

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXIII, No. 1 (Winter 2023)

“EARLY SETTLERS OF JONESPORT” FROM THE 1905 JONESPORT CENSUS

PERSONALIZED BRICKS



“The first white person to set foot on Jonesport soil was, in all probability, an early voyager along our coast. Who this person was, and the date of his arrival, we do not know. Prior to 1750, fishermen and other small crafts were continually prying along our shores. This does not give us any definite answer to this question, yet it is such as to convince us, that this region about Jonesport was visited by the Whites at a very early period. The date of the first permanent settlement by the Whites in Jonesport is uncertain. Settlements of short duration were made at Calais, in 1604; Machias, 1644; and Eastport, in 1672 : but no permanent settlement was at Calais, prior to 1763; Machias, 1764; and Eastport, 1780. Jonesport could not have had a permanent settlement previous to the above towns. The first, or one of the first to settle in the town of Jonesport, was Francis Cummings. He, in 1772, moved from Damariscotta, Maine, and settled on Roque Island. With him was his wife, Mercy Kelley, her father, Aaron Kelley, and his own daughter, Annie. Here they erected a log cabin and passed the winter. In the spring all of the family, except Mr. Kelley who had died during the winter and was buried on the island, moved to Machias. At this place they remained two years, when, in the spring of 1775, Mr. Cummings came to the Reach in Jonesport and settled on the land now owned by his grandson, Charles H. Cummings; who has in his possession two deeds made out to his grandfather by the proprietor of this land, John C. Jones. The dates of the transactions are

1792 and 1794. When Mr. Cummings arrived in his town, he found here two settlers, Thomas Kelley, and Manwarren Beal. The former, the first permanent settler on the mainland; and the latter, holding this same distinction on Beal’s Island. Which of these two settled here first, we do not know. Thomas Kelley, son of Aaron Kelley who died on Roque Island, came with his wife to this town from Damariscotta, Maine. He settled near the homes of his grandchildren, Frank and Albert Kelley, in that section of the Reach, known as Kelley Point. The date of his arrival may be placed at approximately 1773. To this couple were born five children: three sons, Joseph, Thomas, David; two daughters, Betsey, who married Asa Beal, Abigail, who was united with Nathaniel Kelley. Mr. Kelley’s son, Joseph, the first male child born in this region; afterwards, married Olive Beal, daughter to Manwarren Beal, and the first female child born on the Island. Manwarren Beal, with his wife, Lydia Welch, and children, came to this town from Old York, (Maine) and settled on Beal’s Island, on the location known as Barney’s Point.

Mr. Beal was a man of strong character and large physique. He is said to have sent away and had a chair made for his especial use. An old desk of his, probably one hundred and fifty years old, and verses of his composition are now in the possession of Miss Emma A. Hinkley. To this illustrious couple were born many children, whose descendents are among the foremost enterprising citizens

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It’s time to purchase personalized bricks for either the Veteran’s Monument Park or the Patio. For the 4”x 8” brick, you have three lines each with 21 letters and spaces for \$75. The 8”x8” brick offers four lines with 21 letters and spaces for \$125. The Veteran’s brick information includes the rank, name, branch of service, war and years served. You can be creative with the Patio brick. It can be your favorite Beal’s Island memory, memorialize your loved ones, honor the living, a school memory. It’s your choice with the patio brick. These bricks will be set in time for the Memorial Day program. Orders must be received by April 13, 2023. Thank you!

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW

With the ringing in of the New Year, comes the renewal of your BHS membership. As you will notice on the attached membership application, the dues have not increased and the fee is very minimal. Annual membership dues are utilized for the general operation costs. Life memberships go into a savings account where the interest is all that is used, which these days is very little. We hope you will continue to support BHS as it is a most worthy nonprofit organization! We appreciate your support! Please feel free to share the newsletter with your family and friends! Thank you!



