

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. X, No. 1 (Winter 2010)

## Tim Harrison to Present “*Lighthouses and Their Role in American History*”

On Friday, January 22, at 7PM, at the Beals Elementary School highly sought after speaker Tim Harrison, editor and publisher of the Maine based *Lighthouse Digest Magazine*, will bring an extremely lively and entertaining presentation entitled, *Lighthouses and Their Role in American History*. Tim is the author of nine lighthouse books and the past president of the non-profit American Lighthouse Foundation, which was co-founded by him in 1994. He is currently cochairman of the Friends of Little River Lighthouse, a member of the Board of Directors of the Maine Lighthouse Museum and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Foundation. He is also a recipient of the United States Coast Guard’s Meritorious Public Service Medal for his wide spread and varied efforts in lighthouse preservation and saving the history associated with them.

Among the books he has authored include, *Lighthouses of the Sunrise County*, which is the most complete history and photographic accounting of the lighthouses of Washington County, Maine and *Lighthouses of Bar Harbor and the Acadia Region*. Books that he coauthored with Ray Jones, *The Golden Age of American Lighthouses* and *Lost Lighthouses* were for many years the best selling lighthouse books in the United States. Harrison has also written hundreds of lighthouse articles and appeared on numerous lighthouse documentaries and television programs. His most recent book is *Ghost Lights of Michigan* which is about the lost and forgotten lighthouses of the Great Lake State.

The meeting is free and open to the general public. Light refreshments will be served

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## William Beal Sr. Connections

by Keith F. Beal

History in general has always been an avenue of curiosity. Traveling this route brought questions about my family’s history. Uncle Bob fueled the search with names, places, and stories he had found years earlier. As an attorney, he had the right resources and experience to sift through deeds and documents to bring color to the bare branches of the paper trees left from previous family historians.

Using the tools of modern technology makes the search and recording of the family tree a less onerous task. Beginning in 2004, my compilation began with information recorded by my mother, Ruth Beal, old parchment-like trees, and the stories from Unc. A copy of my information has been given to the Historical Society for anyone interested. This seems to be a good focal point because this effort is somewhat dynamic (given time, information, and ambition). Updates of my tree will be submitted as they are generated.

From life experience it seems heredity controls a large part of who we are. That in mind causes me to ponder; do I think/feel/intuit in the same manner as my predecessors? Maybe; I’m thinking so. Most thoughts are a mystery of their origin. So, genealogy is a search of self. Now that’s a true mystery!

Provoked and inspired, I’ve developed some mind-opening connections to the past. Many sources concur that our Beal came to America as William in 1653. He bought/squatted/was given land or bought ¼ interest in a saw mill, depending on the source, in the town of present York, Maine. He came from Plympton, England and went back. His son, Arthur, arrived to succeed his father in York in 1655. Arthur begat Arthur Jr., William, Sarah, Nicholas, Dina, Hope, Elizabeth, and Edmund. Our (Beals, Maine and my hereditary path, Avon, Maine) history is started by Arthur, Jr. Another extensive history began with William. He wasn’t named William II by Arthur so he’s found historically as William Sr. He begat William Jr., who begat Jonathan Sr., who begat... (you guessed it) Jonathan Jr., who begat Stephen, who begat Moses (family name from his mother’s family), who begat Jarvis, who begat Abijah. Abijah, after all this begetting, married Ellen Eliza Bird. That’s as far as I followed because she has lineage from William Brewster, who was a member of the original Plymouth Colony of 1620. Convolutd but cool. This information I gathered at the Maine State Library. One of the few times my tax dollars have done something positive for me. Charles Lewis Beal from Yorba Linda, California did the research.

There are many more interesting Beals in this line than Ellen. All seemed to have made a mark on history with the exception of William Jr. and Jonathan Jr. The historically significant events of this line began with **William Sr.** and his family. Besides his vocation as operator of the Trafton Ferry in York, he was a militia member. He was seriously injured on duty in 1698, receiving a pension. He also built a garrison for the protection of the families near Trafton Ferry. Sadly, his daughter, Joanna, was killed by Indians in May, 1712. Also his twin daughters, Mary and Abishga were kidnapped by Indians, never to be heard from again. The kidnapping was relayed to me by another family biographer. I don’t have substantiation of this but it seems to have credence with the practice of the time for Indians to raid, kidnap, and sell/trade with the French in Quebec. In January, 1692 York was attacked and burned by Indians. This is known as the “York Massacre” during which 300 York residents were either killed or captured. William and his family survived this battle by being on the opposite side of the York River at Trafton’s Ferry. William built his garrison in 1708. Perhaps this was in response to the loss of his daughters, Mary and Abishga.

**Jonathan Sr.** was also a soldier during the French and Indian War. He was part of the expedition that established Fort Halifax in present day Winslow, Maine. Jonathan Sr. was a private in the unit that was defeated at Ticonderoga, N.Y. in July, 1758. (continued)

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He and his unit gained revenge as part of the attack and defeat of the French at Quebec City, Canada in 1759. This victory ended the war, bringing North America under British rule.

Following the war, Jonathan and his family moved to Royalsborough (now known as Durham, Maine) where he started his own ferry service. The ferry, known as Beal's Landing and Ferry, was built on the Androscoggin River.

Jonathan Sr. was next in war against the British during the American Revolution. He served in the Navy on the brigantine (2 masted ship) "Freedom" from 1777 to 1778. He then served on another brigantine in 1779 known as the "Tyrannicide".

