

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



MAINE'S SALT WATER MILLS – PAST AND FUTURE

The upcoming BHS program meeting will consist of a presentation, by Bud Warren, based on years of research about the “tide mills” of Maine which includes those found in the Moosabec area. Bud Warren, a native of the coast, knows Maine well. For nearly forty years he’s led heritage tours of the area for groups like Smithsonian Associates, the National Trust for Historic preservation Road Scholar/Elderhostel. As a youth he lobster-fished, rowed much of Maine’s coast, worked in a sawmill and Bath Iron Works, and taught school. For fifteen years he’s been studying and writing about tide mills in Maine and along the Atlantic coast.

They’ve been silent now for over eighty years, but once the sound of grinding millstones and the rasp of saws told how our ancestors made use of the waters along the coast of Maine and well up its tidal rivers. The region’s

first settlers took advantage of the topography of this area. They dammed coves and set waterwheels to harness the power of the flowing tides. More than 220 Maine tide mill sites have been identified. These mills produced material for local use and for export. The lives of hundreds of people centered on these tide mills and the dams impacted the environment. Today there is a growing interest in capturing the power of tides to create energy, but there are also adverse environmental effects of be considered. The focus of this presentation is the history of tide mills in our area, the way they worked, and possibilities for reusing them once again.

We hope you can join us at the Beals Heritage Center on Monday, July 16th, at 6:30pm, for this very interesting program.

BHS PROGRESS REPORT

BHS Executive Board is pleased to announce the completion of the Veterans Monument Park. The bronze plaque, which reads, “Dedicated To All Veterans” has now been set on the pink granite rock, which was found onsite

during excavation for the building’s foundation. The final step has been to landscape the entire Park area with pea stone. Thank you to all who contributed to this project.

BHS MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Beals Historical Society held its annual Memorial Day commemoration service on the grounds of the Heritage Center on Monday, May 28 at 10:00 A.M. Daniel F. Davis, BHS historian and Town of Beals selectman, was master of ceremonies for the occasion. Despite early rain and threat of showers, the service was well attended.

After a word of welcome, Davis briefly shared the historical background of

Memorial Day, dating back to 1868, and led those present in a word of invocation. The patriotic hymn, “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee,” was then sung, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A poem entitled “Veterans,” written by the late Clara McKenney of Harrington, was read, which expressed her sentiments for the veterans who have served the United States throughout its long history as a

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 30th, 1-4PM @ Beals
Heritage Center**

Tours, Singing and Food

**July 16th @ Beals Heritage
Center**

Maine’s Salt Water Mills – Past and
Future by Bud Warren

**September 21st, 6:30PM
TBA**

*Please mark your calendars.
We greatly appreciate your
attendance!*

TAKE NOTE!

Community Craft and Yard Sale

BHS would like to start a new fundraiser by hosting a “community craft and yard sale” at Beals Town Office parking lot. We are not sure of the date at this time, but would like to get an idea of how many would be interested in participating. We will be renting tables at \$10 each. Please contact Carol at 497-2675 or email at cfdavis44@yahoo.com.

Summer and Fall Hours for Beals Heritage Center

Thanks to volunteers, beginning on July 2nd through September, the Heritage Center will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10-Noon and 2-4PM, or by appointment. It will be closed on the 4th of July

BHS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please help us reduce the cost of mailing the newsletter by sending your email address to cfdavis44@yahoo.com. Thank you!!!

nation. A moment of silence was held in contemplation of those who have served their country and now rest in peace. This was followed by "Taps," as rendered by Jerry York, long-time music instructor in the Jonesport-Beals school system.

Following "Taps," a plea was made for donations toward the installation of the Veterans Plaque, purchased last year. The response was positive, and to date, \$400 has been donated, enough to install the plaque sometime in June.

