



***Jonesport
Historical Society***
“Preserving
Our Heritage”

P.O. Box 603
Jonesport, ME 04649
jonesporthistoricalsociety@outlook.com

JHS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER: April 2023

The Jonesport Historical Society was founded 20 years ago. In the past we have celebrated every fifth anniversary by inviting our members to a banquet, and we would like to continue the tradition for this special anniversary by celebrating the 20th anniversary with a buffet dinner on Saturday, July 22nd in the hall of the Community of Christ Church. An invitation will be PO mailed to you in late June. We hope to see many of you there, so please reserve that date on your calendar.

COVID-19 restrictions during 2022 continued to keep us from resuming regular open hours at the museum and having public presentations in the meeting room. However, we still welcomed guests by appointment only, opening 18 times for 39 visitors. We also resumed the free Friday night summer movies by limiting attendance to 30 people. Many of the visitors come to research their ancestors and sometimes donate artifacts or photos from their family albums. One prized artifact, donated by two collectors of old tools after they recognized its historic significance, once belonged to Edward Knowles Emerson. He was one of the passengers who sailed on the *Nellie Chapin* from Jonesport to Jaffa, Palestine in 1866. The story about E.K. Emerson and his tool appeared in the Autumn 2022 E-mail issue of the JHS Quarterly Newsletter.

While on the subject, Sharon Josephson, the editor of the Quarterly Newsletter, continues to do a great job of organizing it. Sometimes she also writes one of the stories. In the Summer 2022 edition she wrote a thoroughly researched story about the U. S. Lighthouse Service tenders *Hibiscus* and *Ilex*, and how their many years of service were entwined with that of Jonesport native Osmond C. Faulkingham. Sharon is always looking for more stories from our membership.

If you are not receiving the Quarterly Newsletter, it is because we do not have a valid E-mail address for you. Please let us know your E-mail address if you have one. We do not share our E-mail contact list, and we blind-copy all our mass mailings.

The one public presentation we had in 2022 was in July when seventy JHS members and guests came to the Jonesport Firehouse for a presentation by Passamaquoddy language historian Dwayne Tomah, translator of the world's first wax cylinder field recordings of human voices.

In July JHS Historian Eric Kelley and Bill Plaskon were invited to give a presentation to a land preservation group about the history of the Lang Granite Quarry in Addison. In October Eric and Bill also gave a slide presentation to the Jonesport Elementary School 3rd graders about the History of Jonesport.

In 2018 the Jonesport Historical Society started to share Jonesport stories with Galen Koch, founder of *The First Coast*, a community storytelling project that documents the lives of coastal Maine residents using audio, video and print media. Galen taught Camden Hunt, a student at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, how to create a story as a soundwalk. What Camden produced in 2022 was an audio walk around the historic Jonesport districts of Sawyer Square and Old House Point Road. Using nine audio interviews of Jonesporters made by Galen, Camden narrated the 42-minute soundwalk and recorded it so the walk can be taken by anyone and listened to with either a smartphone or with an MP3 player.

Last summer Bill Plaskon realized that many senior citizens may not be able to walk that long to listen to the tour, so he obtained permission from Galen and Camden to create a video version of the soundwalk, inserting more than 150 historic photos that are synchronized with the 42-minute walk. That video was one of the free movies shown in August.

About 300 photos and more than 700 pages of text were added to the Archives database in the past 12 months. The Archives database now contains over 18,500 photos, 4,000 pages of local newspaper articles, 28,000 pages of documents and other text, and 470 audio/video clips that run a total of 17 hours.

Volunteer help is always needed, especially with scanning photographs and documents, publishing the Quarterly Newsletter, fundraising, and greeting museum visitors. Please let us know if you can help.

Changes to the JHS Board of Directors:

Last year Byron Carver, Jr., Kylie Hinkley and Charlene Nelson regretfully resigned from the Board of Directors because of other commitments. We thank them for their service and will miss them. All three of those vacancies were filled by the following:

Aaron R. Dennis attended the College of NJ graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. He worked for years as an engineer for General Electric. Aaron and his wife Holly moved to Jonesport in 2016. Last year Aaron volunteered his services at his own expense to upgrade the JHS audio/video equipment to HDMI cable.

Gregory A. Campbell attended the University of Maine at Orono, completing the work for his B.S., M.S., and PhD. in Chemical Engineering. His 50-year technical career included employment at General Motors and Mobile Chemical. Greg has taught courses for Sunrise Senior College and has served as moderator for several Jonesport Town Meetings.

Barbara "Barbie" Cirone was born, brought up, and still lives in Jonesport. Her roots run very deep in the town since she is a descendent of the town's "founding fathers". Barbie graduated magna cum laude from Endicott College with an associate science degree in interior design. She has spent the last 25 years working at Jonesport-Beals High School as the Administrative Assistant and in the guidance office. Barbie is also a Certified Maine Assessor and has worked for the towns of Jonesport and Addison. She and her husband, Stephen, have two children, Brianna and Stephen, who have each graduated from the University of Maine at Orono.

In 2023 we are planning to resume open hours in the museum on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM during July and August. We also hope to have at least one public presentation by a guest speaker, and to show free Friday night movies. Depending on the COVID issue, seating may be limited to 30 people.

Membership Renewal

Your address label shows the end of year that your dues have been paid. If you have paid your dues through 2023 or later, your new membership card is enclosed along with a donation form. If you are a member who owes dues for 2023, a membership form is enclosed. You are not required to pay dues prior to 2023. It would be greatly appreciated if you also pre-pay 2024 and 2025. If any information is incorrect or missing from the label attached to either form, please print the correct information on the form. If you are not already a member but would like to become one, a blank membership form is enclosed.

Bill Plaskon, President
Eric Kelley, Jr., Historian
Jonesport Historical Society