Following his service in the Revolution he returned to his ferry business. It stayed in operation until 1818. Jonathan Sr. lived with his son, William in Monmouth, Maine, where he died sometime between 1810 and 1825.

**Stephen's** contribution to family lore was his connection to 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. President, John Adams. His relationship to the President is through his wife, Charlotte Goold (Gould). Charlotte's mother was Ann Adams Goold. Ann is a direct descendent of the President. Ann's ancestral family also lost 2 members during the "York Massacre".

**Moses Beal** joined the Maine 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry at age 41 in 1862. This was for the Civil War. He joined with his brother, William (another William), and his oldest son, Jarvis. They volunteered for a 9 month tour in Greene, Maine. The 23<sup>rd</sup> spent it's time serving as guards and pickets for the Union Army along the Potomac River. The Unit was mustered out in 1863. Moses went back to farming and carpentry in Greene.

**Jarvis**, however, re-enlisted in 1863 with the Maine 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Jarvis's time during the Civil War was more active. He began as a private in Company K of the 29<sup>th</sup>. This enlistment was as a paid substitute for a draftee. His Unit was mustered into service at Camp Keyes in Augusta, Maine. They left Portland, Maine on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864 by steamship to New Orleans, Louisiana. Jarvis stayed healthy and was involved in every campaign of his Company. They fought in the Red River, Texas campaign. Then they were part of General Sheridan's Virginia Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Battles fought were at Sabine Cross Roads, Pleasant Hill, Monett's Bluff, Cane River Crossing, Louisiana. Also in Louisiana, Jarvis and his unit helped build the "Yankee Dam" which saved the Union Mississippi Fleet. In Virginia the 29<sup>th</sup> fought at Berryville, Opequan, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. Their final service was as guard duty of the assassin collaborators of President Abraham Lincoln at the Washington Arsenal in Washington, D.C.

Jarvis was discharged as Sergeant in June, 1866 at Hilton Head, South Carolina. He returned and lived in Greene until 1874. He and his family then lived in Webster (Sabattus), Maine until 1889. Following his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife's death in 1889, Jarvis remarried in 1890 and moved his family to Newton, Massachusetts. He worked as a well-known Contractor and Builder in Newton. He died in Newton in 1916. Because of his involvement in the Pleasant Hill, Louisiana battle during the Civil War, he requested and was buried at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Greene, Maine.

The William Sr. line was involved in significant historical events. How would I (we) behave in similar circumstances? Because of our shared DNA, I suspect similarly.

Note: The author of this article, Keith F. Beal, is a descendant of Benjamin Beal brother of Manwarren Beal SR, the father of first settler of Beals, Manwarren Beal, Jr. Thanks to Keith we now have Beal genealogy that we have never seen or

heard about before! If you would like to contact Keith you may email him at [kfb17@gwi.net](mailto:kfb17@gwi.net).

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### 2009 AND 2010 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The 2009 Annual membership totaled 130 along with 54 Life members. Membership dues are used for the general operations of BHS. We thank you immensely for your support and would remind you that it is **now time to renew** your membership for 2010!!! Please find an application enclosed with this newsletter.

BHS would like to **WELCOME** its first 2010 new member Keith F. Beal of Hinckley ME.

Membership Chairpersons Danny and Pamela Davis would like to welcome Eva Faulkingham to the BHS Membership Committee.

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### BHS EXTENDS CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences are sent to the families of BHS members Myrtle Lenfestey, Muriel "Dolly" Kelley and Lottie "Aunt Lottie" Beal. All of these women will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by all who knew and loved them.

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### GET WELL WISHES

The Society extends a huge **GET WELL SOON** wish to Luther Beal. If you wish to send him a card, his address is Country Manner Rehab, Rm118, 180 Low St, Newburyport, MA 01950-3519. Or you can contact him by email at, [lmbeal@comcast.net](mailto:lmbeal@comcast.net). He would love to hear from you.

In the interest of preserving history and fundraising for the Beals Wesleyan Church steeple restoration project, Luther has compiled a DVD featuring the steeples removal. It is available by donation of \$20. To order, please contact Chris Crowley at 497.5577 or email him at, [crowley@union103.org](mailto:crowley@union103.org).

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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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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 22**/Tim Harrison/Program Meeting/7PM/BES
- March 19**/Annual Business and Program Meeting/6:30PM/BES
- April 22**/Downeast Boat Racing Movie Night/7PM/BES
- May 1**/Talent/Variety Show/7PM/BES
- May 31**/ Memorial Day/Program/10AM
- June 11**/Program mtg/7PM/BES
- June 26**/Model Boat Race/Judges Choice 10AM; Race@NOON
- November 11**/Veterans Program mtg/7PM/BES

**Please mark your calendars. We greatly appreciate your attendance!**

### OFFICERS

- President:** Carol Davis
- Vice President:** Kenton Feeny
- Secretary:** Melinda Woodward
- Treasurer:** Almena Alley
- Other Directors:**  
Ruth Carver, Ray Beal & Chris Crowley
- Membership Chairman & Committee:**  
Daniel & Pamela Davis and Eva Faulkingham
- Acquisitions Chairman:**
- Newsletter editors:** Carol Davis & Luther Beal
- Publicity Chairman:** George Davis
- Website Manager:** Mark Hall
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