

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

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## AVID GARDENER GEORGE DAVIS SPEAKS TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, by Ray Beal

Have you got your seed catalogs yet? Perhaps you have never had a garden. Maybe you have only recently moved into this area and do not know what crops would grow well here. Or maybe you would just like to hear about the gardening adventures of someone else.

Twenty-six years ago George Davis of the Basin Road District of Addison caught the "gardening bug" from his maternal grandfather, George Chandler. In the years since then Mr. Davis has feverishly worked at what he calls his productive hobby. He has gradually expanded the size of his garden and the variety of crops, which last year included six twenty-pound watermelons grown in one of his greenhouses.

Mr. Davis usually gives surplus vegetables to family and friends, but last year for the first time he sold one hundred pounds of tomatoes to a local grocery. He believes there is nothing like home-grown food. For one thing the gardener knows whether or not fertilizer of any other chemical has been used on the plants. He almost believes it is his duty to encourage others to have a garden and produce their own food.

Some of the topics Mr. Davis will discuss and/or demonstrate will be the creation of raised beds, the all important testing of soil PH, companion planting, controlling insects, growing and storing cold weather crops, such as, onions, lettuce, broccoli and warm weather crops, such as, beets, pumpkins and potatoes. In addition to the discussion/demonstration there will be handouts and opportunity to view a slide show of several of Mr. Davis' gardens.

The meeting is open free to the general public. A 50/50 drawing will be held and Mr. Davis is making a carrot cake with cream cheese frosting as well as a chocolate cake with peanut butter frosting for refreshments.

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## REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN

school houses did not exist? The following is quoted from the 1905 Jonesport Census under the heading "Educational Items".

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, schoolhouses 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 discomfort, the longer stay was made where there were 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. Abraham McKenzie, who received \$400 for his work, did this in 1848.

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 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 schoolhouse at Head Harbor and a two-story structure at Alley's Bay.

Prior to 1894 there was a 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 \$1500 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.

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### 2007 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership Chairman reports 20 new members for a total of 167 and 7 new life memberships for a total of 55.

New members include, Leah & Conor Burtchell, Jonah Fagonde, Dana & Thelma Kennedy, Brian & Coleen (Libby) Prenda, Dale & Lenell Fenton, Suzanne Wilson, Carroll & Ronie Strout, Elizabeth (Beal) Sawyer, Sarah Kelley, Gerald Fernald, Dorough Taylor, Thomas & Gloria Tanton, Joseph Langenfeld and Mary Ann Gray.

Renewal members include, Mariner & Donna Bunker, Marvin & Joanne Kelley, Alvin & Olive Beal, Craig & Velora Rumery, George & Iris Woodward, Jerome & Obeline Crowley, Sharon Magnuson, Ordman & Donna Alley, Esten & Etta Drisko, Peter & Teresa Beal, Patricia Johnson, Margaret Beal, Arlene Moore, Stanley & Alverda Beal, Richard & Patricia Carver, Amanda Marcoux, Charles & Patricia J Beal, John & Inez Frazier, Arthur & Lois Woodward, Farrell & Gail Beal, Harold & Cedora Alley, Ronald H. Peabody, Harry & Jane Crowley, Earl & Sylvia Peabody, Myrtle Lenfestey, Bill Plaskon, George & Carol Davis, Michael & Renee Gray, Jay & Sarah Burtchell, Ben Fuller, Rachel Beal, Ray Beal,

Jared & Jessica Fagonde, Muriel Kelley, Dennis & Paula McCormack, Nancy Beal, Sonny & Abbi Beal, Dorothy Alley-Abbott, Rebeca Graves, Robert & Judith Nolan, David & Elizabeth Beal Jardine, Carleton & Virginia Beal, Isaac & Eva Beal, Jeffrey & Glenace Breton, John & Betty Sawyer, Sandra Simmons, Charles Alley, Guy & Nancy Kent, Willard & Lorena Kelley, Ferdinand Jones, Diana Kelley, Calvin & Jeannine Beal, Mina Kent, James Woodward, Bob & Gerry McKeown, Wendall & Joyce Alley, Alice Beal, Clinton & Leona Libby, Carol Closson, Sylvina Lyons, Melinda Woodward, Mercy Beal, Rebecca Lombard, Osmond & Barbara Beal, Frances Alley, Donald Woodward, Jean Rose, Brian Smith, Gordon Smith, Daniel & Pamela Davis, Duane & Doreene Carver, Pamela Taylor, Gene & Maureen Hart, Calvert & Rosalie Carver, Wayne & Loraine Hamilton, Irene Norton, Susanne Doolittle, Veronica Hennessey, Melanie Dow, Gary & Paula Wilson, Lorna Alley and Robert & Jewell Miller.

