

# Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Autumn 2024

## Message from the President

I am pleased to announce the elections of Stacey Balicki and David Crook to the JHS Board of Directors. Stacey Balicki is a dedicated member of the Jonesport community with a deep-rooted passion for preserving its history. After serving 25 years in the United States Air Force, she returned home with her husband Jeff, to raise their three children (Jordyn, Riley, and Jaxson). A registered nurse by profession, she is currently the Health Occupations Instructor at Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology, sharing her knowledge and expertise with the next generation. A proud graduate of JBHS (class of '93), she has always been a strong supporter of the town. Having lived in various places around the world, she has come to appreciate the unique beauty and charm of Jonesport and is committed to preserving its heritage for future generations.

David Crook and his wife, Laurie Beck, have owned a home in Jonesport since 2003. The house and barn, located on Mason Bay Road, belonged to Newell White and family for several decades of the last century. Raised in a small town south of Buffalo, New York, David moved to New York City in 1975 after college and has maintained a home there since. David retired in 2019 after a 30-year career as an administrator in higher education at the City University of New York, and since then has been fortunate enough to be able to spend most of his time in Jonesport. David has served for more than 25 years on the board of his Manhattan cooperative building, has been a long-time member of the Jonesport Historical Society, and enjoys woodworking in a shop he built in his barn.

On a sad note, Michele Romanini-Pollard died this past June 30<sup>th</sup>. Michele served on the JHS Board of Directors from 2015 till 2020, when she then relocated to California. She was on the book committee that created *Jonesport America, a History Preserved in Pictures*. She worked on the chapter “Entertainment, Celebrations and Recreation”.

*Bill Plaskon, President*

## 2024- 2025 Board of Directors

### *Officers:*

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

### *Directors:*

*Stacey Balicki*  
*Barbie Cirone*  
*David Crook*  
*Aaron Dennis*  
*Andrew Hutnik*

## Woodbury Ancestors of Many Jonesporters

By Darryl Lamson

Many of the people of Jonesport are descendants of the Woodbury family of Salem and Beverly, Massachusetts, but are probably not aware of that family connection. The original immigrant, John<sup>1</sup> Woodbury (1576-1642) came from Burlescombe, Devonshire, England, and later was at South Petherton, Somersetshire, England, before bringing settlers to New England in 1624. He returned to England, married a third wife, then brought her to Salem, Massachusetts. Descendants lived at Salem and Beverly for 4 generations, then some of them moved to Cape Elizabeth & Falmouth, Maine, before 2 descendant families came to Jonesport after 1770. The local **Sawyer, Kelley, Church, Donovan,** and Ammi **Beal** families are all descended from John<sup>1</sup> Woodbury. I have 11 direct Woodbury ancestors in 13 lines of descent from John.