The following is the text of the "Memorial Day Reflections," as shared by Davis:

Traditionally, we have concentrated our Memorial Day remarks on the coming of Manwarren Beal to the Moosabec area in 1773 and

the events surrounding his settlement of Beal's Island in particular. This year, I have chosen to share with you, in brief, some information pertaining to the first settler of Alley's Bay, **Captain John Alley**, how the Alleys migrated from distant France, to England, Holland, and eventually to the small island of Great Wass on Moosabec Reach. I will also share with you some insights regarding individuals of significance in John Alley's line of descent from Bishop William Alley in 16th century England to 19th century America.

The research of **Betty Ann (Alley) Howard** of Portland, Maine tells us the Alleys came from France to England about 1475. Among the early baptismal records in England, we find individuals with derivative spellings of "Alley" dating back as far as 1273. The distinguished name Alley may be descriptive in origin, as many surnames are, referring to people living in a "narrow passage."

Most of those spelling their surname as

"Alley" came from France into Holland, then later to America by way of the state of New York, and later moving toward the Mid-west. Our branch of the Alley family, however, came to America by way of Boston.

By way of introduction, I would relate to you a mere listing of some of the most notable Alleys, indicating their

an office that he held until his death. Queen Elizabeth had great respect for him, and each year sent him a silver cup as a New Year's gift. Most notably, he is remembered as one of the Bishops assigned the task of translating the first five books of the Bible. He revised the Book of Deuteronomy for the Bishops Bible in 1568. **Bishop Alley**

was named for his father, **William Alley**, born in 1483, who served as Mayor of Chipping Wycombe in 1546. Bishop William's grandfather, **Sir John Alley**, born in 1460, is also listed as a Mayor of Wycombe.

Next, we look at **Rev. Roger Alley**, of Devon, England, **born in 1535**, eldest son of **Bishop Alley**. He followed in his father's footsteps in

ministry and was appointed by his father as Archdeacon of Cornwall. At the time of his death in 1610 at age 75, he was vicar of Pyworthy, a village in Devon.

Rev. Roger Alley's oldest son, **Jerome Alley**, born in 1560 in Devon, England, was Vicar of Christ Church in Oxon, England.

Jermone Alley's second of 4 sons, **Francis**, his wife and 5 children were among the first Alley's to come to America, settling in Virginia in 1642. The third son, **John H. Alley**, came to Virginia in 1625.

Jerome's fourth son, **Phillip Alley**, born in 1594, was the first Alley to arrive in **New England**. He came on a ship named "Swift" from New Amsterdam, arriving in Boston in 1630. He married **Mary Pitt**, daughter of the famous **William Pitt**, British supporter of the Colonial cause leading up to the Revolutionary War; but later she divorced **Phillip** and remarried. He was known as a rough and hardy man,

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Veterans Monument Park after setting of bronze plaque and spreading of pea stone around entire area which is still a work in progress.

birthdates only as a point of historical reference or timeline that will help us see the Alley family's evolution. The first is **Sir John Alley**, born in **1460**. Next, we include **William Alley (1483)**, **Bishop William Alley (1510)**, **Rev. Roger Alley (1535)**, **Rev. Jerome Alley (1560)**, still another **William Alley (1605)**, a second **John Alley (1628)**, **Rev. Thomas Alley (1581)**, **Samuel Alley (1675)**, buried at Alley's Point in Dover, New Hampshire), a third **John Alley (1720)**, born in Dover, New Hampshire), **Joshua Alley (1756)**, and then our very own local ancestor **Captain John Alley**, first settler of Alley's Bay (born **1782** or **1783**).

It might be of interest to share at this point a few details concerning the aforementioned Alley ancestors, beginning with **Bishop William Alley** of Buckingham, England. This Doctor of Divinity from Oxford University died in 1570 at age 60 and is buried under the choir loft near the altar of Exeter Cathedral. He was promoted to the position of Bishop of Exeter in 1560,

who, unlike his father and grandfather, drank to excess at times. (Perhaps this accounts for the divorce.) He died in Salem, Massachusetts in 1655 at age 61.

Rev. Thomas Alley, born in Oxford, England in 1581, continued the family's heritage of ministry, serving as Rector of St. Mary's Church from 1602-1656. He died at age 75.

