

Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Winter 2023

Message from the President

Each year the Jonesport Historical Society is open to visitors from May through October. Some of those visitors generously donate their historic photos and texts to JHS. We scan these items and save them in a pending folder on the computer. During winter hiatus we take the opportunity to format the hundreds of items in this folder and prepare them to be added to our Archives database.

This winter we have some interesting items in that collection. There are several hundred Jonesport-related newspaper articles dating back to 1942, including a 1900-pound shark trapped in a weir, a 70-foot-long beached whale, the recovery of a 7-foot ship propeller, a downed nuclear attack bomber recovered with its missile, the Sterling Net Company business, the demolition of the William Underwood Sardine Factory, the first ferry service, the highest military medal awarded during the Vietnam War, the archaeology dig at the breakwater, and the strange story of the man with his personal submarine.

Then there's the history of weir fishing, clamming, worming and lobstering written in 1947 by Maurice Richards, a detailed account of Jonesport's 150th anniversary activities, four more issues of Rev. George Adams's monthly newsletters from 1866 and 1867 (published after the arrival of the Jaffa Colony), and the hand-written records of annual town meetings from 1854-1860.

There are several hundred more family photos and documents in the pending folder waiting to be processed. Thank you to all those who have allowed us to share these items with anyone wishing to view them in the Archives database.

Bill Plaskon, President

2023 Board of Directors

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*William Plaskon, President
Jean Guphill, Vice President
Charles Alley, V.P. Emeritus
Nancy Sawyer, Treasurer
Ashley Faulkingham, Secretary
Eric Kelley Jr., Historian*

Directors:

*Gregory Campbell
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Andrew Hutnik
Betty Kelley*

“To write is to fight forgetting.”

—French writer and Nobel Laureate Annie Ernaux

Board Member Profile

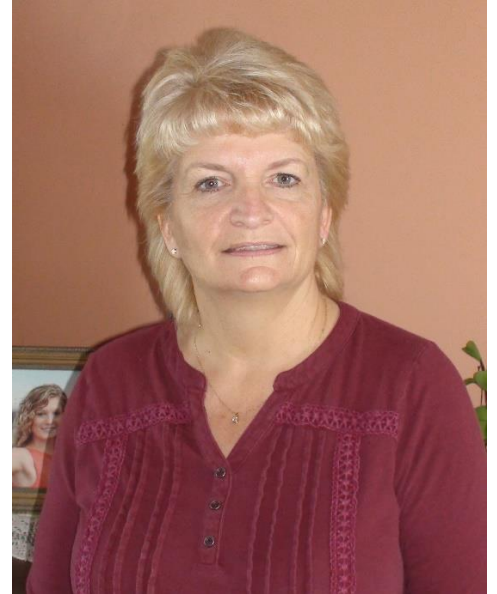
by Bill Plaskon

Nancy S. Sawyer was raised in Harrington, Maine, daughter of Lillian and the late Raymond Shaw. She met Daniel J. Sawyer III, the great-great-grandson of Edward M. Sawyer (of D. J. & E. M. Sawyer Store fame) in 1983. Nancy and Dan became engaged in 1985 while she was attending the University of Maine at Machias. After she received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, she began working for Dan's father, John Vassar Sawyer II, at the Worcester-Sawyer Insurance Agency, located in the Sawyer Building on Sawyer Square, the same building that John donated to the Jonesport Historical Society in 2011 after he retired.

Nancy and Dan were married in 1987. She continued working at the insurance agency until 1992 and developed a close bond with John. After Dan's mother, Betty, died in 2013 and his father's health declined, Nancy lovingly took care of John until he went into the Maine Veterans' Home in Machias, where he died in 2017. Dan and Nancy moved into the house on Sawyer Square that was built in 1895 for Edward M. Sawyer's son, Edward B. Sawyer and his wife Josie. Dan and Nancy remodeled the historic house (built by the same contractor that built the D. J. & E. M. Sawyer Store a year later), keeping the historic charm on the outside and all the exquisite wood floors and moldings throughout the interior.

Nancy and Dan have a 29-year-old son Daniel IV who is a land surveyor, and a 23-year-old daughter Sarah who is a medical assistant. Nancy enjoys cooking, boating and camping with the family at their cottage on Schoodic Lake.

