

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. IX, No. 1 (Winter 2009)

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY FIRST PROGRAM MEETING OF 2009

BHS first program meeting of the year will take place on January 23rd. at the Beals Elementary School at 7PM and will be a culmination of events beginning with BHS member Bill Plaskon showing a film entitled, "It's the Maine Sardine". The film was shot in 1949 and gives a detailed account of how the sardine is caught using both seine and weirs. It also includes a segment that was filmed inside the William Underwood Factory. Every part of the sardine process, from catching and salting to canning and cooking can be viewed in this film.

After the film, Henry Hosley of Addison, will give a brief presentation on the restoration of old photos using the digital technology of today. If you have photos that have old lines or cracks, please bring them to be scanned for repair.

BHS would like to invite people to bring their family photos, documents, etc to the meeting. The Jonesport and Beals Society's will provide opportunity for these to be scanned into a computer or digital pictures may be taken. It is fine to leave these items in their picture frames or photo albums. This invitation is an effort to bring local families into the archives. It is of vital importance for future families, friends and visitors to be able to find the people they may be in search of in our archives.

During the scanning process, local history collectors, Diana Kelley, Holly Davis and Ronald Gray, have graciously accepted the invitation to display, in part, their collections for public viewing.

The meeting will probably last for a couple of hours and is free and open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served and latecomers are welcome.

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING PROJECT

The Beals Historical Society's Executive Board is both excited and proud to present its newly erected Heritage Center building.

A native style structure to Beals Island, the building is a 28 x 32 cape style design and is the first phase of the project. Thus far contributions have been sufficient to meet the needs of construction. The exterior is nearly completed with only the ends to be shingled. This process will cost \$2500. A sum that BHS is hoping to raise by Spring.

Once completed this structure will house the Tall Barney Beal exhibit in which we hope to depict the lifestyle of Barney and his era. Barnabus Coffin Beal lived on Beals Island from his birth in 1835 to his death in 1899. This Downeast fisherman, according to legend, stood approximately seven feet tall and possessed enormous strength. The tales of Tall Barney's exploits are celebrated in innumerable books and magazine and newspaper articles. Richard Dorson of Indiana University, in his book *Buying the Wind: Regional Folklore in the United States*, likens Tall Barney to Beowulf, Hercules and Samson. These folktales from Downeast are a part of the folklore curriculum in colleges and universities across the country. Also displayed will be the basketball, fisheries, boat-building and individual collection exhibits. Basketball has always played an important role in our small community. In the 1950s, Beals High School, with a total enrollment averaging 30 students, won three state small school basketball championships. It has been the social highlight during the long, cold winters and has created a sense of pride, in our schools. Because of this students have been inspired to succeed and to do well academically. Also included will be BHS photo collection, library, genealogy and a small gift shop to exhibit and sell local handcrafted model boats, books about local history and genealogy and locally homemade preserves and delicacies.

The second phase of the building project will be to erect a building that will house our two boats and any fishing gear that can be stored safely without heat. Boat building has a long tradition in the Moosabec area, dating from the earliest settlement in the late 1700s. The design of the Beals Island-model lobster boat originated here and its impact on today's Maine lobster fleet is recognized the length of the coast. Currently, the Society has in its archives a 1902 Maurice Dow boat and a 1939 Harold Gower boat. Both were Beals Island boat builders.

Moosabec Reach was once a busy seaport where men and women worked hard to survive by creating a self-sustaining life for themselves and their families. With the new exhibit building and the lobster boat exhibit it is the vision of the Society to create an environment in which this generation and future generations can step into the past and catch a glimpse of the way life used to be when Beals Island was an industrious fishing village.

Residents recognize the value of their history, culture, folklore, archives and books, but public access to these resources is limited. The Beals Heritage Center will provide access to historical preservation, for the residents of Beals, as well as, neighboring communities and the hundreds of visitors, to the area, who are passing through or visiting Great Wass Island, which is attached to Beals by a small causeway. The Nature Conservancy, on Great Wass, owns 1,524 acres and attracts hundreds of visitors each year. Besides enjoying the scenic views and natural beauty of the area, the Heritage Center will allow visitors an opportunity to learn about its culture and history. It is imperative for communities to collect, preserve, educate and prepare for residents and visitors who want to learn and experience the heritage of our coastal communities. Beals Island represents the quintessential coastal Maine experience. The Center will provide open access to a dedicated archive of books, pictures, records, videos and oral history projects that catalogue this heritage.

