

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



## PHASE III COLD STORAGE AREA ANNOUNCEMENT

After raising a total of \$30,000 in grant funding, BHS Executive Board is pleased to announce Dwight Alley as the building contractor for the Cold Storage Area. However, we still need to raise \$4,000 to complete the cost for this task. If everyone who receives this announcement would please make a small contribution of \$10, we could successfully reach the goal. You may do so by dropping it off to Patti at Carver Heating or by mailing a check to: BHS, PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611.

We feel that it is important for our young people to know about their roots, and that's why we have worked so hard to preserve historical artifacts, documents, these boats and other fishing artifacts. The boats are truly remarkable. The oldest lobster boat, built in 1902 by Maurice Dow, is the only one of its kind known to exist. In that era of boat building, there was an evolution occurring in lobster boat design, combined with the introduction of the internal combustion engine. The era of oar-powered lobster boats, such as rowboats, dories, pea pods, and sail powered boats, including the Friendship sloop, was giving way to boats of a different design, or boats that could be rowed, sailed, or power driven, called "reach boats." The reach boat hull was somewhat of a schooner design, with a rounded stem and a slanted schooner-type transom stern, and rounded bilge. Our Dow boat captures the transition from oar-powered lobster boats to "reach boats."

Our second lobster boat is a Harold Gower Jonesport Model (square stern

and other characteristic design features) originally built for a Beals fisherman Kenneth Beal. Harold Gower was a renowned Beals boat builder known for building "the Cadillac of lobster boats." This model represents the pinnacle of wooden lobster boat design. With your help, we can preserve these boats for the next generation to know and learn from.

This project seeks to help our young people as well as our visitors to understand the important history of lobster boat building and understand how the evolution of the boats shaped the development of one of Maine's most important economic activities. This fundraising opportunity for the public to support the construction of a permanent space to not only preserve two unique and historic lobster boats, but also to educate Mainers and visitors alike about a very important aspect of Maine's past and present economy and indeed, our culture.

Our plans are for a simple structure that is large enough to accommodate the boats, accompanying artifacts and public viewers. At a future date, we hope to raise funds to restore the boats to their original beauty, but we cannot do that until we can protect what we have now. We would ask you to please contribute to our most worthwhile project. Your continued support of BHS is most appreciated.

Vol. XVI, No. 4 (Fall 2016)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 29 @6:30PM**  
Gospel Concert

*Please mark your calendars as we greatly appreciate your support!*

## Condolences

*We wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the family of*  
**Almena L. Alley.**

*Almena was one of BHS founding life members and served as its treasurer until 2008.*

*Also we wish to express heartfelt sympathy to the family of BHS life member, **Earlon O. Beal.***

*Earlon was a Beals Island lobsterfisherman and owner of the islands only RCA television, radio and electronics business for many years.*

*Both Almena and Earlon will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved them.*



## 2016 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Currently BHS has 61 life members, 8 new and 112 renewals for a membership total of 182. If you have not received a 2016 membership card, we hope you

will renew your membership today or become a new member by completing the application found online at [www.moosabec.org](http://www.moosabec.org).

## MY MOTHER (ALMENA LENFESTEY FAULKINGHAM ALLEY)

*By Carol Leslie Faulkingham Davis*

My mother was raised on a farm where she learned the meaning of the term, “hard work” and was not afraid of it. One of her morning duties before going to school was to lead the cow across the island and stake her out on someone’s lawn where she would graze for the day and then after school, return to get the cow and take her back to the farm. This she did with assistance from her youngest brother Wilfred who attributes his fast walking to chasing her around the island pulling the cow.

Mama would proudly tell those visiting the Heritage Center about how her family’s farm supplied the milk for all of Beal’s Island. One day she said her father, Ewart or Barpa to us, had loaded the wagon with glass bottles of milk, and had hitched the horse to it. He was all ready to drive around the island delivering his nice fresh milk to his customers. But, as was his routine, he took his money can into the house to make change. While gone, the horse, which was easily spooked was startled by something and took off into the field with the wagonload of milk. The horse soon rounded a corner by the pigpen and away went the wagon up on its side and upset the whole load of glass bottles right into pigpen. By the time Barpa arrived on the scene to see what was going on, the horse was running down the field and the pig was happily chomping on the glass bottles. After securing the horse, he returned to the house and told his good wife,

Mineola or Grammie to us, about what had happened and that pig would never live until morning. The next morning Barpa went out to the pigpen to check on the pig and much to his surprise the pig was sitting there waiting for his breakfast. (Personally, it is my guess that Grammie offered a little prayer for him).

Mama had other jobs on the farm that were not quite as pleasant as cow duty, but besides work they also had fun times and one of the most fun things of all to do was in the barn. Once the hay fields

looked forward to. They did not have electronic games such as minecraft to play. All they had was good old fashion fun such as playing in the hay mound, but this could only take place after the work was all done.