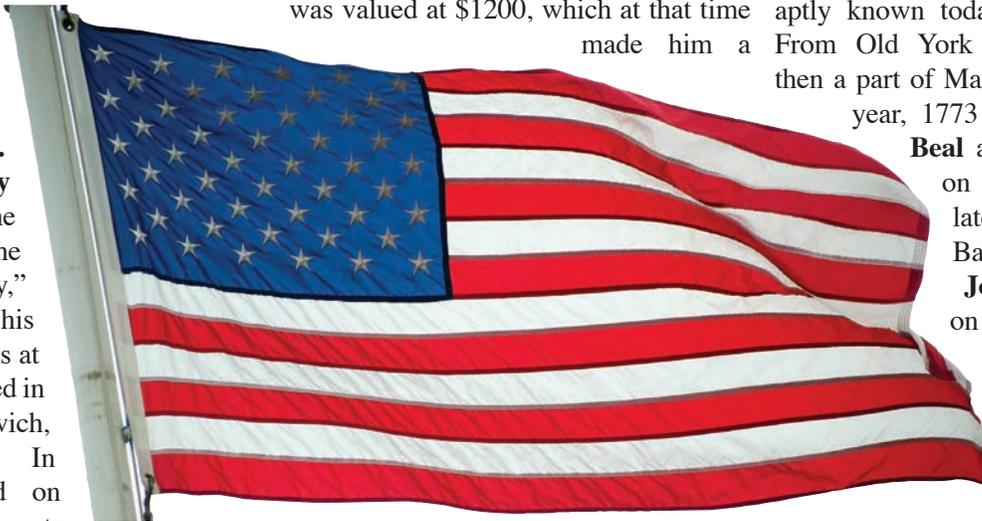
The second **William Alley**, born at Oxon, Oxford, England in 1605 to **Rev. Thomas Alley** and his wife, came to America on the ship "The Betsy," in 1632, with his wife and two sons at that time. He lived in Salem and Ipswich, Massachusetts. In fact, he served on the committee to determine the boundary between Salem and Ipswich in 1643.

William and his wife had 4 children, the oldest being **John**, the second John we mentioned at the beginning, born at Oxon, Oxford, England in 1628. **John** married **Rebecca Ayers** in 1648 or '49. **John and Rebecca** were among the original founders of Newbury, Massachusetts. **John**, who was a storekeeper by trade, was killed by Indians at age 25; **Rebecca** did not remarry. They had one son named **Thomas, born in 1650.**

Thomas Alley first married **Sarah Silver** and moved from Newbury, living most of their lives in Rowley, Massachusetts, named after the town of Rowley in Yorkshire, England. **Thomas** and **Sarah** are buried in the oldest burial ground dating back to 1640. They had 3 children, the oldest being **Samuel**, born April 7, 1675, and named for his mother's uncle, **Samuel Silver.**

Samuel Alley married **Elizabeth Thompson.** He died at Dover Point in 1764. Both **Samuel** and **Elizabeth** are buried at Alley's Point in Dover, but those old burial plots were destroyed during

construction in later years. They had 5 children, the oldest being **John** (the third John mentioned at the beginning), who was born Jan 25, 1720 and died in 1795 at Boothbay, Maine. He married Martha Stevens at Dover, New Hampshire in 1742 and came to Townsend, now Boothbay, in 1756, where John became one of the leading selectmen. His farm was valued at \$1200, which at that time made him a



person of high income, and he was also owner of the first mill privilege there. **John** and **Martha** had 13 children, the 8th of which was Joshua Alley, born April 4, 1756 at Boothbay. **Joshua** married **Hannah Brown** of Cape Porpoise, Maine, at Cape Porpoise 1777, then moved to Frankfort and to Penobscot around 1785 where they raised their family. He died there a debtor in 1817, and Hannah remarried, their children all grown.

Joshua served his country during the American Revolutionary War years as a private in Captain Timothy Langdon's Company in 1775 and then as a corporal for Captain Israel Davis' Company in 1776. He then served in Colonel Frye's Regular Seacoast Defense of the settlement of Boothbay.

