

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Vol. XVI, No. 1 (Winter 2016)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BHS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALL VOLUNTEERS

BHS Executive Board once again consists of seven volunteer members who are as follows: Carol Davis, President, Walter Carver, Vice President, Eva Faulkingham, Treasurer, Patti Kelley, Secretary, and Directors, Ray Beal, Teresa Carver and Tammy Tibbetts (newest member). From the day-to-day tasks to fundraising, I wish to express much appreciation to all of BHS board members, as their continued efforts are invaluable in the preservation work

of our favorite Beals Island's past and present history for future generations.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to express much appreciation to those volunteers who are not board members but whose contribution to daily operations, programs, and fundraisers are also invaluable. Please forgive me for not naming names but there are too many to mention and I wouldn't want to miss anyone. Thank you so much for all of your help and support!

RECENT GIFT

Proudly on display at Beals Heritage Center is a large-scale model boat built by Beal's Island boatbuilder, Alvin Beal. The boat is the first one Alvin built of this size and is named for his second wife, Sylvia. Alice Beaudreau, of Connecticut,

earliest. We also learn that Alvin built five of these boats of which three are in museums, BHS boat and the location of the fifth boat is still unknown. Alice and her daughter transported the boat from CT to Augusta where BHS members



donated it in memory of her husband, Viatuer Beaudreau, Jr., who originally purchased it from an auction house. With the boat came much research work by Mr. Beaudreau including the names of local boatbuilders beginning with the

Kay Seefeldt and her husband, Roy, who live nearby, met them and brought the boat to Beals. BHS greatly appreciates Alice and her family for choosing to let a piece of Beals Island history return to its place of origin. Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*January Program
has been moved to August*

March 18

Annual Business Meeting
/Program Meeting

May 7

Spring Talent/Variety Show

May 30 @10AM

Memorial Day Program at Beals
Heritage Center

June 17

Program Meeting

July 2

4th Of July Events

August 19

Program Meeting

September 16

Program Meeting

October 21

Gospel Concert

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

Condolences

*We wish to extend heartfelt
sympathy to the families of BHS
members Jean Wilcox,
Leslie A. Uhnak and Dorothy
Backman Abbott.*

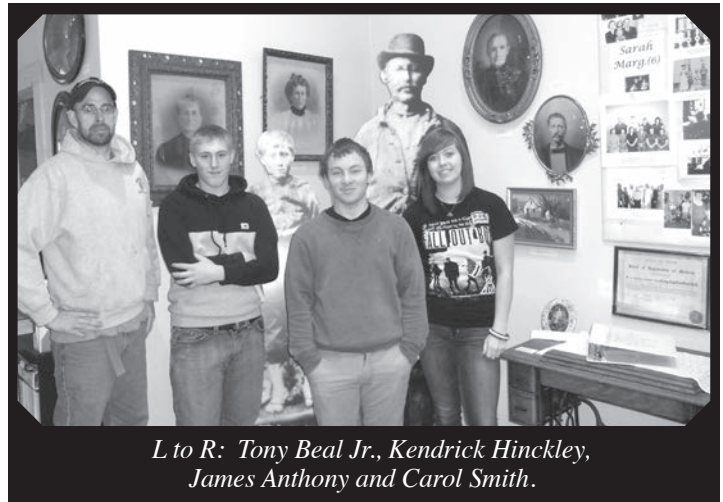
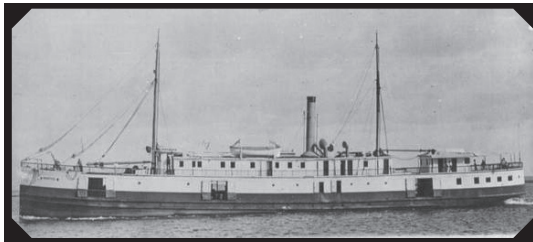
*These women will be sadly missed
but fondly remembered by all who
knew and loved them.*

JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RESEARCH PROHIBITION ERA

The Jonesport-Beals Maine & Local History class recently began a research project on the Prohibition Era that brought together the national, state, and local aspects of the time. Upon visiting Beals Heritage Center they found a key piece of information, in a book entitled, *List of Merchant Vessels of the United States, 1918*. With this information, JBHS History teacher Tony Beal, Jr. and his class, were able to do online research where they found the necessary information to complete their project. Making history interesting through hands-on research, Mr. Beal provides us with a brief summary of their findings through the following: "Through our research, we were

able to find an article that put eleven local residents boarded in Boston by the U.S. Coast Guard. The result was one of the largest alcohol smuggling busts of the time. Our local members were primarily West Jonesport (tough end) employees of the sardine factory and received fines of \$25 per person."

He continues by saying, "The steamship *Van* had departed Jonesport and made an offshore exchange with another ship outside of Boston Harbor. This ship was scuttled under FDR's New Deal Program through the



L to R: Tony Beal Jr., Kendrick Hinckley, James Anthony and Carol Smith.

WPA program that started in 1930 to rid Boston Harbor of derelict ships. In total 64 ships were removed from the harbor and sunk in the general area of what was called at the time, 'The Lightship Dumping Grounds'." The class kindly donated a copy of their research to BHS permanent collection. It is very interesting

and will be on display at the Heritage Center.

While visiting the Heritage Center, the students also researched their families using BHS genealogy resources. We were truly honored to have the privilege of assisting these young people in their research endeavors and do hope they return soon.

BEALS ELEMENTARY HISTORY STUDENTS "BRIDGE" RESEARCH PROJECT

History teacher Chris Crowley recently visited Beals Heritage Center in search of historical documentation on the current Beals Bridge for classroom use. Due to its weak structural integrity, the bridge is now slated for replacement.

Mr. Crowley reports that his 7th and 8th grade students are enjoying studying the history of the bridge. The students are reading and discussing newspaper articles and editorials, viewing pictures and having great classroom

discussions. They will end the study viewing the 1958 opening ceremony DVD obtained from BHS.

As part of their study, Mr. Crowley indicates that students are keeping journals of thoughts and or questions they may have and have already written their own editorials in their journals in favor of construction of a new bridge and the evidence backing their claims.

He continues by saying their next assignment is to interview an older resident to

investigate what life was like living on Beals Island before the bridge.

As the new present day bridge project begins and new students enter the classroom, it will be their job to begin photographing the progress of the new bridge construction on a weekly basis and to document it. It's what you might call, "history in the making", and since Mr. Crowley believes in being a hands-on educator, he and his history class (which may span several generations) will

be there to record it. Once completed, Mr. Crowley says, "It will then be available for future generations to enjoy as we have enjoyed the documentation of the construction and pictures of the present bridge." Mr. Crowley and his students plan to donate the documentation to Beals Historical Society where it will become part of their permanent collection and placed on public display along with the current bridge history documentation.

*A Life Sketch of
Captain John A.
Beal*

On the Isle of Beals, in the town of Jonesport, Maine, on the 23rd day of April, 1858, a small boy first saw the light of day.

Brought up by a Christian mother and a fisherman father, at the age of eleven years he made his first trip with his father in the schooner TRAVELER to the fishing banks in the Bay of Fundy.

For seven years following he fished as hand on vessels off the coast of Maine. A part of his winters were spent at fishing in the Bay of Fundy, and a part in going to school. It was on one of these winter trips to the Bay of Fundy that he came near to drowning, being lost overboard from an ice-coated bowsprit and coming up some distance from the vessel. His father, being a good swimmer, jumped overboard and rescued him just as he was going down for the last time. This was in the year 1871, when he was thirteen years of age.

In the year 1875 he took command of the schooner ESSEX, fishing in her four years in the Bay of Fundy and off the coast of Maine summers and part of the time winters going to see.

In the winter of 1876 he

came near being lost on the coast of Florida in a heavy gale on the lee shore, being saved only by a change of wind.

He took command of the schooner MAGNET in 1880, fishing off the Maine coast and Bay of Fundy for three years.