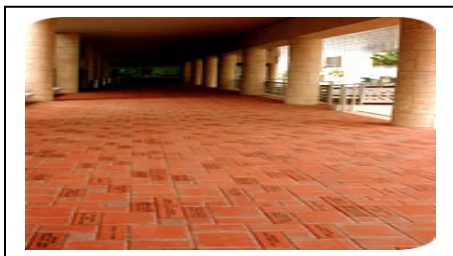
PERSONALIZED MEMORIAL BRICK FUNDRAISER

The Beals Historical Society's Executive Board is pleased to announce the continuation of the memorial brick fundraiser. It is with great anticipation that we can envision a time whereby people can come and sit on the patio and visit with each other as in days of old. We hope to incorporate a bandstand, in a park type setting, whereby special events can be held.



Landscaping of the grounds is a necessary part of the building project. A brick patio will be installed running along the length of the front side of the building. Plus we plan to incorporate brick walkways into the park area. To raise the necessary funds to complete this special project, BHS is offering an opportunity to memorialize or honor a loved one by purchasing one or more bricks. These bricks will be on display as constant reminders of individuals who have become a part of our heritage.

Enclosed please find an application to order personalized memorial brick(s).



For more details, please check the fundraiser link at www.moosabec.org.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Davis at 207-497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23/Program Meeting/7PM/BES
March 20/Annual Business and Program Meeting/6:30PM/BES
April 24/Downeast Boat racing Movie Night/7PM/BES
May 2/Talent/Variety Show/7PM/BES
June 15/Program mtg/7PM/BES
July 11/Model Boat Race/NOON
September 18/Program mtg/7PM/BES
October/Genealogy Fair/BES/Date and Time TBA
Please mark your calendars. We appreciate your attendance!

TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The Membership Committee reports that for the year 2008 BHS had one new life member, 10 new members and 126 renewals. Many thanks for your continued support!!!

With the ushering in of the New Year, comes the time to renew your membership. Or if you are a lifetime member you may consider a small annual contribution. Membership dues are used for the day-to-day general operations. The Lifetime membership is deposited into the Endowment Fund and will be used for future support. Either membership choice is of the utmost importance to the continuation of the Beals Historical Society and is greatly appreciated. Thank you!!!

WEBSITE UPDATED!!!

The Beals Historical Society's website has been given a **new look!!!** A huge thanks goes to volunteer **Mark Hall**, of Hall Associates Consulting, Boston MA, for his creativity in design, organizational skills and his valuable time!!! Be sure to check it out!!!

THE ELUSIVE *ABBIE C. STUBBS* PART II DELAYED BY DANIEL F DAVIS

Our research into the origin and history of the coastal schooner *Abbie C. Stubbs* has raised more questions than it answers. We regret that we are forced to delay Part II of our article "The Elusive *Abbie C. Stubbs*" due to discrepancies encountered in our research, both in the written and physical record.

These discrepancies include variations in the name of the vessel. (*Abby C. Stubbs*, *Abby G. Stubbs*, *Abbie Stubbs*, and *Abby C. Stubbs*); discrepancies surrounding the written and verbal accounts (aft cabin reportedly torn off, yet shown intact in subsequent photo; salvaged on the beach, yet shown offshore in reverse position; debris still evident on beach, yet shown intact on mud banks; conflicting recollections concerning Kelley photograph and identity vessel therein); and discrepancies regarding the physical evidence (pictures obviously showing two different vessels, both purported to be the *Stubbs*; differences in hull lines and superstructure, portholes, shape of stern, etc.)

It is highly likely that the Kelley photo, showing a grounded four-masted schooner, was actually taken at Petit Manan prior to 1933. If so, this explains many of the inconsistencies that we encountered in our research, since that photo was one of our primary sources. We apologize for the delay and that Part II could not be published in this edition of the BHS Newsletter.

