

# BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. XVIII, No. 3 (Summer 2018)

## BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER PROGRAM

Please join us as we welcome historian Arnie Smith of Jonesport, who will speak at our 2018 Summer program. A former teacher at JBHS, Mr. Smith's presentation will consist of the workings of a tide mill located at Jonesport's Hay Creek in the 1800's. Also included in the program will be interesting contents from an original mill ledger, the type of mill, names of people involved, old deeds and other miscellaneous local history and information. This most interesting program will be held at Beals Elementary School on Monday, June 18 at 6:30PM. Light refreshments will be served.

### 2017 GIFTS

- From Luann L. Alley*, 1. Photo of Mathew Alley,  
2. Class of 1956 Jonesport High School Program, Lives of the Presidents book.
- From Larson O. Alley, Jr.*, 1. Alley genealogy binder
- From Luann L. Alley*, 1. 2002 Edition of Recipes of the J.B.Champions,  
2. Collection of Jonesport High Yearbooks, Collection of letters.
- From Luther Beal*, 1. B.H.S. memorial Day Service D.V.D. 5/29/2017,  
2. Building a Wooden Boat DVD by Doug Dodge, 8/29/2016.
- From Wayne Mills*, 1. Family Photos of Marcia Woodward Mills.
- From Ruth Stoltz Lowell*, 1. From Maine Folklife Center, 1970 Richard Lunt boatbuilder interviews of Bert Frost, James Beal, Erwin Alley, Alvin Beal, Harold Gower, Richard Alley, Harry Beal, and Clinton Beal.  
2. CD of Will Frost Boats – Lowell boat photos.
- From Anthony Beal, Sr.*, 1. Spiral notebook journal belonged to Halburton Beal, Thorndike Century Senior dictionary, from Beals High School, Two glass ball toggles and two wooden traps buoys that belonged to Lawrence Kelley,
- From Robert Grant*, 1. Orange with red stripe wooden trap buoy.
- From Gary DeLong*, 1. 1946 interview on the Sunbeam in Jonesport. Mission staff member, Alice Peabody interviews Avery Beal, Cecil Kelley, and Mr. McFadden for a national radio program.
- From Priscilla Dobbins Hoeft*, 1. 1908-1909 Beals School Photo,  
2. Original copy of 1905 Jonesport Town Register,  
3. Original copy of Moosabec Manaevelins by A.A. Norton.
- From Robert Silsby*, 1. 1926 Beals High School Class Will
- From Marge Drisko*, 1. Genealogy book for John Alley and his Descendants 1460 –

### 2018 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

For 2018, the membership is comprised of 62 life members, 6 new and 69 renewals for a total of 137. For 2017, BHS annual membership consisted of 117. We are hoping that everyone receiving this newsletter will please consider BHS a worthy cause to support and mail the enclosed application today. Thank you to all who continue to support Beals Historical Society!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**June 18 @ 6:30PM**

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

**June 30 @ 6:30PM**

for the July 4th event – Selling crab and lobster rolls hopefully by the bridge. This is the date for the Moosabec 4th of July Boat Races.

**August 18th @ 6:30PM**

Anthony Sutton will speak on the building of weirs at Beals Heritage Center.

**October 20th –**  
Gospel Concert

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

### 2018 BHS MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

*By Daniel F. Davis*

The Beals Town Office meeting room was the setting for the 2018 BHS Memorial Day Observance, held on May 28 at 10 A.M. BHS local historian and selectman Daniel F. Davis presided over the ceremonies, with approximately fifty people in attendance.

After the welcoming remarks, the program began with a prayer of invocation by Davis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The story behind our national anthem was shared, relating how Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the stirring stanzas relating to the British's failed attempt to take Fort McHenry at the mouth of Baltimore

*continued on next page*

Harbor in an effort to initiate the capture of Baltimore itself. Davis then led the audience in singing the first verse of the Star-Spangled Banner.” A moment of silence was observed in honored of deceased veterans, followed by Taps played by Elizabeth Goodliff, music instructor at Beals and Jonesport schools, and one of her elementary school students, Melody Gray.

Davis then shared a poem entitled “Soldier”, written by Ed Coet, Major, USA-Retired, relating the story of a young man who did recognize and appreciate his own father’s military service to his country until he stood with

his father beside a fellow veterans grave as TAPS were played and he learned first-hand what so many patriotic heroes have sacrificed for the freedom of people everywhere.

