

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



BEALS HISTORICAL CENTER MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Beals Historical held its annual Memorial Day observance at the Heritage Center in Beals on Monday, May 26 with Selectmen Daniel F. Davis officiating. After a brief welcome and calling those present to remember deceased loved ones and friends, especially those who have served our nation's military in times of war and peace, Davis led the group in a prayer of invocation. This was followed by the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the singing of "God Bless the U.S.A. by Debbie Kelley of Beals. A poem entitled, "Memorial Day" by Eula Gladys Lincoln was read in remembrance of those great veterans of years past who gave of themselves that we might live as free people, the setting of which is the "distant field of sunny France...amid the farms of Flanders." This was followed by a moment of silent reflection and a prayer for the memory of each fallen soldier, deceased veteran, or loved one and the playing of "Taps" by

Erin Crowley of Harrington.

Davis then presented a specially prepared address to those gathered, centered upon the origin and true meaning of Memorial Day. He quoted, among others, the admonition of Cleve Geer, National Commander of American Vets (AMVETS), to "...recall the glory and sacrifice of all who have set their personal aspirations aside for the preservation of our society... We owe an enormous amount of gratitude to these men and women for taking up arms against all enemies of the United States, both foreign and domestic." Davis went on to quote Geer as saying, "We spend our holidays gathered with family and friends, ushering in the beginning of summer at picnics and parties, but it is important we remember why we gather on this day. We do this to celebrate those fathers, brothers, sons, mothers, sisters, and daughters, who gave all of their tomorrows so that we could have our todays."

Another poem entitled, "A Memorial Day Tribute", by Michelle Keim, was shared, followed by the reminder, "We owe it to the heroes that died and the loved ones left behind to make sure that their service to this nation always be honored."

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BEALS HERITAGE CENTER COLLECTION ORIENTATION

BHS would like to invite the general public to the Heritage Center on June 16, at 6:30 P.M. for the sole purpose of orienting people on what the collection consists of and how to research what is available, but not seen by viewing the exhibits. Learn how to find your family, whether it is in genealogy books and binders, through the collection of obituaries, wedding and engagement announcements, or through newspaper articles. There is a wealth of information for students who are doing school research projects including sports, island history, boat building and much more. We hope you can join us! Light refreshments will be served.

BHS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Chairperson, Eva Faulkingham, reports a total membership of 140 people. This includes 64 life, 5 new and 71 renewals. While we do appreciate having 140 people in our ranks, we do hope we can surpass the 198 we had in 2013. Maybe we can even reach 200! Your continued support is much appreciated!

Vol. XIV, No. 3 (Summer 2014)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 16th

Heritage Center At 6:30pm

July 5th

Fourth of July celebration
at Beals Heritage Center

September 19th

Program meeting

October 17th

Gospel Show

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

ANNOUNCING NEW SUMMER & FALL HERITAGE CENTER HOURS

BHS is pleased to announce its new weekly hours, Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 A.M. – 4 P.M. We encourage you to stop by to browse the collection and to meet our new volunteer tour guide!

RECENT GIFTS

*A photo scrapbook and DVD
interview of Captain Ronald H.
Peabody given by his parents,
Earl and Sylvia.*

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

*BHS wishes to extend heartfelt
sympathy to the family of life
member Guy H. Carver, Jr.
He will always be remembered
and will be sadly missed by all who
knew and loved him.*



Davis then shared the main focus of his address, as follows:

My mind was drawn to just such an event in our America's history as I browsed through a number of newspaper clippings given to me for the historical society. One clipping showed the picture of a young family that has its roots here in the Jonesport-Beals area and the local Beal and Wallace families. When I mentioned this to BHS President, Carol Davis, she told me we had in our Heritage Center Library a new book entitled, *Silent Strength*, by D. Allen Kerr, "Remembering the Men of Genius and Adventure Lost in the World's Worst Submarine Disaster." Of course, he Mr. Kerr was referring to a tragic event that took place fifty-one years ago last month off the shores of New England---the loss of the U.S.S. Submarine Thresher. That event touched the loves of many of us in the Moosabec and Downeast area---perhaps some of you gathered here today.

On April 10, 1963, the U.S.S. Submarine Thresher dived beneath the waters of the Atlantic about 220 miles east of Boston, as it conducted deep-diving exercises, never to rise again to the surface. All aboard---16 officers, 96

enlisted men, and 21 civilians, including Daniel Beal, Jr. originally of Jonesport, died in the tragedy. Dan and his wife, the former Jean Wheeler, an Eastport native and daughter of long-time area barber Harold Wheeler, and their four small children---Daniel Beal, 3rd, Harold, Carol, and Cathy---were living at the time in Somersworth, New Hampshire.

In his book, D. Allen Kerr devotes a section to each of the men lost that day, including Dan Beal, Jr. Davis then read an excerpt from "Silent Strength", a recollection of that fateful morning by Dan Beal's sister-in-law, Patricia Beal.

In April of 2003, Senator John Sununu of New Hampshire, along with Senator Susan B. Collins and several other senators, introduced legislation to honor those lost that 1963 tragedy. Sununu said regarding his efforts for this cause, "This legislation honors their brave service, and the service of all submariners who are "on eternal patrol." The loss of the *Thresher* was an enormous tragedy for the United States submarine service, for the Navy and nation."

Senator Judd Gregg, also of New Hampshire, expressed similar sentiments in a press release, saying, "The brave

sailors and civilians aboard the U.S.S. Thresher made the ultimate sacrifice of our nation. This measure we introduce recognizes the courage and bravery these men demonstrated in risking their lives in the development of the United States Navy's submarine program, a program which has proven invaluable to the American military."

Today, as we make our annual visit to the burial grounds throughout the Moosabec region and see the American flag on each veteran's grave, may we be reminded of the great sacrifice that has been made on our behalf. We think not only of those veterans who served directly and actively in the armed forces of our country and now rest from that service, but of all who have given their lives that the interests of this great nation might move forward as a world power and in service to humanity. We think of those, in particular, who lost their lives in foreign lands and on the seas and their abode is known only to Almighty God.

May God bless our veterans and may God bless America.

The program concluded with an invitation to those present to visit the exhibits displayed in the Heritage Center.

BEALS HERITAGE CENTER 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:

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)*

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual | \$10 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/65 Annual | \$5 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Life | \$200 one-time payment | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior couple/65 Annual | \$7.50 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Annual | \$15 Annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$5 annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Life | \$300 one-time payment | | |

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

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