The Alley's and the King James Bible

By Stephen H. Alley

Most of us grow up knowing our grandparents, or perhaps even our great grandparents. I remember sitting at Grammy Alley's dining room table and copying hand written notes of my Alley pedigree, which she got for me from her sister-in-law, "Aunt" Sylvina. I think her list went as far back as Samuel Alley. That was 35 years ago and I still have those notes. I remember how proud I felt the first time I saw my name in Velton's book, "Tall Barney's People." A book, which I felt declared to an envious world that I was one of the elect, a descendant of no less than the famous "Gun Powder Beal!" Many years have passed from then to now. And though not forgotten, my roots gathered dust along with many other passions of my youth. Recently my interest in family history was rekindled, although not for some lofty ideal such as preservation of Beal's rich history. No, it was just the glimmer of hope that I could reduce, however slightly, the cost of a college education. It started innocently enough when my second child Sarah asked me; "Dad, you're in the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) aren't you? I was not, but had always been interested. Sarah explained that the SAR had college scholarships and that if I were a member she might win one. "Oh," I said. "I'll get right to work on it." I did, and it has changed my world.



The Alley Arms
Exeter

I was raised in a Christian home and attended church three or more times a week like most everyone I knew. I went to VBS and to church camp. My constant companion was always my King James Bible. Why wouldn't it be? It's "the" one. The other versions might be easier to understand or might present an updated interpretation, but "the King", the "arbiter of disagreements", the bible used in the majority of pulpits, the "last word," must be the good old authorized King James Version. Well, as I have begun to find out while searching for "my people," there is often more to the story than meets the eye. Before I continue, allow me to recount the family's forefather's names, which will be familiar to many readers. I am Stephen. My father was Clifton. His father was Clifton, and so on to Hiram, next to Reuben, to Alexander, and to John who was the first Alley at Beal's Island. Then to Joshua, a revolutionary war soldier, then John, Samuel, Thomas, John, and William the immigrant from England. Next Thomas, Jerome, Roger the Archdeacon of Cornwall, William the Bishop of Exeter, William Mayor of Exeter, and finally John, also Mayor of Exeter. Eighteen generations going back to a time before King Henry VIII. When I was young we would have said "that's cool!"

Everyone knows the story of Henry VIII and his six wives. Henry broke with the Roman Catholic Church, created the Church of England with himself as the head, and caused the new church to grant him an annulment from Katherine of Aragon his wife. It is to the *Right Worshipful, my Lord William Alley, Bishop of Exeter* (as he was called by his second wife Sybil, in the birth announcement of his son Austin in the year 1565, that we turn our attention.

William was only 14 years old when he was appointed a Kings Scholar at Eaton, one of only 70 such appointments per year, William was thus thrust into a world of academia and religion. He received his Bachelors' degree in 1531 from Cambridge and his Doctors of Divinity in 1561 from Oxford. Edward VI ascended to the throne at Henry's death in 1547, William Alley was 37 years old. Edward moved the Church of England further toward Protestantism and William prospered and advanced under his reign. "Bloody" Mary became Queen in 1553 and immediately restored the Catholic Church and began killing Protestants. William, who was 43 at the time, fled to northern England with his wife and children to escape persecution. He survived by staying on the move, and lived by teaching and practicing medicine. Unfortunately for Mary, but fortunately for our story, she died of cancer at the age of 42 and her half sister Elizabeth became monarch. Elizabeth restored the Church of England and set about to rebuild the clergy to lead it. Enter our man, William Alley. He is highly educated, a former clergyman under Elizabeth's

father, Henry, and Williams sermons have demonstrated his support for the Church of England, making him a perfect choice for a new Bishop. William came to the attention of Queen Elizabeth I while he was serving as the Prebendary of Saint Paul's Cathedral in London. He frequently prepared sermons, which were heard by the Queen and so impressed her that she became "fixed upon him." In 1560 her "fixation" led her to replace the fallen Turberville, Bishop of Exeter, with William. Elizabeth further demonstrated her admiration on the following New Years, 1561, by sending him a silver cup, a practice she continued with a new cup every year thereafter until his death in 1570.