(Profile continued, page 3)



Nancy S. Sawyer



Edward B. Sawyer's House, early 1900s



Nancy and Dan Sawyer's House, present day

(Profile, continued)

Nancy served as a deacon and trustee of the Sawyer Memorial Congregational Church. For the past four years she has been volunteering as a Moosabec Ambulance driver.

Nancy joined the Jonesport Historical Society Board of Directors in 2018. After JHS treasurer Cathy Perry died in 2021, Nancy accepted the responsibility of treasurer, with Bill Plaskon as her assistant. She faithfully picks up the JHS mail, pays the bills, deposits the checks, and enters all the bank transactions into a QuickBooks database. She is not only the treasurer, but also a treasure to work with.

—Bill Plaskon

The Dungarvan section of Jonesport, out beyond Greenwood Cemetery and the present Coast Guard housing, has been in the news lately because of the plans of Kingfish Maine for a land-based fish farm at that location. Genealogist Darryl Lamson offers info on where the name of that area might have come from.

Dungarvan Point

by Darryl Lamson

My grandparents, Austin and Mildred Lamson, said that the most beautiful place in Jonesport had been Dungarvan Point until the U. S. Coast Guard cut down all the trees and installed a radio station—which is no longer there. In our genealogy *The Donovan Family of Jonesport, Maine* (2007), page 1, we wrote “Since that was not an area where other Irish settlers are known to have lived, it is hypothesized that he [John Donovan] came from Dungarvan, Ireland. No other explanation has been found for that name being given to that site...”

Recently, genealogist Linda Harvey found a marriage record in Massachusetts which indicates that the bride’s mother, Josephine Holley, was born at Dungarvan, Ireland. In the 1880 U. S. census, James and Josephine (Halley/Holley) Peasley were living (near where the Monsaplec* Post Office would be) at Jonesport, next door to George Warren Donovan, son of Thomas Donovan and grandson of John Donovan. In *Early Jonesborough Families of Washington County, Maine* (2004), page 336, it shows James Warren Peasley married (first) “Josephine T.—, b in Ireland c 10 June 1851, d at Jonesport 12 April 1881 ae. 29-10-2 [g.s. Bayview Cemetery].” Since James Peasley and Josephine Holley were living in Boston when married in 1879, there is no indication that she had any Jonesport connection before marrying him, and in Jonesport they did not live near Dungarvan Point (where John Donovan’s son Jeremiah and some of his family lived).

The question raised is this: was Dungarvan Point named in connection with John Donovan who lived nearby after early 1800, or for Josephine Peasley who lived in a different area (Monsaplec) at Jonesport much later (1880). If it was named for Josephine—and why would that be?—then we have no indication of where in Ireland John Donovan came from. A map or other reference to Dungarvan before 1880 could clear up some of this question on the origin of the Donovan family.

**The Monsaplec section of Jonesport will be the topic of a piece in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter. —SMEJ*



Dungarvan is a town and harbor on the southeast coast of Ireland, in County Waterford, between the cities of Cork and Waterford. It is the site of a royal castle, the oldest part of which dates from 1185. The current population of the town is around 9,200.

**Membership Form (Q)
2023**

Please print all information clearly. Use a separate form for each person. Membership is 5.00 per year per person.

Name _____

Maiden Name (optional) _____ **Phone (required for ID)** _____

Mail Address _____

Town _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-Mail _____ **Contact me about volunteering**

\$ 5.00 **2023 Membership**

\$ _____ **2024 Membership (\$5.00)**

\$ _____ **2025 Membership (\$5.00)**

\$ _____ **Tax Deductible Donation**

\$ _____ **Total Amount**

Make check payable to *Jonesport Historical Society*

Mail to: Jonesport Historical Society

P.O. Box 603

Jonesport, ME 04649

NOTE: The above form is for new JHS members only. If you are an existing member, you will receive a renewal form with our annual newsletter in April.

Jonesport Historical Society

P. O. Box 603

Jonesport ME 04649

207-497-2395 or 207-747-8228

Located at 21 Sawyer Square

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