

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



BHS OFFERING A LIMITED TIME PERSONALIZED BRICK DEAL

In an effort to raise funds, Beals Historical Society continues to sell personalized bricks for the “Patio” (“4 x 8” & 8” x 8”) and “Veteran’s Memorial” (4” x 8”) areas. The personalized “Patio” brick can feature special dates or moments in a lifetime by using the four line or three line bricks. The Veterans Monument Park uses the 4x8 brick. This three-line brick features, rank, name, branch of service, war and years of service.

Within this newsletter, please find a

brick application. If interested, you may visit BHS website at www.moosabec.org to view sample photos of the bricks. If you would like brick wording advice, please email Carol Davis at cfDavis44@yahoo.com or call 497-2675. From now until July 4th, BHS is running a special offer. You may purchase personalized 4x8 bricks at a discounted price of \$75.00 and 8x8 bricks for \$125. Original prices are \$100 and \$150 respectively. Thank you!

Vol. XV, No. 3 (Summer 2015)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 19, 2015

Noah Carver

July 4, 2015

Beals Heritage Center for Seafood Chowder, live music and Center tours from Noon-4pm

September 4th, 2015

TBD

October 17th, 2015

6:30PM, Gospel Concert,
Beals Gym

*Please mark your calendars
as we greatly appreciate
seeing your happy faces!*

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BEALS HERITAGE CENTER ON JULY 4TH!!!

We will be offering tours of the exhibits and collection, live music entertainment and will be selling delicious (made by George Davis) seafood chowder with homemade biscuits along with lots of goodies. Hope you can join us from Noon – 4PM!

Condolences

We wish to extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of BHS member, Margaret Beal. She was a good woman who will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

NOAH CARVER TO PRESENT, “WASHINGTON COUNTY CHILDREN’S CHORUS PERFORMS IN FRANCE” AT BEALS HERITAGE CENTER BRICK DEAL

Noah Carver to present, “Washington County Children’s Chorus Performs in France” at Beals Heritage Center

Noah Carver to present “Washington County Children’s Chorus Performs in France”. Eleven-year-old Noah is the son of Richard “Buzz” and Suzanne Carver of Beals Island. Blind since birth, Noah rides horseback, skis, writes for his school newspaper, and races his own skiff in the lobster boat races.

Last summer he performed with the Washington County Children’s Chorus in Paris and other places in France.

Noah’s presentation will include photos of his trip, and hopefully he will sing for us. His presentation promises to be uplifting and inspiring.

The program will be held at Beals Heritage Center on Friday, June 19th at 6:30PM. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend.

2015 BHS MEMORIAL DAY IN REVIEW

As Memorial Day commemoration services were being held all across the country on Monday, May 26, Beals Historical Society held its own annual observance at the Heritage Center in Beals with Selectman Daniel F. Davis officiating. In his welcoming remarks, Davis called those present to an attitude of remembrance and stated the objective of the day’s program, “...to help ensure

that the memory of those who have served our country’s military in times of war and peace will endure for generations to come.”

Following a prayer of invocation and the reciting of “The Pledge of Allegiance”, Robbi Carver favored those gathered with a stirring rendition of “God Bless the USA”. Davis then shared the

Continued On Next Page

well-known poem "Decoration Day", written by New England poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, with emphasis on the concluding stanza that summed up the purpose of the occasion: "Yours has the suffering been, / The memory shall be ours."

In his Memorial Day address, Selectman Davis focused his thoughts on the statement, "We are called to commemorate this occasion, knowing that sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance," reminding all that "freedom is not free." "It is for us to preserve their memory, their service, and their sacrifice," he further stated. After a moment of silence, Elizabeth Nichols-Goodliff, music teacher at Beals Elementary School, rendered an emotional playing of trumpet "TAPS".

Traditionally, Davis, in keeping with his position as BHS local historian, shares a significant historical event with his audience on Memorial Day, and this year was no exception. He called their attention to the "distant shores of Europe, where the most famous campaign of World War II took place." A summation of his presentation is as follows:

Last year, June 6, 2014, marked the 70th anniversary of that great undertaking called D-Day (a military term referring to the day on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated). This was to be the most famous D-Day in the history of the civilized world, when more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies had gained a foothold in Continental Europe. The

cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 soldiers to begin the slow, hard trek across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's highly proficient troops (Information from U.S. Army Website, www.army.mil/d-day/).

Davis continued, "Among those fighting on the shores of France that day was our own, the late Willard Kelley of Beals. We know little of his experiences in that foreign land, since soldiers like Willard often chose to remain silent regarding the sights, sounds, and awfulness of war. Willard came home and resumed his life with his family, friends, and community as one who made his living from the sea. Others were not so fortunate."

The poem "Memorial Day" by Eula Gladys Lincoln was read, to illustrate this sad truth. Lincoln says in the opening lines of her poem: "In distant fields of sunny France/Where strangers come and go./Amid the farms of Flanders/Where the fragrant breezes blow/Our soldier-dead in quiet sleep/Neath crosses row on row." She concludes her poem with the following stanzas: "With aching hearts and tear-dimmed eyes/We watched them go away./Some have returned but many sleep/In foreign lands today./Where English roses blood and fade./ In France where lilies grow/ Among the fields of Flanders/Where the scarlet poppies blow./Our soldier-dead are not forgot/Though strangers come and go."

Davis then called the audience's attention to "two lesser known battles that set the stage for the great success of the Normandy invasion," the first of which was the 1942 Invasion of North Africa, known as Operation Torch, and the other the Invasion of Sicily, known as Operation Husky. He went on to

relate that his father, the late Ralph O. Davis, Sr., Seaman 2c, Fourth Beach Battalion, USN, took part in these two campaigns in the spring and summer of 1943, adding, "These two less famous operations paved the way for the success of the Normandy Operation that came not long thereafter." Davis explained that the Invasion of North Africa was well underway when his father arrived on shore in the spring of 1943 at the youthful age of 17.

Davis continued by saying that his father, like Willard Kelley and so many other war veterans, seldom spoke of his experiences in North Africa and Sicily, yet it was clear he held Patton in low esteem for his verbal and physical abuse of soldiers under his command. In fact, Seaman Davis is said to have spoken out to the General in defense of downed soldiers in his battalion. Whatever the case, he stated that his father would never watch movies that glorified Patton to his dying day, but readily acknowledged the General rightly deserved our respect for his leadership abilities during the war years.

Davis explained to those listening intently that his father and those with him were blown up in the trenches and left for dead, until it was later discovered that Seaman Davis still had a weak pulse, and was transported to the American Armed Forces Base at Oran in North Africa for medical treatment, then sent back to the Long Island Naval Hospital at St. Albans for recovery. In his later years, X-Rays revealed shrapnel still embedded in his body. The shellshock he suffered remained with him the rest of his life, with the mental and physical wounds of war being carried with him to his grave---dying of a weakened heart at the age of 58, most likely (according to doctors) caused by his near-death

Continued On Next Page

