

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. XVII, No. 3 (Summer 2017)

## MY ISLAND HERITAGE

*Submitted by: Sylvia Lenfestey Peabody*

When I was born in 1935 on the Lenfestey farm in the old house behind the Beals Elementary School, I was fortunate enough to have all four of my great-grandmothers and two of my greatgrandfathers still living. Although I was young when they passed away, I have warm memories of each of them.

The two who had died before I was born were the grandfathers of my father, Farrell Leroy Lenfestey. Grampy Fred (Abraham Alfred) Lenfestey had come to Maine as a young man working on a ship from the Guernsey Islands in the English Channel. He married a young widow on Head Harbor Island, whose husband had drowned and left her with two young children. Grampy Fred and Grammie "Sylvie" (Sylvia Ella Kelley) bought a small farm on Beals Island and had five more children. He had died in 1914 at the age of 66, a year before my Dad was born. Grammie lived to be 82 and died when I was five. I vaguely remember sitting at her feet and threading her needles for her as she sat sewing in her rocking chair in the big, cozy kitchen of the farmhouse.

My Dad's other grandfather who had died was Maurice Leroy Beal, a fisherman who drowned while hauling lobster traps at the age of thirty. He left Grammie Althea (Charlotte Althea Beal) with five small children. She later married Nathaniel Faulkingham and they had a second family of seven more children. She lived in Jonesport at the time I was a child, so I don't have many memories of her. I do remember her beautiful, white hair and warm hugs.

My great-grandparents on my mother's side (Myrtle Beal Lenfestey) were C.H. (Charles Henry) and Mina (Sylvina W.) Beal, and Alonzo Ledger and Fannie (Frances Miriam) Alley. Grampy C.H., who was a son of the legendary "Tall Barney" Beal, was a merchant, fisherman, and fish dealer, and owned much of Great Wass Island at the time. I recall a big family picnic with all of our side of his family, on the rocks beside the road near Black Duck Cove. I remember Grampy C.H. as a tall, kind gentleman. Grammie "Minie" on the other hand, I remember as a feisty, "in charge" lady, who often enjoyed a good laugh. She had a problem with lameness and walked with a cane.

I remember my Grampy Alonzo Alley as an interesting storyteller. He had endless, usually hilarious, stories about some "old timers" from his day. My Aunt Susie Beal, who was only four years older than I was, and I spent many evenings enjoying his stories, as we also enjoyed chewing on a Maine delicacy, some "sweet-smelling" dry fish.

His wife, my Grammie Fannie, died when I was six years old and my memories of her are sketchy. I do

## BHS QUARTERLY PROGRAM MEETINGS

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this months program, "Early 19th Century Hay Creek Tide Mill Project" by

Arnie Smith has been canceled. We hope Arnie will be able to present this great project later this year.

Please feel free to contact Carol Davis if you have any suggestions for program presentations.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 23 @ 6:30PM**

Arnie Smith program  
Early 19th Century Hay Creek Tide  
Mill Project

**July 1st for the 4th**

Selling lobster and crab rolls by the  
Beals bridge

**July 21st**

Possible program...any suggestions?

**August 18th**

To Be Announced

**October 21**

Gospel Concert

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

remember visits at their home, which was at a beautiful location on the Mill Pond, looking out into the Western Bay. The Skipper Alley house now enjoys that spot.

I will always be thankful for my Christian heritage and that I grew up on Beals Island, where I felt loved, protected, and cherished.

## BHS 4TH OF JULY PLANS

This year the 4th of July will be celebrated on the 1st with the "World's Fastest Boat Race" and the Parade. BHS will be selling fresh lobster and crabmeat rolls on the Jonesport side of the bridge across from the Coast Guard station at 10AM. Hope to see you there!

## BHS NEW CONSTRUCTION

Construction is almost complete on BHS “Phase III Cold Storage Area”. We are most anxious to begin working on display areas for this great new addition. This area will house collectibles that do not require heat. Currently, we are searching for wooden or foam trap buoys to display on the gable end wall of the original building. It is our intention to make a list of buoy owners with colors for the “Fisherman’s Wall of Fame”, so please let us know if you have a buoy you would like to donate to the “Fisherman’s Wall of Fame”.

Besides the buoys, we are hoping donations for any type of fisheries or collectibles related to Beals Island or Moosabec Reach will be presented for display. For instance, BHS will be using this area to display the signs used to direct people to the dedication of Manwarren Beal’s gravestone. Also we have a wooden barrel owned by Ellis Beal, Sr. that was used as a float on fishing nets, a wooden clam roller, and many other artifacts to display. With your help, we hope to grow our “Cold Storage Area” exhibits.

As “Keeper’s of the Past”, it is our goal to create a display for current and future generations to have an understanding of the way life used to be when growing up and living on our most beloved Beals Island.

If you would like to add to this collection, please contact Carol at 497-2675 or email [cfDavis44@yahoo.com](mailto:cfDavis44@yahoo.com).

Also if you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution towards the electrical wiring for this project, please send it to BHS, PO Box 280, Beals ME 04611. Thank you!



*Photos Courtesy Of Luther Beal*

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Please remember to send in your membership application. We hope BHS memberships will reach at least 200 this year. Thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause.

## PERSONALIZED BRICK ANNOUNCEMENT

For 2017, BHS will be offering the Patio and Veterans personalized bricks at a reduced rate of \$75 each. The bricks will be set in time prior to Labor Day. For more information, please call Carol at 207-497-2675. Thank you!

## OFFICERS

*President:* Carol Davis  
*Vice President:* Walter Carver  
*Secretary:* Teresa Beal  
*Treasurer:* Eva Faulkingham  
*Other Directors:* Ruth Carver & Ray Beal  
*Membership Chairman & Committee:*  
Eva Faulkingham  
*Acquisitions Chairperson:* Carol Davis  
*Technical and Printing Support:* Luther Beal  
*BHS Historian and Co-Editor:* Daniel Davis  
*Newsletter Editor:* Carol Davis



# 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)*

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

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

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*