Queen Elizabeth made permanent, King Henry's break with the Roman Catholic Church. She knew that England, its people, its church, and our William, had been through 24 years of turmoil. She believed that the church needed stability and the support of the common people. After her restoration of the Anglican Church in England the Geneva Bible came back into use. Matthew Parker, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, along with most of the rest of the Bishops did not like the Geneva Bible because it taught that church leadership could be comprised of laymen, which would eliminate the need for Bishops. Parker petitioned Queen Elizabeth and gained approval to write a new translation of the bible. He assigned various portions of the bible to each Bishop and with the queen's approval, Bishop William Alley was assigned the task of overseeing the translation of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament. This he did, and in the year 1565 the new bible was published, becoming known as The Bishops Bible. Each Bishop had to approve his portion and signify so by assigning his mark to the manuscript. A letter survives today, written by Arch Bishop Parker bearing William's code "WE" for the book of Deuteronomy.

So what does all of this have to do with the King James Version of the bible? When Queen Elizabeth died, James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne and became James I of England and the monarch of both countries. James was a Presbyterian, and a man of deep religious convictions, and was determined to unite all his people under one church. He called a conference to discuss things "amiss" with the church in 1604 and was advised by the Puritan president of Corpus Christi College, John Reynolds, that a new translation of the bible was needed. King James agreed and in his edict to the Arch Bishop of Canterbury instructing how to conduct the translation he gave fifteen points. His first point was that the Bishops Bible should serve as the basis of the new translation and should be retained unchanged as much as possible. The result is that today, as we read the Kings James Bible, roughly twenty-five percent remains unchanged from the Bishops Bible. Twenty-five percent of those words and verses are exactly what William Alley approved and submitted to Queen Elizabeth. I have often marveled at the manner in which the Holy Bible has come to modern man. God, using mortals, inspired them to take up pen and write. I can't help feeling a bit of pride that William was one of those mortals. Having discovered the story of William, I cannot now open a King James Bible without feeling a powerful new connection to it. I find myself, with a twinkle in my eye; opening conversations to new acquaintances with lines like "Let me tell you how my 14th great grandfather wrote the bible!" That will generally illicit an interesting response and it provides me the opportunity to discuss my new found love, genealogy and family history.

Sources:

Ray Alley's information, published on the web at: Alley Ancestors, <http://www.sutv.com>

Exeter Cathedral, on the web at: <http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/>

Diocese Of Exeter, on the web at: <http://www.exeter.anglican.org/>

The Lives of the Bishops of Exeter, on the web at: <http://www.dsnell.zynet.co.uk/bishops.html>

"Alley Ancestors" by Gene Alley, 1994, published by Gregath Publishing Co. Wyandotte, OK.

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER FUND-RAISING DRIVE *BUY A BRICK PROGRAM*

The Beals Historical Society is now ready to begin its' Brick Fundraising Program. The purchase of a brick will enable the continuation, of the heritage center construction, by completing the patio and entranceway of the center. Your purchase of a commemorative 4x8 *cinnamon colored* brick with *black filled* lettering for \$100.00 is a tax-deductible donation. Please join family, friends and neighbors as we strive to complete the construction of the Beals Heritage Center in 2009!

YES! We'd like to reserve a permanent brick.

4x8 Brick **SAMPLE**

			I	N		M	E	M	O	R	Y		O	F			
A	R	N	O	L	D		&		I	V	Y		J	O	N	E	S
		G	R	A	N	D	S	O	N	,		M	E	L	V	I	N

_____ Check here for 4x8 brick for \$100.00 (standard block lettering included).

Please engrave our brick as follows:

ANY LETTER, FIGURE, PUNCTUATION MARK, ETC. IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE.
ALL TEXT IS CENTERED AUTOMATICALLY. YOU DO NOT NEED TO CENTER IT.

4 x 8 brick lettering-18 spaces.

PLEASE PRINT THIS FORM, COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 280, Beals, ME 04611

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email Address: _____ Amount Paid: _____

If you have any questions, please call (207) 497-2675 or email cfDavis44@yahoo.com for further information.

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: _____ Phone: _____

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

- Individual Annual \$10 annually
- Individual/Life \$200 one-time payment
- Couple Annual \$15 annually
- Couple/Life \$300 one-time payment
- Senior/65 Annual \$5 annually
- Senior couple/65 Annual \$7.50 annually
- Student \$5 annually

Over and above dues, I wish to donate _____ to the Society. Your receipt and membership card will be mailed 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, PO Box 280, Beals, ME 04611

Memberships are for the calendar year and expire Dec. 31.