



Jonesport Historical Society

*“Preserving
Our Heritage”*

P.O. Box 603
Jonesport, ME 04649
jonesporthistoricalsociety@
peabody.lib.me.us

JHS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2020

At the final 2019 JHS Board of Directors meeting last October we all agreed that deceased president Donnie Woodward would have been pleased at the way we all took on extra responsibilities to keep the Jonesport Historical Society going for another successful year. And our regular membership was very generous with not only monetary donations but also by volunteering to help with the Sawyer building and grounds maintenance.

By the end of last year an unprecedented 45 new members joined Jonesport Historical Society, bringing our total current membership to 330. Thanks to all those new members and to those who kept their dues up to date.

Changes to the JHS Board of Directors:

In July 2019 Arlene Hutnik retired from the JHS Board of Directors, after serving as Secretary for her entire tenure of ten years. At the JHS public presentation in August, Arlene was awarded a framed certificate of appreciation for her service, and Charlie Alley was awarded a framed certificate of appreciation for his continuing service as vice-president since 2003.

Rev. Dr. Eric W. Kelley was elected into the board in August 2019. Eric is a native of Jonesport, so his roots run deep in Downeast Maine. Ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1973, he holds degrees in education, divinity, and clinical psychology. Eric is now retired after having had a long and active life as a minister across Maine, and since his retirement has served on the board of Peabody Memorial Library. He lives at Mary Jim's Point, Jonesport, on the same property where he began life, sharing his home with his wife, Betty, and their dog, Bindi.

Ashley Faulkingham, who was elected into the board in August 2015, has regretfully resigned in October 2019. In November Byron Carver, Jr. was asked to join the board and he graciously accepted. Byron was born and raised in Jonesport. He is married to Darlene Emerson also of Jonesport. They have two children, Jennifer lives in Somerville, MA and Byron III lives in Jonesport with his wife Jeanna and two daughters Jazmin and Kennedy. Byron ran a contracting business for thirty years. He has served on the school board and the planning board, and he was the assistant fire chief. Byron and Darlene currently own and operate Moosabec Video and Variety in Jonesport.

The Quarterly Newsletter initiated and edited by JHS member Sharon Josephson, which is sent to all members by email only, has been very successful judging by the many complimentary comments we have received. All members are encouraged to submit articles. **IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IT IS BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE ONE. THE ONLY CORRESPONDENCE THIS YEAR WILL BE BY EMAIL.**

The monthly public presentations last year were again well attended, each one averaging about 60 people. Thanks to board members Kylie Hinkley, Arlene and Andy Hutnik, Jan Kristo, Charlene Nelson, Michelle Pollard and Nancy Sawyer for providing refreshments or manning a promotion table at these events. **BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ALL PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND FREE MOVIES ARE CANCELLED THIS YEAR.**

The Jonesport Historical Society Museum was visited by about 120 people last year. Thanks to board members Charley Alley, Eric Kelley, Cathy Perry and Nancy Sawyer who volunteered as docents last summer, including JHS members Mark Edwards, Betty Kelley and Shelby Woodward. **BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE MUSEUM WILL ONLY BE OPEN THIS YEAR UPON SPECIAL REQUEST, AND GUESTS MUST WEAR MASKS. PLEASE CALL 207-747-8228 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**

Many more artifacts were received last year, including: eight local historic decoys from Charlene Nelson; a huge collection of military items belonging to Robert F. Higgins from Dennis Higgins; a film clip of a boat launch from Ralph Smith; a family genealogy story from Alden Anderson; more than 70 pharmacy prescriptions between 1905-1939 from Kyle Boone; hundreds of sardine canning labels from Lina Beal; genealogy updates, photos and documents from Bud Sawyer; lists of Jaffa colonists who left the colony, remained at the colony, or who died in Jaffa, from Jean Holmes; and vintage photos/documents from the albums of Mark Edwards, Gloria Feeney, Ed Hall, Faythe Harmon, Eric Kelley, Jimmy Lenfestey, Bruce McFadden, and Nancy Sawyer.

The Cemeteries database, which had not been updated since 2008, now includes all the graves for everyone buried in Greenwood Cemetery through 2019, thanks to Tonia Merchant from the Jonesport Town Office. Also, JHS member Lynda Fernsten has completed inserting the road directions and GPS locations to all of the 38 Jonesport/Beals cemeteries, along with a photo of each cemetery site.

Board member Eric Kelley has video-interviewed Sanford Kelley, Jr. and Gloria (Kelley) Feeney, adding to our DVD collection of more than 75 interviews of local senior citizens.

Thanks to board member Andy Hutnik for mounting the memorial plaque in the Donald C. Woodward Meeting Room, and for mounting the half-hull model of the schooner Golden Ball in the museum.

Board members Nancy Sawyer, Michelle Pollard and I have been trained as treasury backups to Cathy Perry, who has been our treasurer since JHS was organized in 2003. Board member Kylie Hinkley has been assisting me with maintaining the Membership database. Board member Eric Kelley is now helping Andy Hutnik and me with the pre and post winterizing of the Sawyer building. JHS member Greg Libby has been helping Andy with grounds maintenance.

Board member Jan Kristo has requested cost estimates from contractors to build a handicap ramp into the Sawyer building and for handicap access into the meeting room and museum. Once a contractor commits to the construction, Jan will apply for grants to cover the costs of these two projects.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SINCE WE ARE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR OFFERING PRESENTATIONS THIS YEAR, WE ARE NOT CHARGING MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2020 OR EXPECTING DONATIONS.

Bill Plaskon, President
Jonesport Historical Society