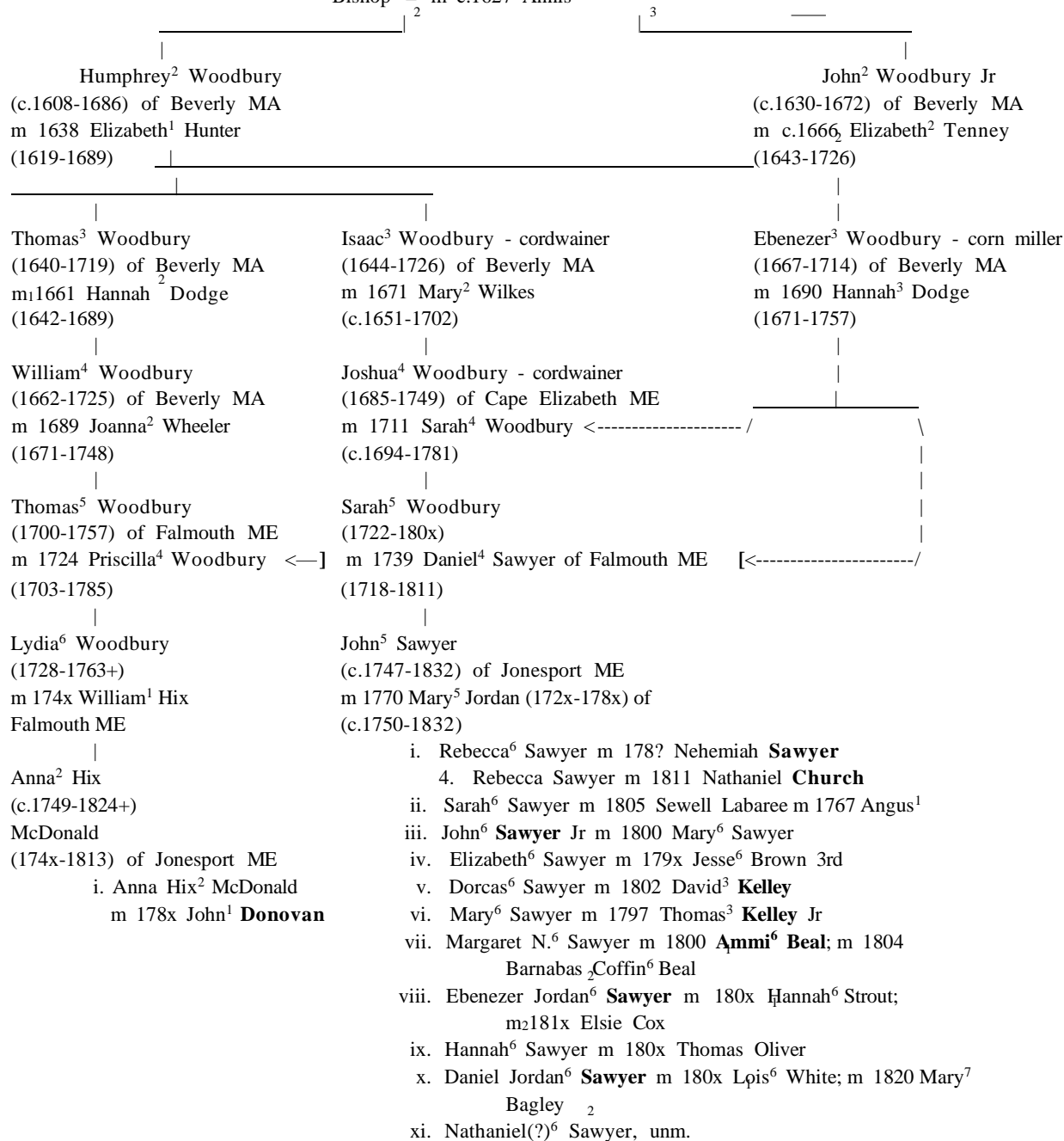
Sources: Published vital records of Beverly, Massachusetts; *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, by James E. Savage (1860-1862, 1957 reprint); *Dawes-Gate Ancestral Lines*, Vol. II, by M. W. Ferris (1913); *Genealogy of Descendants of Edward Small of New England*, by Lora A. Woodbury Underhill (1934 edition); *Some Ancestral Lines*, by R. M. Tingley (1935); *A Lovett Genealogy*, by Frank Nelson Hall (1965); correspondence in 1990 with Mrs. Leta L. Merrow; *Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John 1630*, Vol. 18, pp. 157-159; "Descendants of John & William Woodbury of Beverly, MA..." at internet website [www.woodburyober.com](http://www.woodburyober.com) in 2004.

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JOHN<sup>1</sup> WOODBURY, born in Somersetshire, England, c.1576; died at Salem MA between 29 June 1641 & 25 January 1641/42 [Essex County Court Record 1:33]; will was proved 27 June 1643, with executrix (his widow Ann) reporting an

inventory on 20 February 1643/44 [Essex County Probate Record 1:21]. He was able to read and write, and was well educated. He lived at South Petherton, Somerset, England, then was leader of the Dorchester Company which brought settlers to New England on the ship *Zouch Phenix*, arriving at Stage Fort {now Gloucester MA} in February or March 1623/24 for the purpose of planting, winter fishing, and Indian trade, moving first to Cape Ann, then settled at Salem MA by 1626. He returned to England in 1627 to obtain a revised patent for this colony and also to obtain more supplies. While there, he apparently married again, then returned with his son Humphrey on the ship *Abigail*, arriving on 28 June 1628 at Salem MA, where he was admitted as a freeman 18 May 1631. His new wife may have come then or perhaps followed a few years later. At Salem, he surveyed land for the setting out of new lots. He was deputy for Salem to the Massachusetts Bay General Court from 6 May 1635 to 13 March 1638/39; Colony assessor 12 March 1637/38; member of Colony committee to value livestock on 13 May 1640; member of Essex County petit jury 12 times (foreman twice) between 24 June 1636 & 29 June 1641; constable for Salem 28 September 1630; selectman at Salem 1636-41; lot layer at Salem 1635-37; assessor for Salem 1637 & 1638. He was granted one of five 200-acre farms at the head of Bass River in Salem on 25 January 1635/36 [town record 1:12], on 25 December 1637 was granted an acre of marsh {based on his household of 6 members} [town record 1:103], and on 7 May 1638 was granted 5 acres of meadow [town record 1:96]. [Reference: *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-33*, Vol. 3, by Robert Charles Anderson 1995)]

