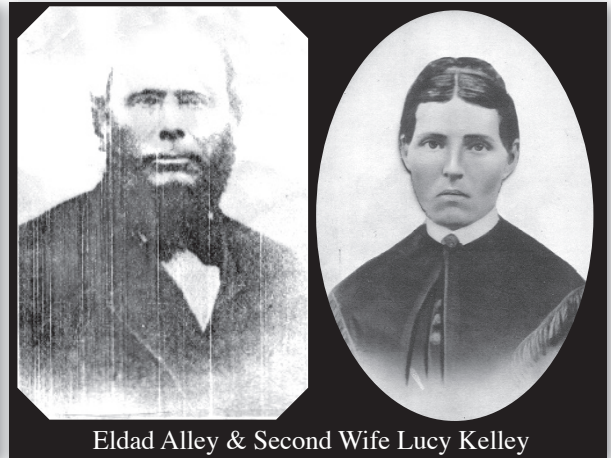
Charles Henry Beal).

The Alley farm in Eastport, 15 acres of gently sloping shore front property overlooking Passamaquoddy Bay, now the Gull Cove Subdivision, was a successful and profitable farm during the late eighteen hundreds and through the turn of the century.

Warren married Tryphenia Merchant and they raised 11 children on their farm in Eastport, 3 boys and 8 girls. It is possible that Warren, having been raised on a farm, wished to continue in that profession and not make his living from the sea and thus left Beals. Warren & Tryphenia lived long and productive lives passing away in the early 1920s. Tryphenia was called "Grammie Phenie" by Evelyn and the other grandchildren and was known for her kindness and



Warren Kelley Alley & Tryphenia Merchant Alley

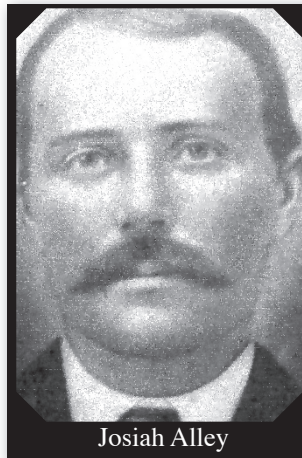


Eldad Alley & Second Wife Lucy Kelley

So Warren Kelley Alley of Eastport was the grandson of John & Tryphenia Alley and a half Brother to Jerome Peasley, Lizzie (Mrs. Wm Beal) & Sylvina (Mrs.

generosity. Many of the residents of Eastport today are the descendants of Warren & Tryphenia's children.

Eastport around the Turn of the last century was a real "boom town" with a population of 5,000 and more than a dozen sardine factories working. It provided an inexhaustible market for the Alley's farm products. Enviably the 8 Alley girls left the quiet farm and went to work in the bustling community. There they met and brought home their



Josiah Alley



Roseta (Rose) Ross



Betsy Mariah (Mina) Watts

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UPDATE ON THE BUILDING PROGRESS

THE EASTPORT "ALLEYS"

Continued

prospective husbands. Evidently Warren was not impressed with the quality of their choices and was quoted as saying "God had a grudge against me and paid it off in son-in-laws".

Evelyn Watt's father Josiah was their first born and his siblings were: Melinda Alice (Binny) Mealey, Frances Ella Taylor, Georgiana Sullivan, Betsy Mariah (Mina) Watts, Eldad Heath Alley, James W. Alley, Mary Louise MacDonald, Rosetta (Rose) Ross, Lillian Belle Camick & Pheobe Elizabeth Quigley.

So, fellow Alleys, next time you find yourself in Eastport do not be surprised if you see someone that looks a little familiar.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email please contact cfDavis44@yahoo.com

BHS came into the spring with \$11,000 in grant monies. Eastern Maine Conservation Initiative contributed \$1,000 and the Davis Family Foundation contributed \$10,000---all to be used in the completion of the buildings interior. We are still waiting for the results from the Bangor Savings Bank and the Stephen King Foundation grant applications.

Currently the 28'x32' cape style exhibit building has been electrically wired, insulated from top to bottom, sheetrocked, mudded and painted. The match pine boards for the exhibit room ceiling should be installed by the end of June. At this point, the lighting, switches and outlet installation will be completed. Yes, all of this work has been done without lights and heat making the job more difficult but it is looking great!



The final finish to the interior will be to install the laminate floor and finish boards. We hope to have this completed by the end of July. Provision has been made for the installation of a bathroom but this will have to be a future endeavor as we strive to work on the landscaping aspect of our project.

Since we will not have the assistance of grant funding to complete the exterior of the building, volunteers to finish the shingling and staining would be much appreciated. Our goal is to have an Open House by fall but will keep you posted as to our progress. We are looking for local vendors who would be interested in selling their products on consignment in our small gift shop. If you are interested, please contact Carol at 497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com.

EXCERPTED FROM MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Continued

On June 27, 1804, John Alley married Tryphena Heath in Penobscot. Tryphena was born at Frankfort on May 1, 1784 and died at Great Wass November 26, 1872 at the age of 89. She was the daughter of Eldad Heath of Plaistow, New Hampshire and his wife Lydia Bowden of York, Maine. Tryphena is buried with her husband in the Alley's Bay Cemetery.