Growing up on the farm is probably the reason why my mother was not afraid of a little hard work. As a young girl, I’ve seen her raise an extension ladder to the second story window of our house, remove the old heavy wooden, four pane storm window, carry it down to the ground and into the cellar, scrape, remove and refill the putty, paint it and then carry it back up the ladder where she refastened it over the inside window. She did a mans work and was both mother and father to her two girls who were the loves of her life.

She was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend to many including the IGA salesmen who enjoyed their visit with her up in the “crows nest”. She loved all of her family and they all knew it by her actions of kindness and love. We take great comfort and peace in knowing that her work on this earth is done and that she has gone on to her heavenly home where she was greeted by her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and by her loving family and friends who passed on before her. May she rest in peace from her labor of love on this earth and may her spirit continue to visit us as we continue on our own life’s journey. May God be with us until we meet again. Love you to the moon and back, Mama.



*Almena Lenfestey Faulkingham Alley*

were mowed and piled in the barn, the children would come from all over the island to help pack it down by jumping off of the second floor in it. It was a fun time for all and one the children all

*Memoirs by Erroll George Woodward*

The Island had so many places to visit that it would be impossible for me to remember and name them all. A walk to Seaduck Beach was an awesome adventure. The Bungalow sat along the path and its location offered a spectacular

view of the “Westen Bay.” Seaduck Beach with its undertow polished stones offered Europe as the next stop. The walk to the beach developed a thirst that required a swig from the cold flow of the “ Drinking Brook”. From there the walk to the abandoned Coast Guard station

finished off the time available for visiting before needing to leave for home.

Running all the way to Alley’s Bay and return seemed quite an accomplishment. Stopping over at the Back Field and looking onto the “Eastern Bay” with its

*Continued On Next Page*

### Continued

several islands was a heart stirring activity. Patriotism ran high on Beals in those days and the sounds of fireworks early in the morning started the 4th of July off well. The Back Field was the place for activities and picnics on the "Fourth" and other times as well. The Back Field was privately owned and care was taken to leave it in as good or better condition than it was at the beginning of activities.

The beach along the road to Perio Point offered great swimming on a day when the sun had shone on it for several hours before the tide came in to cover it. The water would become and remain unusually warm for quite some time. This was the beach where baptisms were often held.

The Flying Place, I recall as being a mackerel fishing spot. Lots of mackerel were caught in the evenings during their schooling times. These were home canned or salted away as part of the winter's food supply. How I miss them or a piece of real (cheesy) dried fish, dried in the good, old fashioned, open airway.

The gravel banks along the Sewall Field were filled with holes where the bank swallows had made their nests. The beach there abounded with sandbirds and plovers.

The Mud Hole was rightly named as the mud in that cove was soft, deep, and sticky. It was difficult for me to dig clams there. However it was possible to stick my hand down a clam hole and remove a rather large sized clam. That was hard on the

fingers and caused cuts but it was better than my trying to use a mud hoe all the time.

The Reach offered challenges. Aside from the tides pulling trap buoys under, there was at least one winter it was frozen over for an unusual length of time. This was about 1943 and it set boat owners scrambling to get boats into safe storage or anchorage. At that time, Billy Peck carried the mail by boat, of course, to and from Beals. As "The mail must go through," Billy took to the ice. Enlisting the aid of a helper, they pulled a skiff across the frozen Reach and the mail continued coming and going.

The Big Pond beside the school, though it was hardly bigger than the proverbial postage stamp, was a favorite place to ice skate during the winter. In the spring and summer it was a place to watch and listen to frogs.

Of course, we youngsters liked to explore and we searched through wharves and buildings, derelict boats, coves, wooded areas, and paths to who knows where, finding abandoned engines, herring stringers, and other treasures no one else seemed to care about.

The view from our house at Barney's Cove included Little Island, Mack's Point, The Sheep Islands, Hardwood

Island, and some of West Jonesport. Little Island had two notable landmarks. There was one small tree growing on it (probably a spruce) and Jerome Crowley's bait shack. At low tide it was possible to walk across the bar between Mack's Point and Little Island. Hardwood Island quarry was in operation in my early years. The house the workers used often reflected sunlight from its windows. On wild stormy days, we could see the windblown spume from the breakers at the Sheep Ledges flying high into the air. It was not a time to be out there in a boat so perhaps a trip to Bangor was in order for that day.