Among the 7 children of **Joshua Alley** and **Hannah Brown** was their 3rd child, **John**, our **Captain John Alley**, first settler of Alley's Bay. We will speak more of him in just a moment; but first, having established the line of descent for **Captain John**, let us see how his arrival fits into the historical setting of the Moosabec region.

The first settler, or at least one of the first, to locate in the present town of Jonesport, was, as many of you know, **Francis Cummings** who moved to the area from Damariscotta, Maine in 1772 and settled on Roque Island. In the following year, or thereabouts, **Thomas Kelley** and his family, also from Damariscotta, settled on the Reach in the part of Jonesport aptly known today as Kelley's Point. From Old York in Southern Maine, then a part of Massachusetts, that same year, 1773 or '74, **Manwarren Beal** and his family settled on Beal's Island at what later became known as Barney's Point.

John Alley's settlement on Great Wass Island comes in 1804, about 30 years after Manwarren Beal's arrival to the area. **John** was born January 22, 1783 at

Frankfort, Maine and died at Great Wass Island on August 6, 1854 at the age of 71. He married **Tryphena** Heath, June 27, 1804 at Penobscot, shortly before moving to east. Tryphena was born May 1, 1784 and died in November of 1872 at Great Wass Island at the distinctive age of 98. Her name in Greek is a word meaning "faith, hope, and charity."

Upon their arrival to Great Wass in 1804, **John and Tryphena** built their first home from logs and materials found on the island. They later built a larger house, the former **Kenneth Beal** homestead, now owned by Letitia Parks, and raised 12 children. Both Captain **John Alley and Tryphena** are buried in the Alley's Bay Cemetery on the Backfield Road, surrounded by many of their descendants.

You may recognize some of the names of **John and Tryphena Alley** as your own ancestors. They are: **Zebediah Alley**, whose first marriage was to Nancy Ann Peabody; second Ann (Thornton) Reed Beal; and third Caroline (Thompson) Norton; **Joshua Alley**, who married first Lydia Beal and

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DAVIS FAMILY HISTORY

With DAVIS the sixth most common surname in the United States and JOHN the second most common given name, the search for the right man named John I. Davis becomes somewhat of a challenge to even the most experienced researchers of genealogy. Research into the origins of one John Davis leads us far back into American and world history to judges, ministers, farmers and fishermen, and a host of other occupations and callings. To complicate a search for the "original" John Davis leads us to several countries, numerous states, and a list of cities and towns too long to mention.

The ancestry of John I. Davis of Cutler, Maine goes back to Martha's Vineyard, where it appears he was born in 1756. The original name for Martha's Vineyard complements our story of John Davis, since it is an old Wampanoag word, "Noepe," and according to Cutler family tradition, John may well have been a Wampanoag Native American from Gayhead. One version passed down through generations suggests that

John's payroll stubs indicate that he was at Valley Forge and Yorktown during the surrender of General Cornwallis.

John's first marriage was to a Native American (Wampanoag) girl from New York, who died during childbirth.

An examination of historical documents reveals that John Davis was a Revolutionary War veteran who enlisted in Captain Wade's Army in New Jersey as a private on December 25, 1776 and served as a musician (drummer) until he was honorably discharged in 1783. John's payroll stubs indicate that he was at Valley Forge and Yorktown during the surrender of General Cornwallis. The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) placed a marker on his grave in July of 1978 to that effect, recognizing his service as an American

Patriot.

After the war came to an end, John purchased 300 acres of land at Cutler, Maine and was considered one of the original settlers of Township #11. In more recent years, the United States Government took possession of portions of his land through eminent domain, a part of which is now occupied by the Cutler Naval radio communications facilities.

The date and location of John's death is much easier to ascertain, since his stone exists to this day in a little Cutler cemetery at the head of the cove, the date of death inscribed as April 27, 1836. The record is also clear that he married Elizabeth Holmes, born at Scarborough in 1765, the daughter of Samuel Holmes, Jr. (1738-1802) of Portsmouth, Rockingham, New Hampshire and his wife Charity Bryant (1737-1829) of Scarborough, Maine. The old house in which they lived still stands.

