

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII, No. 3 (Summer 2008)

## Bill Plaskon to Present New Video "Somewhere In Time..."

Bill Plaskon of Jonesport will be the guest speaker for the June 16<sup>th</sup> program meeting held at Beals Elementary School at 7PM.

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Jonesport Historical Society this summer, society board member Bill Plaskon is creating a 60-minute video on DVD called "Somewhere in Time... In Jonesport America". Bill developed the idea for the anniversary video after he received such positive response from the DVDs he created last summer for the JHS/J-BHS Alumni Association Annual Banquet and for the *Music in the Library* piano recital. He started and finished each of those videos with a sentimental tour down Main Street, superimposing some of the buildings with photos from the past.

The new video will begin with traveling back in time to Underwood's sardine factory. It will then include many short segments from the interviews of Jonesport and Beals senior citizens during the past five years, as they talk about childhood, school, sports, entertainment, work experience, and the various places of business in town. One of the highlights of the video will be Maxine (Smith) Morris telling a few stories that she wrote about in "Life on the Corner and Beyond" and "Remembering Underwood's Factory".

Bill will explain the challenges faced with compiling this video and will end his presentation with a sneak preview of "Somewhere in Time...", to be released this July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting is free and open to the public. A 50/50 will be held and light refreshments will be served.

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### TIME AND TIDE PROJECT BY DANIEL F. DAVIS

There are things in life over which we have some measure of control, but the old adage reminds us that "time and tide wait for no man." The passing of time, and the ebb and flow of the tides, remind us that generations have come and gone in our small island community and as surely as our elders depart this scene, so too goes a wealth of knowledge, folklore and history that is likely lost forever.

It is with this thought in mind that I awakened in the early morning hours some weeks ago, motivated to begin a series of articles on island life and the proud heritage that generations of islanders have experienced since white men first settled the shores of Moosabec Reach in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Thus, it is with great enthusiasm that I initiate this "Time and Tide" project, with the goal of collecting and publishing segments of our local history, as well as information about people, places, and events that represent the unique culture and character of our community. This project lends itself well to a cooperative effort. This is why I am inviting you to join me in compiling a database of information on a wide variety of topics, limited only by the extent and level of interests generated by this request.

The following are some topics of possible interest to the general public and which may be included in future editions of the Newsletter. We welcome historical information, photos, personal recollections, or stories relating, but not limited to, the following:

The passenger and car ferry service  
Peddlers to the island  
Tragedies, fires, shipwrecks, and other incidents  
Personal stories that enhance local history  
Memories of school days  
Social activities and celebrations  
Local and visiting entertainers  
Information about boat building, the sardine industry, fishing, etc.  
History of boats, homes, churches, and other buildings  
Information on cemeteries and individuals buried therein  
Genealogy: family origins, histories, stories of interest  
Lighthouses and life saving stations  
Information about surrounding islands, settlements, etc.  
The building of the bridge and causeway  
How life use to be in the "olden days"  
Humorous and entertaining stories  
Information about stores, businesses and other enterprises  
War memories and veterans' stories  
Changes within the community

Stories of the Native Americans who once lived here

As you can see, the list is limited only by our imaginations. These topics represent a treasure-trove of information that defines our past, present and future. I am excited about the possibilities this project presents and the part it can play in the preservation of our past. I look forward to working cooperatively with you in this undertaking. If you will help supply the information, I am willing to compose short articles to be featured in upcoming quarterly newsletters of the Beals Historical Society, or perhaps compiled for future publication in a booklet of local history and folklore. Together, we can ensure that the same stories told around our family tables for more than 200 years will continue to be told to succeeding generations. Comments regarding the value and feasibility of such a project would be appreciated.

In conclusion, I am presently working on an article about the passenger and car ferry service to the island, which I am sure will be of interest to our many readers. I welcome any information that you would like to share on this topic. Please feel free to contact me directly at the following address: Daniel F. Davis, PO Box 22, Beals, ME 04611 (Tel. 207.497.5958) or email your information and comments to Carol Davis at cfdavis44@yahoo.com.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!**

The date for the Model Boat Race will be held on **July 5<sup>th</sup>** at Perio Point. Judging starts at 10AM and the race begins at NOON. If anyone wishes to donate crabmeat, desserts, or time, please call 497-2675. We are looking forward to a great time!!!

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**BHS RECEIVES \$4000!!!**

The Beals Historical Society has been awarded a grant of \$4,000 by the Eastern Maine Conservation Initiative.

According to the award letter, EMC I believes in the value of maintaining and celebrating the historical record and the cultural geography of Eastern coastal Maine. They state, "There is something special about this region of Maine that is unusually rich in legend, lore and lives, and the lessons that spring from them". They go on to say, "An historical society is a wonderful instrument for keeping those lessons and that experience alive. We shall all be better for it".

The BHS Executive Board is proud to receive this award and expresses much appreciation to EMC I for its generosity.