John<sup>1</sup> Woodbury (c.1576-1642) of England & Salem MA m 1607 Johan  
Bishop = m c.1627 Annis<sup>1</sup>



Details of the highlighted families are shown in *Early Jonesborough Families of Washington County, Maine* (2004). A “cordwainer” was a tanner & leather-worker.

## Announcing the New JHS Website

Jonesporter and JHS member Deborah Bailey, owner and creative director of Barnstormer Design, has created a new website for JHS which was recently launched. Much of the content came from Barbie Cirone and Bill Plaskon, especially in the website section called Town Historic Sites. Go to [www.jonesporthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.jonesporthistoricalsociety.org) and let us know what you think.

## The Boston Post Cane

By Bill Plaskon

Last month Jonesport Historical Society awarded the Boston Post Cane to 97-year-old Ernest Velton Kelley, Sr. for being the oldest resident of Jonesport. Since JHS was established in 2003, this was the seventh time the cane was awarded, but the first time it was awarded to a male.

The Boston Post Cane was started in 1909 as a publicity stunt for the Boston Post newspaper. The canes were made of imported ebony from Africa and the head was made of 14 K gold by J F Fradley & Co, a New York manufacturer. The canes were given to the oldest male resident of the town. There were 700 canes distributed to towns in New England. Many of the original ones have been lost over the years. Many of the towns that still do the tradition use reproductions. In 1930, it was decided women could also be recipients. The Boston Post newspaper went out of business in 1957. Most towns continuing this honor present the cane, which goes back to the town or organization involved, along with a bouquet of flowers, a certificate, and a commemorative lapel pin. Also, their name is added to a plaque.

These are the guidelines for receiving the cane:

- Must be a resident of the town. Although some towns have a minimum residency requirement, Jonesport does not.
- Minimum age of 90.
- Recipient must consent to receive the honor.
- Recipient keeps the honor till deceased or moves from town.
- There should be a review by JHS board members with assistance from the town clerk as needed.
- The actual cane stays on display at the JHS Museum along with the plaque.\_\_\_\_



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## Down East Beveridges

By Linda Harvey

I saw this bottle in Laconia NH, where it was produced by the former Coca Cola Bottling Company there. I asked several down east friends, but no one remembered it. Do you?

This fizzy beverage, or soda, came in grape, lemon-lime, pale dry ginger ale, root beer, and orange flavors. Information is scarce, but it was a line of Coca Cola distributed in the 1950s and 1960s. Bottling is documented in plants in Northampton MA, Laconia NH, and Portland ME. There were two versions: the clear glass with blue & white graphics seen here and a rarer green bottle with red and white schooner and lettering. Most were 6 oz, but I found one example of a 12 oz. bottle.

Did people down east drink this Down East Soda?



**Membership Form  
2024**

**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**

|                                          |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$ <u>5.00</u> <b>2024 Membership</b>    | <b>Make check payable to <i>Jonesport Historical Society</i></b>                      |
| \$ _____ <b>2025 Membership (\$5.00)</b> |                                                                                       |
| \$ _____ <b>2026 Membership (\$5.00)</b> | <b>Mail to: Jonesport Historical Society<br/>P.O. Box 603<br/>Jonesport, ME 04649</b> |
| \$ _____ <b>Tax Deductible Donation</b>  |                                                                                       |
| \$ _____ <b>Total Amount</b>             |                                                                                       |

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**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  
jonesporthistoricalsociety@outlook.com