John and Elizabeth settled at the head of Little River in Cutler. They had ten children as follows: Samuel Holmes Davis(1785-1870), John Davis(1787-1870), Daniel Davis(1791-1878), James Davis(1792-1876), William Henry Davis(1793-1863), Louise Davis(1793-), Catherine Davis(1796-1839), Mary A "Polly" Davis(1799-1850), Louise Eliza Davis(1803-1850), and Ann Davis(1805-1880). All ten children were born in Maine.

According to the research of Tibbetts and Lamson, based in part upon the family record of the late Lawrence B. Norton of Jonesport, one of John and Elizabeth Davis' sons, William H. Davis, was the first of the Davis line to settle in Jonesport upon on his second marriage. William Davis was born in Cutler, March 20, 1793, served in the War of 1812, and died at Jonesport February 8, 1863. William's military discharge papers were sent home to be kept by an unidentified lawyer. His first marriage was to Sarah Richardson of Cutler, born sometime in the 1790's and

died in the 1830's. William and Sarah had twelve children as follows: William Jr. (b.1812?), died September 30, 1899 at Calais; an unidentified daughter (b.1814), died in the 1830's; Elizabeth Ann (1816-1864?), known to have been mute and unwed; an unidentified son (1818-1830's); Joseph Pierpont, born April 18, 1820 and died at Addison on April 24, 1886; an unidentified son (1822-1830's); another identified son (1824?-1830's); an unidentified daughter (1827-1830's); Andrew Jackson, born in 1830 and lost overboard from the schooner Bunavesta off Cape Cod on January 29, 1860 at the age of 29; an unidentified child born around 1832 and died sometime shortly thereafter; Henry A., born in January of 1834 and died at Jonesport on October 5, 1866, buried in the West Jonesport Cemetery; and another unidentified child, born around 1836 and died shortly thereafter.

Following the death of his first wife in the 1830's, William married Lucy Beal Norton, born at Jonesport May 2, 1800 and died February 10, 1871. Lucy was the daughter of Elihu Norton and Sarah "Sally" Beal Norton. This is the same Sally who was given a beautiful silk handkerchief by a British officer when the British raided the home of Manwarren Beal on Beal's Island. Sarah died at Jonesport on February 8, 1871. William and Lucy had two children: Lucy Ann, born in 1839 and died sometime after 1864; and Daniel Richardson Davis, born November 15, 1842 and died at Searsport, December 28, 1922. Daniel was a sea captain and fisherman at Jonesport and married Mary Augusta Beal, born at Beals, April 10, 1843 and died at Jonesport, May 29, 1904.

Daniel Richardson Davis married Mary Augusta Beal, born at Beals April 10, 1843 and died at Jonesport May 29, 1904. They are buried on the back side of the Emma Shou lot at Greenwood Cemetery. They had a son named **Daniel Richardson Davis**, born at Cutler November 15, 1842 and died at Searsport December 28, 1922.

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(Lawrence B. Norton of Jonesport, Maine had in his possession until his death the Bible of Daniel Richardson Davis, once owned by his mother Lucy.) Daniel R. Davis and Mary Augusta were married at Jonesport February 16, 1861 by Captain Charles A. Barker. One of their children was a son named **Daniel Edward Davis**, named for his uncle **Edward Beal**. (Edward was the son of Mary (Polly) Ann Church Beal. He belonged to the 29th. Massachusetts Regiment, Company A, under General Hooker, commander. He died December 26, 1864 in Madison General Hospital in Tennessee. He was buried there during the Civil War. On August 19, 1862, while awaiting transportation to the war, he wrote a letter from Harpswell, Maine to his sister, Mary Augusta (Beal) Davis. He was at sea before going to war.)