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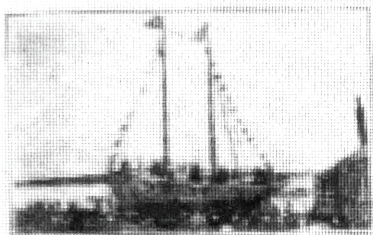
of the town. Another early settler in this region was John Sawyer, grandfather of two of the town's most enterprising and respected citizens, Daniel J. and Edward Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer and his wife, Mary Jordan, came to this town from Limington, Maine, and erected a homestead near the present site of Edward Sawyer's residence. To this couple were born nine children; three boys, and six girls. Mr. Sawyer's native place was Limington, Maine, and his wife was from Cape Elizabeth. Thomas Cromwell, an early settler, emigrated to this town with his wife and settled on Loon Point. Their previous residence was at Salem, Massachusetts; and Mr. Cromwell claimed a relationship with that most noted Englishman Richard Cromwell. In recent years, Colonel Oliver Peabody of Boston secured this point of land; and there erected a beautiful summer home. This cottage has since been destroyed by fire. Mr. Peabody also placed a fitting tombstone, over the burial place of this early family. Elihu Norton was an early settler in town. He moved here from Addison, Maine, where his father, Seth Norton, had first settled. The date of his arrival was previous to 1790; for at that date he had a settled homestead in West Jonesport a little to the westward of the present site of Augustus Hopkins' residence. Mr. Hopkins has in his possession several choice articles which were the property of this old settler. Elihu Norton is said to have been very friendly with the Indians, and was a noted moose hunter. He had several moose snares, at a creek on the Indian River road now known as Snare Creek. John Buffitt was the first settler in town to receive a grant of land from the proprietor of this section, John C. Jones. His lot and residence was at West Jonesport, where he arrived prior to 1792; for that early settler, Francis Cummings, had his grant made out at that date, and, in this document, mention

is made of Mr. Buffitt's land lying to the westward. This early settler was of a roving disposition, not much is known about him. On that point of land known as Old House Point near the present site of Charles Mansfield's fish plant at the lower village, there once lived an old settler, Thomas Hicks. Some claim he also had a residence on Beal's Island, near a cove, known as Hicks' Cove. Many interesting stories are told of his wife, who, it is said, had a supernatural power; and was termed by the settlers, a witch. Nothing definite is known about this family. They were here, no doubt, at a very early date. That body of water within the limits of the town known as Mason's Bay, seems to have received it's 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. Some say that these two sites were the first settled places in town. So little is known of them, that it is impossible to give any further explanation on the matter. The land through this section was granted to John C. Jones and others by the Massachusetts Commonwealth, Jan. 1, 1789. Mr. Jones is said to have received this gift in payment for a sloop of his, which was lost in the siege of the British at Castine. If so, he was well paid; for the grant comprised the districts of Bucks Harbor and Little River (The former now the property of Machiasport, the latter of Machias) Jonesboro, Jonesport, and Roque Bluffs, a total of 48,160 acres. This great tract of land, plantation number twenty -two, was incorporated as a township, March 4, 1809, and was the one hundred and seventy-sixth town in the Province of Maine to be chartered. Jonesport was set off about twenty-three years later, or February 3rd, 1832; and Roque Bluffs or "Englishman's River" as it was called, was set off March 12, 1891. Over this tract of land, Mr. Jones, who was the principal proprietor, appointed as sub- agents:

Gustvuas Fellows, John Holway, and Stephen Jones. These men sold land titles to the pioneers, and many deeds now in existence bear their signatures. It is an acknowledged fact, that as soon as one member of a family settled in town, his near kindred were wont to follow. This is true of the Beals, Cummings, Sawyers and Nortons, and accounts for the large number of families now in town bearing these honored names. The following are Surnames of early settlers in town, not heretofore given. Of these, more mention will be made later: — Dunham, Dobbins, Wallace, Alley, MacDonald, Dickey, Oliver, Hinkley, Smith, Donovan, Hopkins, Farnsworth, Lamson, Rogers, Hutchinson, Church, Drisko, McKenzie. The town increased in numbers very slowly, at first. The sparsely settled regions, in this section of Washington County, were not very attractive to the early home seekers. Not until more recent years has the town given promise of great industrial prosperity. At an early date the business section of the town was at Indian River. At that place was a large saw mill, ship yard, and the people of this section were obliged to go there for their mail. At that date, 1850, very few would have predicted that the present village of Jonesport, would, in the future, be the larger settlement. The rapid strides that the town has made is worthy of attention. In 1840, eight years after the town's incorporation, we have the following settlers here. On Beal's Island were: — Asa Beal, Ami Beal, Thomas Beal, William Dobbins, Thomas Wallace, Asa Beal and Edward Beal. The residences of Ami Beal, Thomas Beal, and William Dobbins are still standing and occupied by families. On Great Wass Island, at Alley's Bay, there was one Settler, John Alley. On the "Reach" road there lived: Elihu Norton, Phineas Norton, Abraham Norton, Andrew McDonald, Darius Dickey, Freeman Beal, Jerenaah B Norton,

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1912 Moose-A-Bec Messenger Yearbook depicts an awesome advertisement for Jonesport's boatbuilder, Maurice Dow. Maurice is the builder of BHS 1902 overhang stern boat. It is believed that he built BHS boat at Friendship Maine. It's great to know that he built boats in Jonesport too!



Agent for Gasoline Engines.

We invite inspection.

Telephone 10-2, Jonesport.

WHEN in need of a Boat write us. We will gladly furnish plans and lines for boats of any kind. Our specialty is a strong serviceable work boat for lobster fishermen, but they show good speed with small power, having won first money in the Fourth of July races for three years past, and would make good sea boats. Very seaworthy. Prices on application.

MAURICE B. DOW
Designer and Builder of Motor Boats of all Kinds
JONESPORT, ME.

For the Lowest Prices in 

**Plumbing, Bath Room Fixtures,
and Hot Water Heating**

INQUIRE OF

S. B. CUMMINGS and SON

Also a general Hardware Store

— DEALERS IN —

Stoves, Ranges and Furnaces

Tin and Sheet Metal Work of all Kinds
Paints, Oils, Etc.

WEST JONESPORT, ME.

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.*

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Samuel Cummings, Frank Cummings, Evans Sawyer, John Sawyer, Daniel Sawyer, Thomas Oliver, Nehemiah Sawyer, Thomas Kelle, David Kelley, Joseph Kelley and Ephriam Kelley. Of their homesteads the ones occupied by Abraham Norton, Phineas Norton, Darius Dickey and Ephriam Kelley, are still standing. Phineas Norton's residence is, without doubt, the oldest house now standing in town. Elias Hinkley, Demick Cummings, Nathaniel Church, William Smith, Jerry Drisko, Zimri Drisko, Edmund Drisko, and Ellis McKenzie, were then living on the Indian River road. On the Jonesboro, or Mason's Bay road, were Samuel N. Kelley, James Smith, Levi Smith, Jeremiah Donovan, Henry Farnsworth, Isaac Farnsworth, David Farnsworth, Enoch Farnsworth, Prince Rogers, Daniel Rogers, Zelas Smith, Frank Smith, Otis Smith, John Hutchinson, and John White. These names give one an idea of the number of inhabitants in town at the date mentioned; as the list contains the heads of all the families here". (At this time, Beals was a part of Jonesport)



*Photo right: Maurice
and his family*



Condolences

BHS executive board wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of Merle and Regina Beal, Leon J. Crowley, BHS Life member, Angelena Smith, Nikki Carver, Bernard Beal and Bernard Pratt. We are so heartbroken to lose these beloved friends. May God bless and comfort their families.

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.