Together, they raised a large family of 12 children, and were blessed with 116 grandchildren and 122 great-grandchildren, according to the Machias Union, August 3, 1869. Their children included 10 that were born before John and Tryphena moved to Great Wass: Zebediah, Joshua, Elizabeth, Hannah Brown, John Jr., Joseph L., Eldad Heath, Alexander A., Levi K., and George Washington (from whom I am descended on my grandmother Elnora Freeman Alley's side. Andrew and Lucy Ann were born at Alley's Bay in 1825 and 1827, respectively.

First settler John Alley was one of nine children born to Joshua Alley (born at Boothbay) and Hannah Brown Alley (born at Arundel, now known as Kennebunkport). Research indicates John Alley descended from Thomas Alley, who was born in the 1650's and died in 1699. Thomas came from the Isle of Jersey in 1675 as an indentured servant to Marblehead, Massachusetts and later lived in Rowley, Massachusetts. His son Samuel Alley settled at Dover, New Hampshire, shortly before 1720. His son John Alley moved "Downeast" along the Maine coast to Boothbay.

As part of this Memorial Day observance, a floral arrangement has been placed on the grave of John Alley at the Alley's Bay Cemetery.

Those gathered were then invited to

form a procession that would meet near the Beals Bridge, where tribute would be paid to those lost at sea. This part of the ceremony included Scripture readings, prayer, and an original poem written by Davis entitled "Ode to the Sea".

Carol Davis cast a floral arrangement from the bridge as the following blessing was made:

"May the flowers that we cast upon the waters---in memory of all those who have lost their lives to the sea---adequately express our sentiments on this special occasion. Let these flowers be a conduit of our love, our prayers, and our remembrance as it goes forth from this place." This was followed by a moment of silence, trumpet taps by Jerry York, and a benediction recited in unison.

OFFICERS

President: Carol Davis
Vice President: Christopher Crowley
Secretary: Teresa Beal
Treasurer: Almena Alley
Other Directors: Ruth Carver, Ray Beal & David Wardwell
Membership Chairman & Committee: Eva Faulkingham

Acquisitions Chairman: Position Open
Local Historian: Daniel Davis
Newsletter editors: Carol Davis & Luther Beal
Publicity Chairman: George Davis
Website Manager: Mark Hall
Newsletter Designer: Laura Brady

A LETTER FROM BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

JUNE 10, 2010

Dear Friends,

The Beals Historical Society Executive Board would like to invite you to participate in our current fundraising project. .

Our first project is to install a brick patio that will be located in front of our new exhibit building, the Beals Heritage Center. The personalized engraved bricks may be purchased to address a variety of subjects. For example, a special person, a memorial tribute, significant event or a special thought. One such occasion is a wedding anniversary as follows:

Faulkingham
Lester & Almena
November 14, 1949

The patio will become an historical archive of people, places and thoughts whereby people can come to sit and ponder the great heritage that is ours. The Heritage Center grounds will be developed into a park area with a gazebo, benches, engraved brick walkways, flower gardens, trees and shrubs and will be used, in part, for gatherings and special events.

The second project will be called, BHS Veterans Monument Heritage Center Park. This Park will provide a suitable monument and sitting area honoring our veterans, both living

and deceased. One monument will consist of a bench that will read, "All Gave Some, Some Gave All. A second monument will include a granite rock which was discovered on BHS property and is the perfect shape for the occasion. It will have a bronze plaque that will read, "Dedicated to Our Veterans". The area will also include a commercial style flag pole. The cost of this project is estimated at \$6000 including ground work. The personalized engraved bricks will include the name of a deceased or living veteran, the branch of service, campaign and the years of service. Below is an example:

John S. Doe
US Navy-Korean
1951-1955

Below please find an application for your personalized engraved brick(s). Each line can contain up to 21 letters and spaces. Any letter, figure, punctuation mark, etc. is considered one space. All text is centered automatically. For further information, please call Carol at 497-2675. We would greatly appreciate your participation in both of these worthwhile projects.



BEALS HERITAGE CENTER FUND-RAISING DRIVE BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

The Beals Historical Society is now ready to begin its Brick Fundraising Program. The purchase of a brick will enable the continuation, of the heritage center construction, by completing the patio and entranceway of the center and the Veterans monument. Your purchase of a personalized 4x8 cinnamon colored brick with black filled lettering for \$100.00 is a tax-deductible donation. Or you may wish to purchase an 8x8 brick for \$150.00. With this size brick you may add an additional line or use a logo for an additional \$10. Please join family, friends and neighbors as we strive to complete the construction of the Beals Heritage Center in 2010!

YES! WE'D LIKE TO RESERVE A PERMANENT BRICK.

Please check one of the following: Brick Patio

4x8 Brick SAMPLE

Veterans Monument

			I	N		M	E	M	O	R	Y		O	F				
A	R	N	O	L	D		&		I	V	Y		J	O	N	E	S	
			G	R	A	N	D	S	O	N	,		M	E	L	V	I	N

_____ Check here for 4x8 brick for \$100.00
(standard block lettering included).

_____ Check here for 8x8 brick for \$150.00
(add an additional \$10 for a logo)

Please engrave our brick as follows:

4 x 8 brick lettering-18 spaces or add an additional line for the 8x8 brick

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 280, Beals, ME 04611**

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____

For further information, please contact Carol Davis at (207) 497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com.

