

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION FROM THE 1905 JONESPORT CENSUS

Vol. XXII, No. 4 (Fall 2022)



The school history of the town of Jonesport covers a long and interesting period. As a whole, her citizens are proud of the record that is handed down.

The town's representatives who have entered various phases of work in outside fields, speak well for their home training.

In the early beginning of our town, school houses were not provided. Each parent was supposed to have a room where the teacher would come and instruct his children and others who met there. Usually some family, which had an unusually large room, offered their hospitality for this purpose. This school instruction was carried on by the "board around" system, when the instructor received very low wages, probably paid in boards and shingles, and was obliged

to journey from one house to another for lodging. The length of time that he remained in a family depended on the number of school children in that house, and, perhaps to his own discomfort, the longer stay was made where there was the most children. In the remembrance of some of the town's aged citizens the above forms were carried on. Schools were kept in the houses, and, at one time, in an old loft in what was then the upper apartment of Joshua Walker's store.

The first school building erected in town was on the Indian River Road, near the site of Obed Lamson's residence. This house was afterwards used for storage purposes. The second building for school purposes stood at Sawyer's Cove, near the site of James Bryant's home. This was built by the town and

district. The town gave \$100 for its erection, providing that it should be used for town meetings. The Union Vestry at West Jonesport was the third school building erected in town. This was done in 1848 by Abraham McKenzie, who received \$400 for his work.

The scholars in these schools had books, such as they were, if they were able to purchase them. Hon. D. J. Sawyer informs the writer that at one time, when on the school committee, he visited one of the island schools, and there found a pupil with only a farmer's almanac from which to study. Thanks to the present "Free Book System," the pupil, rich or poor, is supplied alike. Our town was one of the first in this section of Maine to adopt this much needed system. Great credit is due to the persistent labors of Mrs. D. J. Sawyer, who was largely instrumental in bringing this about. The sad death of this beloved woman and friend, which occurred on July 2d, 1902, took away the town's most ardent educational promoter. Mention should also be made of her husband, Hon. D. J. Sawyer, who has worked unceasingly in the interests of the schools in town.

From this small beginning our town has its present schools, and justly proud and thankful ought she to be for the marked advancement that has been made. Not many towns of her size can boast of a better regulated system, or more tasty school buildings. A good idea of their present condition may be gathered from the following: The town of Jonesport is divided into ten school districts, with a total of 16 common

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FACELIFT FOR BEALS HERITAGE CENTER



After 12 years, Beals Heritage Center finally received a much-needed facelift. The sun was setting in the west when the photo was taken, but you can still see how great it looks—just love the "Crimson Red" doors! This is the first staining for the Cold Storage Area since its construction approximately three

years ago. Thankfully, we received a \$1,000 grant from the Davis Family Foundation to be used for materials toward the actual cost of \$1300. Labor cost was a discounted \$2500. Here's another great opportunity to donate to a most worthy cause and receive a tax deduction for doing so!!!

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schools of lower grade, and one high school. The number of scholars in town drawing school money is 906. Each of these schools are graded, thanks to the earnest and successful labors of the town's present superintendent, Mrs. B. B. Mansfield, supported in every move by the committee, W. L. Noyes, Rev. T. B. Hatt and Dr. H. A. Mansfield. For these schools competent instructors are secured. Within the last two years many improvements have been made on the school buildings. Most of them are now supplied with a school bell and flag. Two modern Grammar school buildings, the Lincoln, at West Jonesport, and the Washington at the Lower Village, have been lately erected at a cost of about \$10,000. The town is to erect during the summer a one-story school house at Head Harbor, and a two story structure at Alley's Bay.

Prior to 1894 there was no free High School in town. For a long time the citizens had felt the need of such an institution, for their children who

wished to go to college were compelled to leave the town to fit themselves for entrance. It was in the spring of 1893 that the first potent move was made to establish such an advanced school of learning. At that annual town meeting an article was put in the warrant asking that a Free High School be established, and that the town, in conjunction with the Masonic Lodge, erect a building for its use. Each was to pay one-half of the cost of construction. The town was to occupy the first floor, and furnish it at her own expense, and the Masons were to use the upper apartment, which they should furnish. This article was accepted, and \$1,500 was appropriated for the erection of the building.

