



# *Jonesport Historical Society*

*“Preserving  
Our Heritage”*

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## JHS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER: April 2025

Two new people volunteered to fill the vacancies in the JHS Board of Directors in 2024, Stacey Balicki and David Crook. Stacey has already replaced the old JHS Facebook page with a new one, and David is now the publisher of the Quarterly Newsletter, which is E-Mailed to members each January, April, July, and October. **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. We do not share our email contact list, and we blind copy all our mass mailings.**

The Jonesport Historical Society owes much of its success to the volunteer efforts of the Board of Directors. Starting in April, 2024 Aaron & Holly Dennis, and Betty & Eric Kelley helped process the annual membership bulk mailing to more than 300 members. While I was on vacation in June Barbie Cirone and Jean Guptill processed the membership database with dues and donations received through the mail. Barbie Cirone, Jean Guptill, Aaron Dennis, and Betty & Eric Kelley volunteered to be docents at the JHS Museum during July and August. A total of 85 people came to visit the museum in 2024. In August Eric Kelley arranged to have local carpenter Harold Gray replace the side entrance stairs to the Sawyer Building. In September most of the staff participated in awarding the Boston Post Cane to Ernest Velton Kelley, Sr., oldest living citizen at the age of 97. Barbie Cirone and Stacey Balicki volunteered to be backups for monitoring and responding to JHS emails. Besides taking care of the maintenance to the Sawyer Building, our handyman Andy Hutnik framed and hung two more historic documents. Throughout the year I rely on our treasurer Nancy Sawyer to pay the bills, balance the checkbook, and enter all checkbook transactions into QuickBooks.

There were two public presentations with guest speakers in the summer. On July 11<sup>th</sup> Bernard Fishman, Director of the Maine State Museum, presented *Historic Maine in 3-D*. Mr. Fishman showed about 70 stereoscopic photos taken in Maine from 1865 to 1910. He supplied 3-D glasses for almost 50 people who attended the presentation. On July 25<sup>th</sup> Bill Plaskon presented *Jonesport in the Movies*, where he talked about eight movies that were filmed in Jonesport, or were supposed to take place in Jonesport, or showed Jonesport folks in the movie, or were assisted by JHS or the town in making the movie.

There were also the popular Free Friday Night Movies. Last summer we showed several short films: *Jenny's Island Life*, *Salmon Country*, *Buz & Helen Beal's Model Railroad*, *From Stump to Ship*, and *From Pulpwood to Print*.

The last of the public activities was on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> when JHS was again invited to set up a sales and promotion table at the Jonesport Library End of Summer Celebration. Jean Guptill, Betty & Eric Kelley, and JHS member Mark Edwards helped man the table.

In September a new JHS website was launched, built by Deborah Bailey of Barnstormer Design, with input provided by Bill Plaskon and Barbie Cirone. Knowing that many of our members do not get to Jonesport to use the Archives database, we have copied information from the database and inserted it into the website. From the Home Page of the website 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 Stacey Balicki. You can visit the JHS website at: [jonesporthistoricalsociety.org](http://jonesporthistoricalsociety.org)

About 730 items have been recently added to the Archives database, consisting of 630 photos, 425 newspaper articles, and 920 pages of documents and other text. In total there are about 50,000 items on the Archives database, consisting of more than 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.

Barbie Cirone has volunteered to add more information to the Genealogy database, which has not been updated since JHS genealogists Donnie Woodward and Cathy Perry died in 2018 and 2021 respectively. The Archives database, which is installed on one of the computers in the Jonesport Library, has also been updated. The three JHS computers will need to be converted from Microsoft Windows 10 to Windows 11 this year.

We had 18 new members join Jonesport Historical Society in 2024 but lost about 10 members due to death or re-locating. We ended the year with 276 members. Thanks to all those new members and to those who keep their dues up to date.

This year the Museum will again be open during the months of July and August on Tuesday and Saturday during the hours of 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. It will also be open on request from May through October. If traveling from a distance, please call to confirm.

We have great speakers lined up for this summer, On July 17<sup>th</sup> *Jonesport, ME: The Postcard View* will be presented by Kevin Johnson, Photo Archivist of the Penobscot Marine Museum. On July 24<sup>th</sup> Roger Moody, author of five books on aspects of Maine history, will present *After Dark, Maine's Legacy of Smuggling from 1776 through Prohibition*. On August 7<sup>th</sup> Billy Milliken and Eric Kelley, Jr. will present *Old Downeast Humor*. The stories they will tell in their DownEast accents should make for a most entertaining evening.

We are also planning to show the popular Free Friday Night Movies during the Summer. All presentations and movies start at 6:30 PM, and the dates are subject to change.

### **Membership Renewal**

Your address label shows the end of year that your dues have been paid. If you have paid your dues through 2025 or later, your new membership card is enclosed along with a donation form. If you are a member who owes dues for 2025, a membership form is enclosed. You are not required to pay dues prior to 2025. It would be greatly appreciated if you also pre-pay 2026 and 2027. 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  
Jonesport Historical Society