

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. IX, No. 4 (Fall 2009)

## BHS SPONSORS "KARAOKE NIGHT"

At 6 PM, on the evening of Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Beals Historical Society will sponsor a Karaoke Night at Beal's Elementary School. This is an effort to raise funds to purchase stain for the exterior of the new historical building and to finish the interior electrical hookup and the insulation before the end of October. BHS member and system operator George Davis has purchased new and improved sound equipment for the occasion and says, "You don't want to miss this night"!!! This is local singing talent at its best!!! Anyone wishing to sing can contact Carol at 497-2675 or see her at the show. In lieu of admission charges, donations are much appreciated and will be accepted at the door. Also, 50/50 tickets, steamed hot dogs, homemade needhams, fudge, and other goodies will be sold. Should be a fun evening!

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## MEMORIES OF THE LENFESTEY FARM

*By Sylvia Lenfestey Peabody*

Beals Elementary School, where I enjoyed my first year of retirement in 1995-96 as a special ed aide, was built in 1980 on a section of what was once my grandparents' farm. In fact, my sister Carolyn and I were both born in the old farmhouse, which still stands behind the school. Each time I looked at the deserted house, with its yard overgrown with grass and weeds, wonderful childhood memories would come flooding back to me. They are memories of happy, carefree times, content and secure in the love and caring of family.

The Lenfestey Farm, which was previously the Eldad Alley Farm, was bought by my great-grandfather Abraham Alfred (Fred) Lenfestey in the late 1800's. He had come to Maine as a young man on a ship from the Guernsey Islands in the English Channel. He met Sylvia (Sylvie) Kelley, a widow with two young children, who ran a small store on Head Harbor Island. They married and had five more children after moving to the farm.

"Sylvie" was to become my great-grandmother, for whom I was named many years later. By then my grandparents, Charles (Charlie) and Greta Lenfestey, had taken over the farm when Grampy Fred passed away, and Grammie Sylvie lived with them. She died when I was five, but I vaguely remember sitting at her feet and threading her sewing needles for her as she sat in her rocking chair in the big, cozy kitchen. I also remember her bedroom, which was in the main chamber above the living room. I felt very special and honored the few times I was allowed to spend the night with her. I also remember my Aunt Willavie's small bedroom beside it at the top of the stairs, where I loved spending the night with my teen-age aunt,

singing ourselves to sleep with "Blue Heaven" as we gazed at to sing and play on her guitar "Shep". I always cried as she where the good doggies go, and roam. But if dogs have a know, Old Shep has a

On the other side of the the "ell chamber" with its own of my fondest memories there Greta rubbing my chest with well-worn hands feeling so hear the wind whistling around house on cold, winter nights.

back feelings of being cozy and safe. It was in that room that Grammie read to me a story from the Sunday School paper, "The First Easter Lily at Lone Gulch". I don't remember much about the story, but I never forgot the title.

How I loved riding in the horse-drawn sleigh with my father and grandfather, as they hauled logs out of the woods for winter fires. Another winter memory is of the little skating pond behind the house, where I learned to skate on my double runners. I remember the smell of the haying season and how high the hayrack was, when loaded with new-mown hay for the



Figure 1 From left Farrell Lenfestey, Sylvia Lenfestey, Greta Lenfestey, unknown and Charles Lenfestey

"You're the Only Star in My the night sky. I often asked her one of my favorites, "Old sang, "Now Old Shep has gone no more with Old Shep will I heaven, there's one thing I wonderful home."

house, above the kitchen, was stairway by the back door. One was that of my grandmother Camphorated Oil, her rough comforting to me. I can still the southwest corner of the That sound has always brought

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horses and cows. One day I was riding on the top of the hayrack as it was being pulled into the barn. Someone yelled, "Sylvia, lie down!". My back was scraped on the top of the barn door as we went through.

My father Farrell, of course, grew up on the farm with his three siblings. How I wish he had written down the stories about his wonderful childhood memories that he often shared with Carolyn and me and, later, with his grandchildren. He could have written a "best seller", at least for Beals and Jonesport. Or we could have taped him telling the stories but, unfortunately, it's too late for that. He went on to his reward in 2006.

There are other bits and pieces of memories, too fragmented to make much sense to anyone except me. And the feelings that accompany all these memories are beyond the realm of sharing. They will always be a treasured part of me. I shall always be grateful to my Heavenly Father for giving me the priceless heritage of a happy childhood with a loving, nurturing, extended family.

P.S. The southwest corner of the school is near where the old woodshed stood, with the outhouse in one end, complete with Sears and Roebuck catalogs, in case we ran out of toilet paper!

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**BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BUILDING NEEDS  
VOLUNTEERS, BY NANCY BEAL**

For the past several weeks, early Thursday evenings, a handful of volunteers have been nailing cedar shingles onto the outside of the 28-by-32-foot cape style building that will house the artifacts and activities of the Beals Historical Society. BHS Carol Davis hopes that handful will grow before cold weather puts a stop to the construction on the old schoolhouse lot.

Always looking for a bargain, Davis, through T.A. King & Son lumber yard, found a shingle wholesaler willing to sell previously stained shingles at a reduced rate and the BHS was able to buy 14 squares of grade A, primed shingles for \$1,500. They intend to use a grant, obtained by BHS Vice President Kenton Feeney from the merchant marine company he sails with, to help complete the electrical hook-up, which presently extends from the pole to an interior entrance.

If enough money is raised at a September 18 karaoke night, the next project is insulating the inside walls. Davis says they intend to finish off the inside with the type of wainscoting and molding that would have been found in an early Beals Island home. The front half of the building will house exhibit space. The back half will be divided into an archive room, a boiler room and a restroom. All but the boiler room will be handicapped accessible.

Right now, Davis is sending out the call for volunteers. After the exterior walls are shingled, they will need to be stained a uniform color. It is work that can be done by males or females, she points out and, since BHS is a non-profit organization, will earn the volunteer a tax-deductible charitable donation for which BHS will issue a letter stating the amount of time and value of that time the volunteer has contributed. Anyone willing to help can reach Davis at 497-2675 or by email at [cfdavis@yahoo.com](mailto:cfdavis@yahoo.com) or contact Chris Crowley at 497-5577.

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**BRICK FUNDRAISER REMINDER**

Currently we have 17 memorial brick orders. We need 25 to place our first order. We hope you are considering honoring or memorializing your loved ones. Or you may wish to purchase a brick to commemorate your school and year of graduation. Thank you!

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**VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT REQUEST**

The quest to raise funds for a Veteran's Monument is ongoing. Since the last newsletter, Chairperson Pam Taylor has reported that \$25 has been received towards this important cause. Contributions may be made payable to: Beals Historical Society, PO Box 101, Beals ME 04611. We will keep you posted on the progress.

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**2009 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

BHS would like to **WELCOME** new member Eva Faulkingham of Jonesport, ME. Thank you for joining and also for clipping newspaper articles for the archives!

At this time, BHS has 100 current members and 54 Life members. We are gaining! BHS grew to 200 members when it was first started. Please remember to submit your membership renewal application today. Thank you for your support!!! ☺

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**BHS DECEASED MEMBERSHIP WEBSITE ROLL**

Thanks to Website Manager, Mark Hall, BHS has added a deceased members section to the bottom of the website "Membership" page. We would like to add pictures, birth and death dates, church affiliation, spouse info, any war or service history or any special history pertaining to these people. Also please let us know if we have missed any members. If you have any information, you may leave a message at 497-2675, email [cfdavis44@yahoo.com](mailto:cfdavis44@yahoo.com) or send it to BHS, PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611. Thank you!

**OFFICERS**

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