

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. XXI, No. 4 (Fall 2021)

A BEAL'S ISLAND MEMORY

Below is a funny Beal's Island memory of a young man by the name of Edgar Drisko. The memory is shared by Edgar's best friend and classmate, Erroll George (Sonny) Woodward. The huge granite ledge/rock is located behind the house where I was raised.

It might have a little more explanation than you need as I'm sure you remember the granite path from Uncle Oscar's store to Edgar's former home next to where you grew up. I hope I got the right house. So the drop off you must have experienced. Edgar and I were so close that we really seldom had to discuss what we were going to do. We just did it; throw rocks, run through a puddle, whatever...it just seemed we had one mind to share. Well, on to your story.

First, try to keep in mind that my cousin and closest playmate, Edgar Drisko, was somehow addicted to mishaps. He could always manage to do something that came back to bite him. We were in our mid-teens and spent most evenings just wandering around Beal's Island looking

for games with others or I maybe even looking for some pretty girl to spend the evening with.

Early one evening I walked over to Edgar's to do whatever we would. Before we could get out of Edgar's house, his father, Don Drisko, said, "Edgar, take the wheel barrow and go get that lobster crate full of clams I left at Uriah's wharf."

Edgar was not happy as he wanted to be about our teen age business. He took the old, wooden framed wheelbarrow and away we went. Edgar was sputtering, "I'll go get his stinking clams....."

He muttered and fussed all the way to the clams and back. Seems like the closer to home we got with the heavily loaded wheelbarrow, the more agitated and upset, Edgar became.

On the way to and from the wharf there is a very long outcropping of granite ledge that was part of the path to Edgar's home. It was a nice gradual slope and at the end of that path was a drop of perhaps 12 feet from the ledge to the ground. We

got perhaps 20 feet from the drop to the ground when Edgar made his final statement...."I'll deliver his clams.....

I'll give him his clams.." and he began to run toward the end of that ledge path.

The clams were heavy, the wheelbarrow was old and tired. The two of them flew off the path like an airplane taking off.

The wheelbarrow wheel hit the ground with cousin Edgar running full speed, the wheelbarrow wooden frame broke, the barrow folded up, and the handles with the platform turned into a pole vault catching Edgar somewhere between his chest and stomach. Away he flew into the dusk of the early evening, head over heels, and landed somewhere beyond the broken wheelbarrow and crate of clams.

Eventually he gathered himself together, viewed the wreckage, and in a very quiet voice of repentance, said softly, "Daddy will kill me!"

Note: Please feel free to send any memories that you might have about being raised on Beal's Island.

2021 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Since BHS depends on its members for general funds, we would like to mention that it is now time to renew your membership. Please find attached a membership application for your convenience. If you do not have printer capability, please feel free to send your dues to the address on the application. Thank you so much for your continued support of this most worthy cause!



Condolences

We wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of BHS Life member, Bettina Sue Carver Merchant. So very sad to lose this generation. They take with them much local history that has not been recorded. Bettina was a good friend to many and will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

The Heritage Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9a.m. to 1p.m. We hope you will take advantage of all of the amazing historical information within its' walls and stop by for a visit.

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS OF NEHEMIAH, SON OF BARNABUS AND PHEBE BEAL

Recently, I received an email from the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Nehemiah Beal. BHS "Tall Barney and His People" exhibit does not have a photo of him nor any stories about him so you can just imagine how excited I was to receive an email asking if the historical society would be interested in having the three boats he carved. It goes without saying that I was over the moon excited when I responded to their email. In the next email, I received the photo below of Uncle Nehemiah carving his boat, and besides the photo, they included the following story about

the anchor tattoo on his hand. Wow! A photo and a story! The following is from Nehemiah's great granddaughter, Lynne:

"Nehemiah lived with my mother's family when she was young, and she spent summers with him at the lobster pound at Pigeon Hill. She has lots of memories and stories and will work on writing them down for you.

As for me, I only met him once when I was a child. He was in the nursing home in Milbridge at the time. I asked him how he got the tattoo on his hand (visible in the photo attached). He told

us how he and his brother John shipped out as cabin boys on a merchant ship that sailed to Boston. He said it was a sailing vessel. Nehemiah was only about 10 years old at the time, and John was supposed to watch out for him.

