

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "DOUGIE" DODGE IN THE BIRTH OF A DOWNEAST CLASSIC

If you have ever wondered what is involved with the building of a wooden boat, your opportunity to learn is at hand. On June 18, at 7PM, at the Beals Elementary School, Douglas Dodge, Felix Davis, and Gene Hart will present a power point presentation that will take the wooden boat building process from conception to birth with opportunity for audience participation.

Mr Dodge is a locally well-known designer and builder of wooden boats. He learned the trade from his Uncle Harold Gower, a very well known and respected Downeast boat designer/builder, in the first half of the twentieth century, until his death in the 1970's.

Please join BHS for an informative and entertaining evening as we learn about the wooden boat building process. The meeting is open free to the general public. A 50/50 raffle will be held and light refreshments will be served.

REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN...

The men of Jonesport and Beals participated in three wars? In order to preserve the language of the day, the following will be quoted from the Jonesport 1905 Census.

The town of Jonesport (which included Beals) is justly entitled to the high esteem of the State and the Nation for her loyal support of the Government in military matters. Whenever the call to arms has been sounded, her citizens have ever responded to its appeal. True and loyal has she ever stood for our national prestige.

Revolutionary War—In this struggle for independence, the town of Jonesport could not have taken a very active part, for she was too few in numbers, yet there were, doubtless, a few who went to the aid of Machias, when she was in danger of capture by the British. We know that town received loyal support from her neighbors in order to defend herself so successfully through this war.

It was during these eight years of unceasing conflict that the home of Manwarren Beal, on Beal's Island, was robbed by an English privateer. The account goes, that at one time, when Mr Beal was very sick in bed with a slow with a vessel, bearing an America flag appeared off the island. She immediately pointed her bow towards the shore and came to anchor in Barney's Cove. Then the crew pulled down the Stars and Stripes, and flung to the breeze the Union Jack. The men soon came to the home of Mr. Beal and demanded

what money there was in the house, and were told by Sally, the daughter, that there was none. They replied that unless it was handed over to them, they would blow the house to atoms. Failing in this persistent demand, they began to search for money, and finally, to plunder the house; for at this time the home was well-stocked with provisions for the winter's supplies. The crew of the privateer seized everything they could carry away, even to the clothes on the beds; and that which they were unable to take with them, they destroyed. In this manner a hogshead of molasses was broken in and its contents spilled on the floor, and several of the domestic animals were killed. Having thus deprived the family of all means of support, the English plunderers left the house. The daughter, Sally, as she stood in the door crying, because of the destitute condition they were left in, and wiping her eyes with a homespun apron, was approached by one of the English officers, and presented with a new "ban danner" silk handkerchief. The English privateer soon departed, probably to commit a similar act on some other unprotected homestead.

War of 1812—In this second conflict with Great Britain, for national freedom from oppression, English war vessels were continually prying along the coast of Maine in pursuit of plunder. The region along whose shores they journeyed was the scene of many thrilling adventures.

It was on March 21st, 1814, that the British privateer, Vim, chased an American revenue cutter,

commanded by Captain Elliot of Machias, into the harbor of Jonesport. The English war vessel fired several shots at the revenue cutter as she came in pursuit, and Captain Elliot, in order to avoid all hands being captured, ran the vessel aground in Sawyers Cove. The British immediately launched a barge and, with a small crew, proceeded to take their supposed easily captured prize, for its crew had fled to the woods. In the meantime, the citizens on shore, among whom were Freeman Beal, Jerry Norton, Andrew MacDonald, John Sawyer, Francis Cummings, Eben Sawyer, Daniel Sawyer, and William Dobbins, hearing the firing, came to the scene of action with their flint lock muskets and hid behind a ledge of rock overlooking the Cove. When the English barge was within firing range, a volley was given and one of the oncoming party was killed, and another, a mulatto, was wounded. The barge was finally forced to surrender, and the wounded man was carried to the home of Nehemiah Kelley. Mrs. Kelley, when she returned to her home that night, for she had fled to the woods for safety, was somewhat frightened to find them in her house. The English crew had destroyed several of her linen sheets in trying to stop the flow of blood from their wounded comrade. For this damage the men made due amends to Mrs. Kelley. The English war vessels continued to fire shots ashore, and agreed to desist and leave the harbor on condition that their crew from the barge be released. This was cheerfully granted and the vessel sailed away.