In the fall of 1894, the building having been completed, the first term of High School opened, with Mr. Horsman, a graduate of Bowdoin College, at its head. The next year Harry Wilbur, of the same college, assumed the principalship, and remained with this institution several years. The first graduation occurred in the spring of 1896, when eight students

received diplomas. Then in one year the school had three teachers, Clarence Parks, Lincoln Roys and Harry Wilbur. The next principal was J. D. Murphy, a graduate of Williams College. Mr. Murphy was the first to have an assistant in the school, Miss Annie S. Morrison, a graduate of Smith College, occupying that position. In 1904 the present principal, Henry G. Clement of Gorham, Maine, a graduate of Bowdoin College, assumed charge of this school. His assistant is Miss Betsey A. Nickels of Cherryfield, a Colby College graduate. Both of these instructors have proved themselves efficient in their positions. The school has an attendance of about fifty students. College

Preparatory and English courses are instituted in the school, from which a student is granted a diploma, having finished the course of study with a rank of 75 or more, on a scale of 100.

This institution, although in its infancy, gives promise of a very useful career. The town is doing everything possible to make it one of the best of its class.

UNIDENTIFIED PHOTOS FROM NELLA GOWER'S COLLECTION



Please email
cfdavis44@yahoo.
com or phone 207-
497-2675 if you can
provide BHS with
the identity of these
beautiful people.

REMEMBER THE DAY

Remember the day when the men of Jonesport and Beals participated in three wars? In order to preserve the language of the day, the following will be quoted from the Jonesport 1905 Census.

The town of Jonesport (which included Beals) is justly entitled to the high esteem of the State and the Nation for her loyal support of the Government in military matters. Whenever the call to arms has been sounded, her citizens have ever responded to its appeal. True and loyal has she ever stood for our national prestige.

Revolutionary War—In this struggle for independence, the town of Jonesport could not have taken a very active part, for she was too few in numbers, yet there were, doubtless, a few who went to the aid of Machias, when she was in danger of capture by the British. We know that town received loyal support from her neighbors in order to defend herself so successfully through this war. It was during these eight years of unceasing conflict that the home of Manwarren Beal, on Beal's Island, was robbed by an English privateer. The account goes, that at one time, when Mr Beal was very sick in bed with a slow fever, a vessel, bearing an America flag appeared off the island. She immediately pointed her bow towards the shore and came to anchor in Barney's Cove. Then the crew pulled down the Stars and Stripes, and flung to the breeze the Union Jack. The men soon came to the home of Mr. Beal and demanded what money there was in the house, and were told by Sally, the daughter, that there was none. They replied that unless it was handed over to them, they would blow the house to atoms. Failing in this persistent demand, they began to search for money, and finally, to plunder the house; for at this time the home was well-stocked with provisions for the winter's supplies. The crew of the privateer seized everything they could carry away, even to the

clothes on the beds; and that which they were unable to take with them, they destroyed. In this manner a hogshead of molasses was broken in and its contents spilled on the floor, and several of the domestic animals were killed. Having thus deprived the family of all means of support, the English plunderers left the house. The daughter, Sally, as she stood in the door crying, because of the destitute condition they were left in, and wiping her eyes with a homespun apron, was approached by one of the English officers, and presented with a new "bandanna" silk handkerchief. The English privateer soon departed, probably to commit a similar act on some other unprotected homestead.

War of 1812—In this second conflict with Great Britain, for national freedom from oppression, English war vessels were continually prying along the coast of Maine in pursuit of plunder. The region along whose shores they journeyed was the scene of many thrilling adventures. It was on March 21st, 1814, that the British privateer, Vim, chased an American revenue cutter, commanded by Captain Elliot of Machias, into the harbor of Jonesport. The English war vessel fired several shots at the revenue cutter as she came in pursuit, and Captain Elliot, in order to avoid all hands being captured, ran the vessel aground in Sawyers Cove. The British immediately launched a barge and, with a small crew, proceeded to take their supposed easily captured prize, for its crew had fled to the woods. In the meantime, the citizens on shore, among whom were Freeman Beal, Jerry Norton, Andrew MacDonald, John Sawyer, Francis Cummings, Eben Sawyer, Daniel Sawyer, and William Dobbins, hearing the firing, came to the scene of action with their flint lock muskets and hid behind a ledge of rock overlooking the Cove. When the English barge was within firing range, a volley was given and one of the oncoming party was killed, and another, a mulatto, was