At the docks in Boston, John had to go do something and he left Nehemiah at the harbor with strict instructions not to go anywhere. There was a man doing tattoos there, and Nehemiah had him tattoo his hand with the anchor. As he told us the story, he chuckled, and said "that John were some mad when he come back!"



Nehemiah and Alice Beal

*Nehemiah
working on his
boat. Janice
Kennedy
watching him.*



Nehemiah Beal aboard The Log

*Long Barney Beal was my Father then
was a that Barney Beal on the Island that
was the way that they to tell them apart
when they were talking about them Father
was a good man caused no one any trouble
he was a peaceful man no question about
that the body could not stand the strength
that was why he died so young with heart
trouble*



Photo of John Beal's store. Photo indicates that on the left is Elmer Bolles and on the right is Nehemiah Ingalls Beal. Writing on the back of the picture says that at the extreme left is (Aunt) Margaret's house - she is the sister of Nehemiah Beal, next toward the right is (Uncle) Will's house, where Edmund Beal was born, then to the left of the store is (Uncle) John A. Beal's smokehouse, and on the extreme right is Aunt Mary Fleet's house.

THE WRECK OF THE JOHN C. MEYERS

The following story, written by one of Beals Islands long standing citizens and businessmen, is taken from the 1926 Ocean Breeze Beals High School Yearbook. The Heritage Center has a wonderful collection of old yearbooks, which contain many interesting stories like this one. We invite you to visit the Center to see what you might find for Island area history and folklore

By Vernal O. Woodward, '26

In the month of November 1925, the four-masted barkentine, John C. Myers, loaded with pulpwood, left Nova Scotia under the command of Captain Leander Look, a citizen of Beals. Captain Look is a very capable man and for some time has commanded many ocean-going steamboats. As the weather was fair Captain Look decided to set sail for the United States. As soon as they were out of port the wind began to blow very heard and it also hailed; however, the vessel made very good time from Parsboro to Grand Manan. Just a short distance from Grand Manan the fog settled over the water and the wind continued to blow, making a heavy sea. Captain Look decided to go into Machias Bay because his vessel would not fetch out by the head of Moose-Peak Light, because of a shattered keel and strong head wind. Captain Look had the sailors on the bow looking for buoys and rocks as he thought it was almost time to turn into Machias Bay. Suddenly breakers were seen all around the vessel, she being so large it was impossible to turn her quickly enough and she ran onto the sharp rocks of Libby Island. As soon as the vessel struck, the masts and sails went over the bow and the pulpwood began to move over the vessel together with booms, rope and wire. A torch was burned, but help did not come for several hours. The vessel broke in two, and the after part which the crew were on, backed in between

two large rocks forming a gulch, and they had to watch their chance and climb down over the davit lines and run ashore on the pulp wood while foaming seas were out. The negro cook was afraid to leave the vessel but was finally compelled to. After all the crew were ashore as they thought, they heard someone shouting for help. They looked back among the pulpwood and there was the first mate struggling to keep from drowning. Captain Look and the boatswain running over the moving pulp wood got hold of his hand and dragged him ashore, but he was hurt so badly he could not walk and had to be carried across the island to an old cabin until the Cross Island station crew came and took

him with the crew to Machias. There the crew, who had lost all their belongings, was given sufficient clothing, and the mate was sent to the hospital.

Captain Look returned home and every evening his home was crowded with people to hear the story of the wreck and how the crew escaped in the fog with one chance in a hundred to reach shore alive. For many days after the wreck, pulpwood was seen drifting around the neighboring islands and in the quiet hours of the night one could hear the pulp wood being thrown onto wharves and rocks.

Thus the Barkentine John C. Myers was lost.

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR IS READY WITH A WHOLE NEW DESIGN

The 2022 Calendar is now ready for purchase at \$16 each, and if shipping is necessary, please add \$2.90 per calendar.. Please read below for more information from Luther and Alice.

solely by the hard work of President Carol Davis and volunteers who value the preservation of our communities heritage and wish to see it preserved for our children and future citizens. The Beals Heritage Center serves as a resource for visitors and residents in search of information concerning the genealogy and history of our unique town. It is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information. Beals Heritage Center is dedicated in assisting both current and future generations in understanding their heritage.