(continued)

War of the Rebellion—In this war for national unity, the town of Jonesport played a most prominent part. Ever ready was she to raise money for expenditures, and to send her sons to the front. Her record in both is of the best. Too much praise cannot be given to those true and loyal men who left their homes and marched to the front in that bloody struggle of 1861.

At the opening and throughout those four years of conflict, rally meetings were continually held in our town. Whenever a call was made upon the town for men, the selectmen held a meeting of the citizens, and there secured the names of those volunteering to enlist. As an inducement, the town paid \$100 and finally, \$200, to the ones thus secured. Volunteers and drafted men were paid a like sum, but it is an honorary fact that very few men were drafted. Approximately 100 men enlisted from this town.

With due reverence, we herewith submit the name of Civil War veterans now living in the town of Jonesport: Robert Anderson, B.B. Bickford, W.W. Clark, Daniel Dobbins, David Davis, William H. Faulkingham, Otis Faulkingham, John Faulkingham, Henry Farnsworth, Aaron Kelley, Henry Peasley, George Peasley, Henry Smith, Fred M. Smith, Benjamin Smith, Isaac Worden.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT

BHS Executive Board is once again complete and wishes to welcome Kenton Feeney to the position of Interim Vice President. According to our bylaws, the office of President and Vice President are two-year positions. The current President term expires March 1, 2008, at which time, the President and Vice President will be nominated to switch positions. Unless there are others who may want these positions?

Kenton is already at work and has applied to the National Register of Historic Places in regards to having our Maurice Dow built lobster boat placed on the register. This may also lead to an opportunity for assistance in building a shelter for this boat plus

our 1939 Harold Gower built boat donated by Captain John Williams.

Plus he applied to his employer, Conoco Phillips, for the Employee Volunteer Grant Program and received \$3,000 to go towards our building fund.

We are in fund raising mode! Let the games begin!

MODEL BOAT RACES

The 3rd Annual Model Boat Race hosted by Chairman Brian Smith and his assistants Gordon Smith and Tuddy Urquhart, will be held Saturday, June 30, at Perio Point, on Beals Island. Set up of the boats will begin at 9a.m. People's Choice judging will start at 10a.m. and the actual boat race will begin at Noon.

The models are a wonderful display of craftsmanship and have different ranges of speed. Electrically powered, the race consists of two classes: a 12-volt class and an over 12-volt class. To enter the race, contact Brian Smith at 497-3087.

Fresh crabmeat rolls, grilled hotdogs and hamburgers along with homemade goodies will be available for sale.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The membership Chairman reports a total membership of 131. In 2006 we had 208 members. So? Please send your application today. With your help we can exceed last years total.

If you need an application, please go online at moosabec.org to download it. We appreciate you and hope you continue your support! Your membership dues help with the general operation of BHS including the printing and mailing of this newsletter! Thank you!!!

1ST ANNUAL SINGING MARATHON

The 3rd Annual Talent/Variety show was such a huge success that we hereby announce our 1st Annual Singing Marathon!!! Due to other events simultaneously being held and so many people having to miss the talent show, we have decided to give these singing lovers an opportunity to sing until their hearts are content. For example, Abraham Beal is ready to perform 5 songs!!! You don't

want to miss this event! Plus, Poison Pam will be making her usual appearance along with the Muldanes of Clam Flat County!!! Join us for an open house type Marathon to be held on July 7 from 3-7PM or longer? Admission for adults \$4/children, under 10, \$2. Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers will be available for sale!!!

TALL BARNEY BOOK SALES

Currently book sales have exceeded the break-even point!!! Thank you for your orders! Keep up the great work! The building fund is growing!

Check our website address at www.moosabec.org for more info regarding Barney and the book.

If you would like to place an order, send \$20.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, per book, payable to: Beals Historical Society
Attn: Book Order
PO Box 280
Beals ME 04611

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-Program mtg/7PM
June 30-Mini Boat Races/
July 7-Singing Marathon/3-7PM
September 17/Program mtg/7PM
Please mark your calendars. We need your attendance!!!

OFFICERS

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