

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



BHS OFFERING A LIMITED TIME PERSONALIZED BRICK DEAL

In an effort to raise funds, Beals Historical Society continues to sell personalized bricks for the “Patio” (“4 x 8” & 8” x 8”) and “Veteran’s Memorial” (4” x 8”) areas. The personalized “Patio” brick can feature special dates or moments in a lifetime by using the four line or three line bricks. The Veterans Monument Park uses the 4x8 brick. This three-line brick features, rank, name, branch of service, war and years of service.

Within this newsletter, please find a

brick application. If interested, you may visit BHS website at www.moosabec.org to view sample photos of the bricks. If you would like brick wording advice, please email Carol Davis at cfDavis44@yahoo.com or call 497-2675. From now until July 4th, BHS is running a special offer. You may purchase personalized 4x8 bricks at a discounted price of \$75.00 and 8x8 bricks for \$125. Original prices are \$100 and \$150 respectively. Thank you!

NOAH CARVER TO PRESENT, “WASHINGTON COUNTY CHILDREN’S CHORUS PERFORMS IN FRANCE” AT BEALS HERITAGE CENTER BRICK DEAL

Noah Carver to present, “Washington County Children’s Chorus Performs in France” at Beals Heritage Center

Noah Carver to present “Washington County Children’s Chorus Performs in France”. Eleven-year-old Noah is the son of Richard “Buzz” and Suzanne Carver of Beals Island. Blind since birth, Noah rides horseback, skis, writes for his school newspaper, and races his own skiff in the lobster boat races.

Last summer he performed with the Washington County Children’s Chorus in Paris and other places in France.

Noah’s presentation will include photos of his trip, and hopefully he will sing for us. His presentation promises to be uplifting and inspiring.

The program will be held at Beals Heritage Center on Friday, June 19th at 6:30PM. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend.

2015 BHS MEMORIAL DAY IN REVIEW

As Memorial Day commemoration services were being held all across the country on Monday, May 26, Beals Historical Society held its own annual observance at the Heritage Center in Beals with Selectman Daniel F. Davis officiating. In his welcoming remarks, Davis called those present to an attitude of remembrance and stated the objective of the day’s program, “...to help ensure

that the memory of those who have served our country’s military in times of war and peace will endure for generations to come.”

Following a prayer of invocation and the reciting of “The Pledge of Allegiance”, Robbi Carver favored those gathered with a stirring rendition of “God Bless the USA”. Davis then shared the

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Vol. XV, No. 3 (Summer 2015)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 19, 2015

Noah Carver

July 4, 2015

Beals Heritage Center for Seafood Chowder, live music and Center tours from Noon-4pm

September 4th, 2015

TBD

October 17th, 2015

6:30PM, Gospel Concert,
Beals Gym

*Please mark your calendars
as we greatly appreciate
seeing your happy faces!*

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BEALS HERITAGE CENTER ON JULY 4TH!!!

We will be offering tours of the exhibits and collection, live music entertainment and will be selling delicious (made by George Davis) seafood chowder with homemade biscuits along with lots of goodies. Hope you can join us from Noon – 4PM!

Condolences

We wish to extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of BHS member, Margaret Beal. She was a good woman who will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

well-known poem "Decoration Day", written by New England poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, with emphasis on the concluding stanza that summed up the purpose of the occasion: "Yours has the suffering been, / The memory shall be ours."

In his Memorial Day address, Selectman Davis focused his thoughts on the statement, "We are called to commemorate this occasion, knowing that sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance," reminding all that "freedom is not free." "It is for us to preserve their memory, their service, and their sacrifice," he further stated. After a moment of silence, Elizabeth Nichols-Goodliff, music teacher at Beals Elementary School, rendered an emotional playing of trumpet "TAPS".

Traditionally, Davis, in keeping with his position as BHS local historian, shares a significant historical event with his audience on Memorial Day, and this year was no exception. He called their attention to the "distant shores of Europe, where the most famous campaign of World War II took place." A summation of his presentation is as follows:

Last year, June 6, 2014, marked the 70th anniversary of that great undertaking called D-Day (a military term referring to the day on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated). This was to be the most famous D-Day in the history of the civilized world, when more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies had gained a foothold in Continental Europe. The

cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 soldiers to begin the slow, hard trek across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's highly proficient troops (Information from U.S. Army Website, www.army.mil/d-day/).

