

JHS has been giving you interesting and prominent speakers for 20 years. The more recent presenters were Billy Milliken in 2023 and Bernard Fishman in 2024. This summer we are looking forward to three more guest speakers for your pleasure. See the schedule on the back of the brochure. All presentations will take place in the JHS Meeting Room at 21 Sawyer Square on Thursdays starting at 6:30 PM.



“Finding Thomas Kelley” by Billy Milliken



“Historic Maine in 3-D”
by Bernard Fishman
Director, Maine State Museum

2025 Public Meeting Presentations
(subject to change)

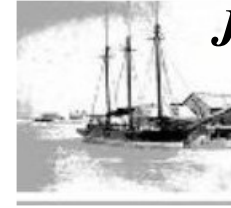
Jul 17 - *Jonesport, ME: The Postcard View* -
Kevin Johnson, Penobscot Marine Museum

Jul 24 - *Maine’s Legacy of Smuggling* - Roger Moody,
author of five books on Maine history

Aug 7 - *Old DownEast Humor* - Billy Milliken &
Eric Kelley, Jr.

We also plan to continue our free Friday Night Movies.
All events start at 6:30 PM in the JHS Meeting Room
on 21 Sawyer Square.

The JHS Museum and Heritage Center will be open to
the public July through August, Tuesday and Saturday,
11:00AM to 3:00PM, or on request May through Octo-
ber. If traveling from a distance, please call to confirm.



***Jonesport
Historical Society***

**“Preserving
Our Heritage”**

2025 Edition



Jonesport Historical Society
P.O. Box 603

Jonesport, ME 04649

207-497-2395 or 207-747-8228

jonesporthistoricalsociety@outlook.com

jonesporthistoricalsociety.org

Beautiful Jonesport Maine was incorporated in 1832. Born as a seafaring community, the village still retains much of its original character as families today continue the maritime traditions of their ancestors. The Jonesport Historical Society (JHS) was established in 2003 as a non-profit corporation to preserve the rich history of this special place.

Jonesport Historical Society Museum and Heritage Center is housed in the historic 130-year-old building that was once the D.J. & E.M. Sawyer General Store. It is located at 21 Sawyer Square in Jonesport.

There are almost 300 current JHS members residing in 25 states. All members receive an Annual Newsletter through Post Office Mail and a Quarterly Newsletter over E-mail. Members are also informed about coming events over E-mail.

JHS now has a new robust website, built by Deborah Bailey of Barnstormer Design, with input provided by JHS board members. From the Home Page there are 11 sections to navigate. The "Newsletters" section has a list of every Newsletter published since 2020 that you can read. Another section is "Town Historic Sites" from which you can choose from one of five parts of town to explore. There are more than 120 historic photos with accompanying text in this section, and each image of a location shows its GPS coordinates. There is a section called "Photos of People". It has a list of last names in either compact view or expanded view, where you can click on a full name to see photos of that person. There is also a search box where you can enter any part of a person's name. Photos of 1400 people copied from the JHS Archives database are included. At the bottom of each section is a link to a new JHS Facebook page created and maintained by JHS board members. You can visit the JHS website at: jonesporthisoricalsociety.org

The JHS Museum & Heritage Center contains a large collection of artifacts from the era when the Sawyer Building housed a general store, ships chandlery, bank and customs office. The Heritage Center consists of three computer databases, each accessible with a user-friendly menu and a help menu. There is also a digital Guestbook in which visitors can enter comments or report errors found in a database.

A Genealogy database created with Family Tree Maker® software currently contains information on 87,000 people, dating back to ancestors of the first settlers of the Jonesport-Beals area. Information about birth, place of residence, marriage, occupation, death, parents, spouses and children can be found in more than 700,000 text records.

A Local Cemeteries database contains information on 4500 graves in the 38 cemeteries of the Jonesport-Beals area. Burial location, date, age at death and veteran status are included. Photos of 2600 grave-stones, 1100 obituary columns, 1000 funeral registers and 750 deceased have been inserted so far. There is also an Other Cemeteries database with 350 obituaries of Jonesport folks buried in other towns.

An Archives database is a multi-media collection of all the archival information that the historical society has acquired since its inception. The subject matter is grouped into about 40 categories, including historical photos from family albums; biographical sketches and extracts from videotaped interviews with interesting long-time residents; photos of historical documents and artifacts; information on the history of Jonesport, its various industries, historic buildings, organizations and natural resources; and numerous other topics. The Archives database currently contains over 18,000 photos, 4,400 pages of local newspaper articles, 26,000 pages of documents and other text, and more than 470 audio/video clips that run a total of 17 hours.

The JHS Website Home Page



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Jonesport Historical Society. At the top, there is a logo with a ship and the text "Jonesport Historical Society 'Preserving Our Heritage'". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "About JHS", "Visit the JHS Museum & Heritage Center", "Honoring History & Building Community Today", and "View the JHS calendar". The main content area features a large photo of the Sawyer Building and a smaller photo of a ship. Text on the page describes the museum and heritage center, and mentions public presentations and Friday Night Movies.

Below are 4 of more than 120 photos with accompanying text in the Town Historic Sites section of the JHS Website.

Telephone Office (GPS 44.531332, 67.606165)



This is a photo of the Laura Wilson house on Main Street in 1916 when it was the central office of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. Notice the telephone emblem on the car and the telephone sign next to the front door of the house.



The first telephone booth in Jonesport was installed in 1953 on Main Street in the middle of town.

Jonesport Opera House (GPS 44.531186, 67.605194)



In 1968 the Opera House building was renovated and re-opened as the IGA Grocery Store. The building is currently unoccupied.

George William Smith (1836-1910) built the Smith Opera House, which was open by 1901. Around 1916 it became the Jonesport Opera House. Seen here in about 1966, it was used for, dances, school plays, graduation exercises, roller skating, boxing matches, and a movie theater.