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**BUILDING PROGRESS**

The Executive Board is pleased to announce that Designer Tim Moorhouse presented a drawing of the new exhibit building along with the future boat exhibit building at our board meeting on June 5th.

We are hoping to begin construction of the Exhibit building by August. The building will be a weather tight only structure, to be completed as funds become available. Due to stipulations in the Davis Family Foundation grant, we must demonstrate progress by September.

We appreciate all contributions made thus far and we encourage you to continue your generous giving. Even if each recipient of the newsletter contributed \$10, it would give our fundraising a significant boost!

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**IN APPRECIATION**

The Beals Historical Society wishes to thank everyone for making the 4th Annual Talent Show held on May 3 a huge success! There are many facets to bringing this type of an event to fruition and we appreciate all who assisted with every aspect of it including those who attended. We feel that American Idol needs to visit our neck of the woods to experience the real meaning of the word talent! A special thanks to our Emcee Poison Pam for her belly shaking good humor!

Also on April 19th, the Society held its 8th Annual Model Boat Show and would

like to thank Chairman Brian Smith and his son Gordon as well as Tuddy Kenney for their organizing efforts as well as those who participated by bringing their beautifully handcrafted model boats for display. Here the public once again had the opportunity to view the extraordinary talent that this area provides. It too was a huge success!

In addition to these events, we also wish to thank all those who assisted in organizing and presenting a very touching and inspiring Veteran's Program meeting held on March 17th. First and foremost special thanks to all Veterans who attended and brought, for display, their pictures and memorabilia of the valuable time they gave in serving their country. And to Gail Beal and Pamela Taylor a special thank you for providing the beautiful created individualized display areas and boards. We realize the long hours spent in this endeavor and appreciate having these boards and Veteran information for our archives. In addition we would like to thank Master of Ceremony, Selectman Danny Davis who also spent long hours in organizing the program His manner added much to the ambience of this event. Great appreciation is also extended to the USCG Honor Guard for their outstanding professional conduct in the presentation of colors. We appreciated the young people who participated and attended. A special thanks to JBHS senior Vanessa MacClean for sharing her award-winning essay entitled "My Role in Honoring American Veterans". It too has been added to our archives. The flag folding ceremony professionally presented by Bragdon Kelley's Michael Chapman and Pamela Taylor also provided a much-appreciated special moment. The flag along with its mahogany case was presented to the Society for its archives and Mr. Chapman also presented each Veteran with a nicely carded flag pin. We appreciated the participation of those who shared recollections from past war experiences and those who expressed their appreciation of the Veterans service. There are many others we wish to thank. Jesse Merchant for offering the opening prayer, Paula McCormack preparing food table, florist Don Alley for loaning us a beautiful patriotic bouquet, Wilma Jones for videoing the program and display areas which is also now part of our archives, and for the delicious refreshments provided by local people. Pianist Danny Davis concluded the service by having the audience fittingly sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth".

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Currently the membership roll consists of 107 renewals and 2 new members. BHS wishes to welcome new members Erwin Zimmerman and Sam Murfitt!

Our membership roll needs a boost! Please remember to renew yours today. Thank you!

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 16/Program mtg/7PM/BES**

**July 5/Model Boat Race/NOON**

**September 15/Program mtg/7PM/BES**

**October/Possible Genealogy Fair**

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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**WEBSITE VOLUNTEER**

The Beals Historical Society wishes to thank Arthur Woodward for finding our new Website Manager Mark Hall of Quincy MA. Mark has been a tremendous help. Be sure to check out the newly formatted and updated membership list. If your name is not on the list, it's time to renew your membership. The Website address is [www.moosabec.org](http://www.moosabec.org).

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**GARDENING TIPS FOR THRIVING CROPS**

The gardens are in and its time for those pesky insects to begin snacking on your hard work. Well this is your lucky newsletter as gardener George Davis is willing to share some of his insect control tips. Plus tips on how to keep your plants watered without draining your well.

If you have problems with slugs, using crushed eggshells around the base of the plant will deter them. The shells are too sharp for the slugs to crawl over.

Problems with cutworms? Sprinkle cornmeal around the base of the plant for deterrence.

For cabbage worm, use an organic liquid pesticide called Thuricide Concentrate. This is mixed with water and sprayed on the cabbage. Or you can use Row Cover to cover the plant. This prevents the white moth from laying the worm larvae to begin with. Row Cover is 6'x50' and can be cut to desired length. It allows water and sunlight to get through to plant. These tips are also good for broccoli.

To keep your garden from drying out during the warm months, mulch the plants with dried grass clippings. This will keep the soil moist as well as cool.

For water conservation and soil penetration, puncture two small holes in the bottom of a milk jug and remove the cover. Set the jug along side of your plant and fill with water. The water will slowly seep out allowing a deep penetration of water to the roots.

**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

**Website Manager:** Mark Hall

**Website Address:** [www.moosabec.org](http://www.moosabec.org)

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