If you have any questions or would like to place an order, please do so by using the following contact information: Prof. & Mrs.

Luther Beal BS, MEd, EdD (EQ)

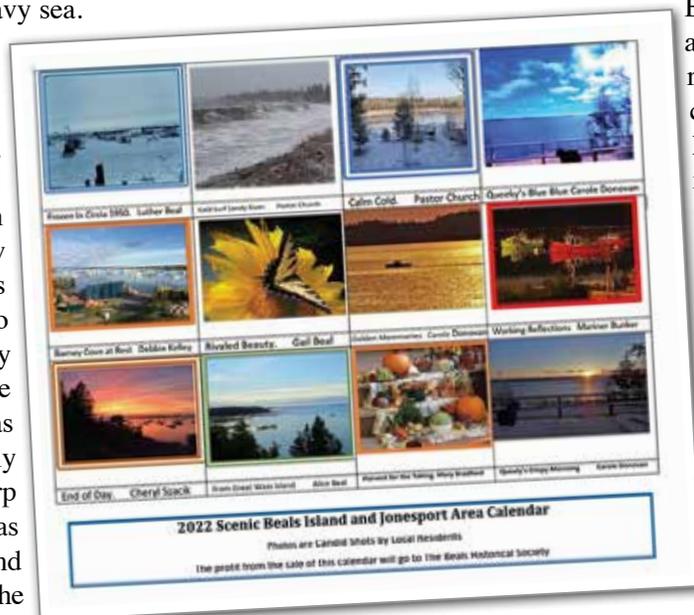
77 Bay View Drive

PO Box 232

Beals ME 04611-0232

Email: lmbeal@myfairpoint.net

Tele: 207-497-3191



This year, as with previous years, we have designed and printed the Jonesport/Beals area calendar to help raise funds to perpetuate the continue of the Beals Heritage Society. The BHS survives

Beals Heritage Center



Beals Historical Society Membership Application

Please check one: Renewal New

Name(s) as you wish it to appear on membership card and member roll on website:

(Please type or print clearly)

Your mailing address: Street or Post Office Box: _____
City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address: _____

Type of membership (Please review all types and check the one that applies)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual | \$10 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Life | \$200 one-time payment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Annual | \$15 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Life | \$300 one-time payment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/65 Annual | \$5 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior couple/65 Annual | \$7.50 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 annually |

Over and above dues, I wish to donate _____ for __operating expenses, __building fund, or __ endowment fund. Receipt and membership card will be sent to you.

**Instructions: Please print, complete and mail this application, together with tax-deductible check or money order payable to Beals Historical Society to:
Membership Chairperson, Beals Historical Society, P.O. Box 280, Beals, ME 04611**

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and expire Dec. 31.

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER FUNDRAISING DRIVE

BUY A PERSONALIZED BRICK PROGRAM

The Beals Historical Society offers the chance to be creative in personalizing a brick for your favorite person, pet, place, event, occasion, or simply something that is near and dear to your heart. Purchasing a personalized brick will enable the continuation of the brick patio, and/or adding your favorite Veteran to the Veterans Monument Park Area. The Veteran's 4 x 8 brick consists of the Veteran's rank, name, branch of service, war served in and years served.

Your purchase of a personalized 4x8 cinnamon colored brick with black filled lettering for \$85 is a tax-deductible donation or you may wish to purchase an 8x8 brick for \$125. Purchasing the 8 x 8 brick gives you an additional line or instead of the line you may purchase a logo for an additional \$10. Price includes shipping.

YES! WE'D LIKE TO RESERVE A PERSONALIZED PERMANENT BRICK.
Please check one of the following:

- Patio Veterans Monument

- Check here for 4x8 brick for \$85.00 (standard block lettering included).
 Check here for 8x8 brick for \$125.00 (add an additional \$10 for a logo)

Please engrave your brick as follows:

For a 4 x 8 brick use three lines with 21 letters including spaces and for an
 8 x 8 brick add use four lines.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 280, Beals, ME 04611
Thank you for your contribution!

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____

*For further information or suggestions with a design for your personalized brick,
 please contact Carol Davis at (207) 497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com.*