New Life members include, Robert & Marshia Brown, Harvey & Marjorie Holste, Archie Alley, Jr. and Merle & Regina Beal.

Life members include, Almena Alley, Mario Argentino, Dean & Norma Beal, Earlon & Leta Beal, Lowell Beal, Prof and Mrs. Luther Beal, Mitchell & D'Anna Beal, Stanley & Carolyn Blish, Marcia Brazer, Albert & Beth Carver, Chelsie Carver, Guy & Ruth Carver, Richard "Buzz" & Suzanne Carver, Walter Carver, Rev. Gary DeLong, Nathan & Jenny Fagonde, Kenton & Terry Feeney, Darrell & Debbie Kelley, Ernest & Myrtle Libby, Franklin & Margot Lindsay, David & Louisa McKown, Jesse & Bettina Merchant, Velton Peabody, Leon & Angelena Smith, Lovina (Alley) Smith, Nancy Sullivan & Steve Kent, Cheryl (Peabody) Szacik, Walter & Karen Thompson and Richard & Marie Walston.

Annual membership dues contribute to the general operating budget, including the mailing of this newsletter and life membership contributes to the Endowment Fund, which will help support the operation of a new facility.

The 2007 membership was down 12% from 2006. We need your help. Please complete the enclosed application and return it as early as possible. We greatly appreciate your continued support!!!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 21/**Program mtg/7PM/BES  
**March 17/**Annual Bus/Program mtg/7PM/BES  
**May 3/**Talent/Variety Show/7PM/BES  
**April 26/**Boat Show/3PM/BES  
**June 16/**Program mtg/7PM/BES  
**June 28/**Model Boat Race/NOON  
**September 15/**Program mtg/7PM/BES  
 Please mark these events on your calendar and make a special effort to come and socialize with us. We truly value your involvement.

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### RECENT GIFTS

Newly copied and bound 1905 State of Maine Register donated by Kevin Snyder  
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### GET WELL WISHES

Get well wishes and prayers are extended to former President Velton Peabody who recently fell and broke several bones. If you wish to send cards, his address is 301 South Spring Street, Independence MO 64050.

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### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

It is with great enthusiasm that the BHS Executive Board announces the receipt of \$20,000 from the Davis Family Foundation. They expressed best wishes for the success of our exciting project!

In addition, BHS enlisted the services of Amr and Marcia Ismail in applying for grant funding for our project. On January 10, 2008, they submitted a grant proposal to Jane's Trust for the amount of \$160,000. This trust contributed to the Tides Institute & Museum of Art in Eastport. The Ismail's will continue to search and apply for grant funding for our worthwhile project. We certainly appreciate their efforts and hope for success as we wish to begin the project this year.

As has been stated, we are pursuing grants in the interest of developing the newly acquired town property. We are interested in determining the level of support that exists in the community and within the membership and would appreciate receiving your feedback in regards to this endeavor.

You may email [cfDavis44@yahoo.com](mailto:cfDavis44@yahoo.com) or send us a note at BHS, PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611. Thank you!!!

### OFFICERS

**President:** Carol Davis  
**Interim Vice President:** Kenton Feeney  
**Secretary:** Melinda Woodward  
**Treasurer:** Almena Alley  
**Other Directors:**  
 Ruth Carver, Ray Beal & Brian Smith  
**Membership Chairman:**  
 Pamela Davis  
**Acquisitions Chairman:**  
 Paula McCormack & Pamela Taylor  
**Newsletter editors:** Ray Beal & Carol Davis  
**Publicity Chairman:** Ray Beal  
**Model Boat Show Chairman:** Brian Smith