A historical account of the origins of Memorial Day was shared, relating its origins some 159 years ago, as women of the South first placed flowers on the graves on both Union and Confederate dead to commemorate the soldiers and sailors of the American Civil War.

A poem entitled, “A Tribute to Veterans,” was also shared, which recognized the service of soldiers, medics, nurses, chaplains, and others

who served in all wars, with special emphasis on our POW’s, left behind but not forgotten.

BHS President, Carol Davis, introduced the guest speaker for the occasion, Anthony “Tony” Beal, Jr., history teacher at Jonesport-Beals High School, who spoke on the military service of John D. Alley, a local resident (now deceased) who served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. (see Tony’s presentation below)

The program was concluded with the singing of “America the Beautiful,” followed by a closing prayer of benediction by Danny Davis.

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## 2018 MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS BY JBHS HISTORY TEACHER TONY BEAL, JR.



In the spring of 1999, my father Anthony L. Beal, Sr. asked me if I wanted to spend time with a real Marine especially the toughest of the tough. That evening I had the opportunity to hear a true life story from John Alley of Beals who was critically wounded during the battle of Okinawa. Not only did we have the opportunity to record his memory of the fighting, but I had the opportunity to see the scars from John’s wounds as the belly area struggled to see where one scar would cross into another one. Needless to say, it was a life changing experience. I would like to thank the family of John Alley who has always been a positive part of my life and my father Anthony Beal who had the foresight and appreciation of those who gave all in protecting the country we hold so dear. I had always known John as Johnny Redworm in part of his island based marine worm business, but that day I discovered one tough American hero.

Times were getting desperate for the occupying Japanese force in Okinawa and all citizens were expected to defend the empire to the last breath. For the United States, Okinawa offered close proximity for the invasion of Japan by 350 miles. This potential staging area could be of great benefit to the

American efforts in the Pacific Theater. Nevertheless, the end of the war proved every bit deadly as any other point in the conflict.

John Alley had been ashore during Operation Iceberg on Okinawa for three weeks when he felt the pain on a rainy evening June 5th. He had found himself in an old quarry during a rainstorm where the Japanese were in foxholes dug in order to better protect the island.

Just before dark, John took three bullets to the abdomen and fell to the ground. Even in all the confusion, John was able to see the shooter and seriously believed he had been shot by a woman. Soon thereafter, shock took over and John was pulled back to safety by his brother, Vincent, who found him in a pile of wounded.

Even later that evening, John was put into a medical shelter on the island for his wounds before being transferred to the hospital ship Saipan. Once better stabilized he was finally transferred to a medical facility on Okinawa where he would accumulate a total of 45 months in surgery and recovery.

The extent of the wounds were serious as his organs, primarily his stomach, protruded from the holes. John was treated using sulfur which had anti-infection properties and then surgery

to close the wound. His brother Vince found John shortly thereafter as they had lost one another earlier.

John Alley was a 1st Division, COE 2nd Light Infantry Battalion 7th Marine Corps who Enlisted with his brother Vince Alley. John was part of Echo Company as a BAR Man. This four-man rifle and flame thrower team was targeted specially by the Japanese for their ferocity and fire power. The battle took the Allied Force 82 days defeating the Japanese on Okinawa in the bloodiest battle of the Pacific which left 50,000 wounded, MIA, or killed. It is estimated that up to 300,000 people may have died during that battle including 150,000 local Okinawans including thousands of children soldiers.

John enlisted at age 17 and spent 7 ½ years in the Marine Corps. John passed away shortly after this interview in 2000.

This interview is only a part of the legacy of John Alley who had the courage and willingness to share his story. To have the opportunity to spend those few hours in the home of John and Phyllis Alley and let a story be told certainly has proven of immense worth. I encourage any other family or friends who may either add or correct parts of this story to offer their input.



# 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
- Individual/Life
- Couple Annual
- Couple/Life
- Senior/65 Annual
- Senior couple/65 Annual
- Student

\$10 Annually  
 \$200 one-time payment  
 \$15 Annually  
 \$300 one-time payment  
 \$5 annually  
 \$7.50 annually  
 \$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*