In 1883 he was shipwrecked on Le Have Banks in a big gale, on schooner MARY E. HAGAN, of which he was captain at the time, being towed in by schooner JOSIE MAY.

In 1884 he gave up fishing and built a grocery store and fish stand at Beals, which he ran for sixteen years, making good, and in 1901 selling out to C. H. Beal.

That same year he built a dry and fancy goods store with Post Office. In 1902 he was appointed Postmaster for Beals, Maine, which office he held for eleven years.

In the spring of 1913, owing to failing health, he was obliged to sell the store and resign from the Post Office. As the result of a surgical operation, he practically lost the use of his left leg for life.

During the time since 1885 he has been deeply interested in shipping of different classes, has owned in thirty-four vessels, and has been managing owner of seventeen of them. At

present he only owns in two, the schooners LOVINA M. SNOW of Rockland and LIZZIE J. CLARK of Jonesport, Maine.

He has done considerable towards building up the Island, has built two stores, two fish stands, one church, nine dwelling houses, and has also been interested in other branches of business.

He is done considerable traveling over the United States to the Pacific Coast and to the British Isles. He has served seven years on the Board of Selectmen for the town of Jonesport.

He was married in 1879 to Miss Cordelia C. Kelley. They have never had any children of their own, but have brought up two boys and one girl.

He is still engaged in the lobster business, owning in two lobster pounds. He never failed to get a trip of fish in the seven years going as master of fishermen.

** NOTE: This life sketch of Captain Beal was sent us just before his death, and was the last bit of writing from his hand. Our records show that Captain Beal was our third subscriber. From the very beginning he was always a strong supporter and valued friend. We are sure he would be happy to know that his last writing was published*

in – what he considered, and so wrote us – “the best little paper for fishermen ever published.” – Ed.

*Captain Beal
Passes Away*

On April 3, 1924, Captain John A. Beal died at his home in Jonesport, Maine, and is now resting awaiting the “Great Captain’s” call, which he was prepared to answer, having become a Christian a few years ago. He was a member of the Adventist Church at Beals, and was always a faithful worker in church affairs.

Captain Beal was a highly respected citizen, a member of the Jonesport Lodge F. & A. M. No. 108, and was always spoken of as the “father of Beals” (Maine). He was always mindful of those in need and ready to help a good cause. He was a staunch Republican in politics.

Captain Beal leads to mourn his loss a wife, Cordelia C. Beal; four sisters, Lucinda J., Amy A., Maggie S. Beal, and Charlotte A. Faulkingham; also five brothers, Freeman W., George W., Charles H., Nehemiah I., and Napoleon R., and a host of other near relatives and friends.

J. M. Anderson

BHS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GRANT AWARDS

On behalf of the Beals Historical Society, the Executive Board wishes to express sincere appreciation for the generous grant awards of \$2,500 from Charles Butt Foundation, \$8,000 from Maine Humanities Council, 10,000 from Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust and \$2,000 from Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. BHS Capital Campaign effort to raise \$40,000 has now reached a grand total of \$22,500. These funds will be used towards the construction of a cold-storage building which will house both the 1902 Maurice Dow built

overhang stern fishing boat and the 1932 Harold Gower built lobster fishing boat along with any type of fishing gear and equipment that does not require heat for preservation. Hopefully by spring, BHS will be successful in obtaining sufficient funding to complete the project.



Lisa Seeley, Carol Davis, Paula Rosebush, Star Guptill and Molly Erickson

2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Happy New Year to all of our most valued members! Father Time has once again rolled the clock around to membership renewal time. Membership for 2015 consisted of 53 life members, 16 new and 96 renewal for a grand total of 165 members. Annual membership dues are used to maintain the general operating costs. The following are just a few expense line items for which your annual membership dollars are used: copier ink cartridges, paper, postage, electricity and heating costs, liability insurance, maintenance, artifact purchases, State of Maine annual fees, website host costs, equipment and supplies for document storage, etc. Without your much-appreciated support, BHS would cease to exist. We do hope to raise our 2016 membership number to 200 and beyond! Thank you!

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 |

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.