## GIFTS RECEIVED THUS FAR IN 2016

From Sylvia Peabody & Cheryl Szacik: 1. A book entitled, *The Finest Hours*, by Michael J. Tougias and Casey Sherman. The true story of a heroic sea rescue. 2. An adaptation of the book, *The Finest Hours*, for young readers. Provenance: The "MLB Surf Runner" boat, used in "The Finest Hours" Disney film, belonged to Captain Ronald H. Peabody. It was his dream that the 1941 USCG motor life boat that he had so painstakingly restored over a span of 14 years, made her movie debut after being chosen for the lead role.

From Leslie Peabody, Jr.: 1. Small wooden Barrel with E.W. Drisko, on the original nail keg head. It was used in halibut trawling as a buoy. 2. A wooden block used as a snatch block to haul in halibut trawls. Note: The block was handmade and replaced quite often by craftsman, Sanford

Burke. 3. A vintage flat iron. Provenance: This collection came from George Drisko's work shop. Barrel and snatch block belonged to George father, Ellis Drisko Sr. and was used for halibut trawling. Vintage flat iron belonged to his mother Christianna.

From Pamela Beal: Collection of photos originally belonging to Jenny Lenfestey Beal. Collection includes a family photo of one of the most noted boatbuilder's of his time, Maurice Dow. Maurice was the building of BHS 1902 overhang stern boat. The collection also includes a photo of Barney and Phebe's 6th child, Sarah Margaret Beal, holding her little girl, Mineola Beal Lenfestey. Provenance: Original collection of Jenny Lenfestey Beal. Preserved by her daughter, Aletha Beal Alley.

From Duane Carver: 1.

Torpedo stern model crafted by boatbuilder Douglas Dodge. 2. Three warm-up jackets from JB High School sports and one from Beals High School. Provenance: Duane was a coach/assistant coach for 14 years. He is the son of the late Coach Guy Carver, Jr. and his wife, Ruth Lenfestey Carver.

From Carol Davis: 1. Myra L. Alley's bible. 2. Box camera from Alamanda Alley's house. Thermometer from Alston Alley's garage.

From Norma Faulkingham, Captain John A. Beal's gunpowder horn. Provenance: It was found in the house he lived in.

From Anthony Beal, Sr: 1. The New York Times Newspaper, 12/8/1941, with headline, "Japan Wars on U.S". 2. Halburton Beal Journal. 3. Photo of Nathaniel Beal's deceased

*Continued On Next Page*



**Continued**

sibling c. 1900. 4. Julia Alley's Composition Alley's Bay school and personal scrapbook. Julia died at 12 yrs and was the sister of Lula Alley and Octavia (Tavie) Alley Beal. 5. Fletcher Alley's Beals High School Diploma.

From Albert Kane: 1. Photo of Eliza Hall Beal daughter of Lucinda Jane Beal. 2. Service photo and National War Dept Files for Sgt. Darrell P. Trynor. 3. Post Card photo and identification of 7th grade class photo at Lincoln Grammar School in West Jonesport. 4. Photo of Elva

(Tinney) Kidder 5. Photo of Elva Kidder and grandson Albert Kane. 6. Photo of Albert Kane with his mother Patricia.

From Diana Beal Kelley: 1. Huge collection of Genealogy, Town History, Cemetery, Marriage, Birth and Death records from 1700's and up. Provenance: Collection gathered over the period of 40 years by Diana, Avery, Alice and Velora.

From Luther and Alice Beal: 1. 2016 Memorial Program DVD and Boatbuilder, Douglas Dodge presentation DVD.

From Donna Miller: 1.

Model boat handcrafted by the late Clifford Norton, Sr. of Jonesport Maine. Provenance: Built for Donna's husband, Vince Miller.

From Jonesport Historical Society: 1. Photo copy of John A. Beal Schooner, Mary E. Hagen, during the storm off the LeHave Banks. 2. Machias Seal Island 77 minute DVD by Steve Kelley.

Brian Gersten, Videographer. From Douglas Dodge: Powerpoint presentation cd of Harold Gower and Wooden Boat building.

From Leon J. Crowley: Boat launching dvd of Jerome Crowley's "Nancy and Leon" lobster boat built by Ninal Beal. Movie includes the late Lester J. Faulkingham moving skids around the boat.

*Rada Cutlery Fundraiser is still available to order and would make great Christmas gifts. Please contact Carol Davis at cfdavis44@yahoo.com or Patti Kelley at Carver Heating if you are interested.*



# BEALS HERITAGE CENTER BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check one:  Renewal  New Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as you wish it to appear on membership card and member roll on website:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print clearly)

Your mailing address:

Street or Post Office Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ operating expenses, \_\_\_\_\_ building fund, or \_\_\_\_\_ endowment fund.

Receipt and membership card will be sent to you.

**Instructions:** Please print, complete and mail this application, together with tax-deductible check or money order payable to Beals Historical Society to:

Annual memberships are for the calendar year and expire December 31st.

Membership Chairperson,  
Beals Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 280, Beals, ME 04611