Davis continued, "Among those fighting on the shores of France that day was our own, the late Willard Kelley of Beals. We know little of his experiences in that foreign land, since soldiers like Willard often chose to remain silent regarding the sights, sounds, and awfulness of war. Willard came home and resumed his life with his family, friends, and community as one who made his living from the sea. Others were not so fortunate."

The poem "Memorial Day" by Eula Gladys Lincoln was read, to illustrate this sad truth. Lincoln says in the opening lines of her poem: "In distant fields of sunny France/Where strangers come and go./Amid the farms of Flanders/Where the fragrant breezes blow/Our soldier-dead in quiet sleep/Neath crosses row on row." She concludes her poem with the following stanzas: "With aching hearts and tear-dimmed eyes/We watched them go away./Some have returned but many sleep/In foreign lands today./Where English roses blood and fade./ In France where lilies grow/ Among the fields of Flanders/Where the scarlet poppies blow./Our soldier-dead are not forgot/Though strangers come and go."

Davis then called the audience's attention to "two lesser known battles that set the stage for the great success of the Normandy invasion," the first of which was the 1942 Invasion of North Africa, known as Operation Torch, and the other the Invasion of Sicily, known as Operation Husky. He went on to

relate that his father, the late Ralph O. Davis, Sr., Seaman 2c, Fourth Beach Battalion, USN, took part in these two campaigns in the spring and summer of 1943, adding, "These two less famous operations paved the way for the success of the Normandy Operation that came not long thereafter." Davis explained that the Invasion of North Africa was well underway when his father arrived on shore in the spring of 1943 at the youthful age of 17.

Davis continued by saying that his father, like Willard Kelley and so many other war veterans, seldom spoke of his experiences in North Africa and Sicily, yet it was clear he held Patton in low esteem for his verbal and physical abuse of soldiers under his command. In fact, Seaman Davis is said to have spoken out to the General in defense of downed soldiers in his battalion. Whatever the case, he stated that his father would never watch movies that glorified Patton to his dying day, but readily acknowledged the General rightly deserved our respect for his leadership abilities during the war years.

Davis explained to those listening intently that his father and those with him were blown up in the trenches and left for dead, until it was later discovered that Seaman Davis still had a weak pulse, and was transported to the American Armed Forces Base at Oran in North Africa for medical treatment, then sent back to the Long Island Naval Hospital at St. Albans for recovery. In his later years, X-Rays revealed shrapnel still embedded in his body. The shellshock he suffered remained with him the rest of his life, with the mental and physical wounds of war being carried with him to his grave---dying of a weakened heart at the age of 58, most likely (according to doctors) caused by his near-death

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experience on the island of Sicily in 1943.

Davis proudly stated, "My father and all American soldiers who served in the Sicily Campaign had much to be proud of, since, despite many obstacles, Operation Husky was a major success for the Allies in several ways." The thirty-eight day invasion resulted in approximately 29,000 enemy soldiers killed or wounded and more than 140,000 captured. He then cited evidence to support its logistic and strategic success in which more than 200,000 men from three nations and 150 different types of units of every branch of service drove the Axis forces from the island, opened the sea lanes to Allied commerce, toppled Mussolini from power, dissolved the German-Italian Axis, and brought about

Italy's ultimate defeat, making it possible for the Allies to invade mainland Italy in September of 1943.

Selectman Davis concluded his remarks by saying, "Although seldom recognized for their importance in the war effort, the invasions of North Africa and Sicily successfully paved the way for a decisive victory in the Invasion of Normandy, an event not forgotten seven decades after the war's end, and deservedly so. Yet too few are aware of the importance of the North African and Sicily Campaigns and the role they played in making the great D-Day victory possible."

Following Davis' presentation, Michael Beal of Addison was invited to share several experiences as related to him by other veterans who fought in foreign lands, including Wayne Dillon, Esten

"Teckey" Drisko (who also served at Normandy), and Jimmy Huntley. With the exception of Machias native Wayne Watts, all of the men mentioned during the program returned home, but with mental scars that lasted a lifetime. We are truly grateful for their willingness to serve their country for our freedom.

The program ended with the spontaneous singing of "God Bless America" and an invitation to those present to browse the exhibits at the Heritage Center, especially those relating to local veterans.

Please remember to renew your 2015 Membership! BHS depends on it for its general support such as heat, lights and supplies for the collection.



BEALS HERITAGE CENTER FUND-RAISING DRIVE BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

The Beals Historical Society is continues 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 2013!

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

Please check one of the following:

- Brick Patio Veterans Monument

_____ 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)

4x8 Brick **SAMPLE**

			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

Please engrave our brick as follows:

4 x 8 brick lettering-21 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.