It is from the children of Daniel Richardson Davis and Mary Augusta (Beal) Davis' children that most of the Davises of the Jonesport-Beals, and Addison area descended, all of which related to the Davises of the Cutler area and beyond. All of the children were born at Jonesport, among them two sets of twins. Andrew Jackson "Jack" Davis was born September 22, 1861 and died February 9, 1936 at age 74. He lived in South Addison. Mary Elizabeth Davis was born September 20, 1863 and died February 8, 1923. She was married to Thomas Doyle and Miles Towers. Hannah (Lovina?) Davis was born April 27, 1865, but her date of death is not known.

Julia Ada Davis, mother of the late well-known local historian Lawrence Norton of Jonesport, was born July 28, 1867 and died August 9, 1951 at age 84. She was married to Ferdinand Norton and Edward Robins. Daniel Edward Davis, great-grandfather of Beals Historical Society's local historian Daniel F. Davis, was born July 7, 1869. George William Davis was born June 18, 1871. Walter Mariner Davis was born April 13, 1874. Frances Ellen Davis was born April 6, 1876. Her first husband was John H. Norton and the second was his cousin Ferdinand Norton. She had three children by John

and four by Ferdinand. Carrie Lovina was born April 6, 1880 and died Oct. 26, 1953 at age 73. She married Asa Smith. Emma Bernice was born April 6, 1883 and died March 19, 1960 at age 77. (Her twin died at birth.) Emma's first husband was John Schou and her second was Lester Greenlaw. (This accounts for the fact that Daniel Richardson Davis and his wife are buried in the Schou lot at Greenwood. When Emma was born, she was so small that they could put her in a teapot, and a wedding ring would go all the way to her shoulder. Her twin that died was of normal size, however. Emma was known to weigh as much as 200 lbs. as an adult. In addition to the death of Emma's twin at birth, there was another set of infant twins born December 1872, who lived only six hours after birth.

Leon Davis was the final child, born July 5, 1879 and lived just over a month, dying August 18, 1879.

At present, we are able to trace the line of descent from John Davis to the present through five of his son William's children. We would like to invite any of our readers to submit information to help complete the Davis family genealogy. You may contact us at Beals Historical Society, P.O. Box 280, Beals, Maine 04611 or e-mail either of the following: cfdavis44@yahoo.com or dfdavis5958@gmail.com.

Beals Historical Society greatly appreciates the combined efforts, of Daniel F. Davis of Beals and Holly Davis of Jonesport, in the researching and writing of this article.

BHS Memorial Day Observance Continued Page 3

second Caroline Metilda Faulkingham; **Elizabeth Alley**, who married first Robert Merchant and second Thomas Jefferson Bryant; **Hannah Brown Alley**, who married Ammi Barnabas [Beal], a boatbuilder on Beals Island. They had 7 children; **John Alley, Jr.**, who married Elizabeth J. "Eliza" Beal; **Joseph L. Alley** who married Roxalana Hall "Roxie" (Norton) Drisko and had 6 girls; **Eldad Heath Alley**, who married first Mariah Beal Wallace and second Lucy Whitney Kelley; **Alexander A. Alley**, who married Tryphena Peabody; **Levi K. Alley**, who married first Harriet Amanda Foss and second Mercy A. Kent. Levi is buried in the little cemetery by the former Islander Take-out; **George Washington Alley**, who married Abigail Beal, from whom I am descended; **Andrew Alley** who married Priscilla Bryant; and **Lucy Ann Alley** who married Samuel Wallace.

It is from these 12 children of **John**

and Tryphena that many of us gathered here today are proudly descended. It is, indeed, a rich heritage that we share going all the way back to the days of Queen Elizabeth I and includes the distinguished task of translating the Pentateuch Book of Deuteronomy into the English language in a format that came to be known as the Bishop's Bible of 1568.

It is with great pride that we have related these facts concerning the Alleys mentioned at the beginning of this presentation. I trust you have found these Memorial Day reflections to be, not only informative, but a source of inspiration when you think of the distinguished line through which many of you may have descended.

The program concluded with an abbreviated version of another McKenney poem entitled, "Memorial Thoughts" and the benediction.

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