wounded. The barge was finally forced to surrender, and the wounded man was carried to the home of Nehemiah Kelley. Mrs. Kelley, when she returned to her home that night, for she had fled to the woods for safety, was somewhat frightened to find them in her house. The English crew had destroyed several of her linen sheets in trying to stop the flow of blood from their wounded comrade. For this damage the men made due amends to Mrs. Kelley. The English war vessels continued to fire shots ashore, and agreed to desist and leave the harbor on condition that their crew from the barge be released. This was cheerfully granted and the vessel sailed away.

War of the Rebellion—In this war for national unity, the town of Jonesport played a most prominent part. Ever ready was she to raise money for expenditures, and to send her sons to the front. Her record in both is of the best. Too much praise cannot be given to those true and loyal men who left their homes and marched to the front in that bloody struggle of 1861. At the opening and throughout those four years of conflict, rally meetings were continually held in our town. Whenever a call was made upon the town for men, the selectmen held a meeting of the citizens, and there secured the names of those volunteering to enlist. As an inducement, the town paid \$100 and finally, \$200, to the ones thus secured. Volunteers and drafted men were paid a like sum, but it is an honorary fact that very few men were drafted. Approximately 100 men enlisted from this town. With due reverence, we herewith submit the names of Civil War veterans now living in the town of Jonesport: Robert Anderson, B.B. Bickford, W.W. Clark, Daniel Dobbins, David Davis, William H. Faulkingham, Otis Faulkingham, John Faulkingham, Henry Farnsworth, Aaron Kelley, Henry Peasley, George Peasley, Henry Smith, Fred M. Smith, Benjamin Smith, Isaac Worden.

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.*

BHS NEW EXHIBIT

It is with much excitement that BHS will begin a new quest to raise funding to build one final addition to the existing Heritage Center. This section will be built in the ell that is on the western side of the original building and will abut the northern exposed end of the cold storage building. This will cause people to walk through the new addition to enter the cold storage building.

The new exhibit will be used as a 19th Century display of furnishings and artifacts from this era. A few pieces will include the table/chair made as a replica of the original used by Tall Barney. A wooden bed and quilts that were donated from the Alamander Alley house, along with a "Singer" treadle sewing machine. Also donated from other sources are three high-back wooden chairs from the Beals Wesleyan Church, an old bookcase, two old rocking chairs with tapestry-type back and seat, two oil lamps and a set of old dishes, an antique cook stove, and possibility of a set of old cupboards. We are also interested in obtaining a $\frac{3}{4}$ size mattress for the old bed.

If you are interested in sending a donation for this endeavor, BHS is a nonprofit 501©(3) corporation. Therefore, we can offer you a tax-deductible letter. The mailing address is PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611. Thank you!

CONDOLENCES



We wish to offer heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Sylvia Lenfestey Peabody. BHS became a nonprofit organization in the year 2000, and this dear lady was a member of its Board of Directors. Sylvia and her husband, Earl, were charter members and staunch supporters of this most worthy cause, with Sylvia serving as membership chairperson and Earl serving as President and Vice President and later for several years. Sylvia donated artifacts and shared her Beals Island memories, which are currently on display at the Heritage Center. Not long before she passed, she sent an email saying that she didn't have any more memories to share. We so very much appreciated her love for Beals Island and the preservation of its history for generations to come. She will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by BHS.



We wish to extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Stanley Beal. Stanley and Alverda supported BHS as members from its inception. Both were raised and educated on the island and were salt of the earth people. Stanley was a local fisherman and lobster dealer who also served in town government for many years. We will miss this generation, who leaves a major void in our community.



We would also like to send heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Lorraine Wallace. We are so very sad to lose this salt of the earth generation, but are very happy that Lorraine was able to be at the new Beals Bridge celebration to help cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony. It was truly a great honor that she and Osmond Beal shared as the town's eldest citizens still residing on the island. Rest in peace, Lorraine. You will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved you.

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.