

West Jonesport

In the early years of Jonesport, the area know as West Jonesport had its own school, post office, general store, hardware store, and factories. Ferry Street was the location of a garage and wharf. for Those that lived on Beals or wanted to visit family there could leave their cars and be “ferried” across the reach. The Underwood factory with its large water towers later became the location of the United States Coast Guard base.



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Union Church (GPS 44.528670, -67.621003)



Lincoln Grammar School



Photo from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection. Courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum.

The Union Church building in West Jonesport was situated between the former Lincoln Grammar School on the left and the West Jonesport Cemetery on the right. The church is now called the Lamb of God Church. About 275 people are buried in the West Jonesport Cemetery, and about 120 were buried before 1900.

The Lincoln School was next to the Union Church in West Jonesport. It was located where the West Jonesport Park is today.

Students at Lincoln School



The school burned down at 3:35 AM on December 26, 1977. It was located where the West Jonesport Park is today.





In 2014 the Jonesport community raised money to purchase a granite sculpture from the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium, and erected it in the West Jonesport Park. It is titled “Connection” and is in the shape of a twisted rope, appropriate for a fishing village.



Wm. Underwood Sardine Factory (GPS 44.528001, -67.616105)



In 1880 the William Underwood Company opened the first sardine factory in Jonesport where the U.S. Coast Guard Station is now, it and ran it until 1962. It was equipped with the latest machinery and was one of the finest canning factories in the world.



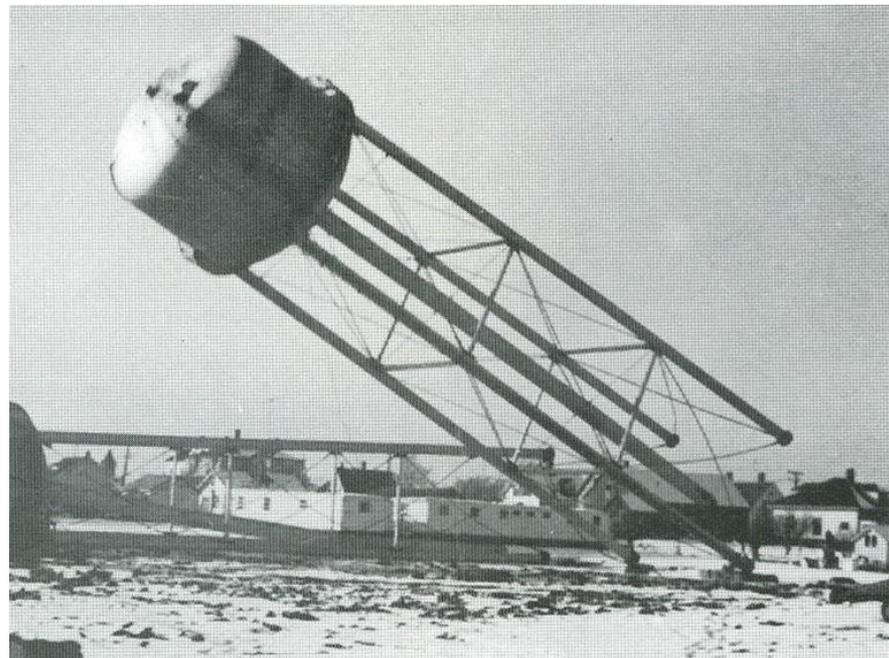
The building at the new sardine packing establishment by Wm. Underwood Co. at the upper part of the town near the steamboat landing is far ahead of any previous undertaking and will be, when completed, one of the finest equipped plants of its kind in the country, if not the world. The building now being constructed has a solid granite foundation and will be of brick, fire proof, 60 feet wide by 200 feet long and two stories high; fully equipped with the best and most modern machinery. When in running order this establishment alone will employ 200 hands.

Bangor Daily Whig & Courier, May 22, 1899



William Underwood's Factory being reconstructed after fire destroyed the first buildings.

Vern McFadden was the last manager at Underwood's Factory. The workers in this photo are soldering the sardine cans.



The Underwood Factory was torn down in 1964. In 1967 the two factory water tanks were torn down.

America Colony in Jaffa (GPS 44.527695, -67.615477)



This monument stands at the entrance to the Jonesport-Beals Bridge. It reads:

NELLIE CHAPIN DAY

August 11, 1866 ----- 1991

In honor of 157 New Englanders who sailed from Jonesport to Jaffa 125 years ago to help restore the land of Israel.



This monument is located in Jaffa, Israel, modern day Tel Aviv. It reads:

In honor of 157 American Christian lovers of Zion who arrived by sail on the ‘Nellie Chapin’ on September 22, 1866 bringing wooden houses from Jonesport, Maine to establish the American Colony in Yafo.

Pictured are Reed M. Holmes and his wife Jean L. Holmes. Reed is the author of *The ForeRunners*, the story of the Jaffa American Colony and a link between Maine and the roots of Israel. Jean, a licensed construction supervisor, has converted one of the colony's prefab houses into a Jaffa Colony museum.



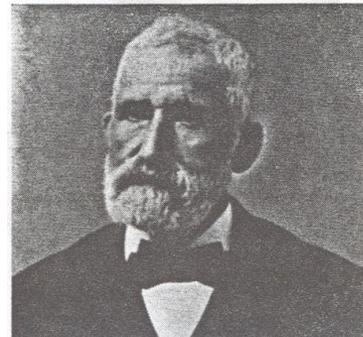
Reverend George J. Adams

In the 1860s George J. Adams, a former minister of the Mormon Church founded by Joseph Smith, moved to Maine and established the Church of the Messiah. Adams convinced more than 150 of his followers to sail with him on the bark Nellie Chapin in 1866 to colonize Jaffa in Palestine, and to encourage the Jews to return to Jerusalem, so as to quicken the second coming of Christ.

Soon after arriving, the colonists noticed George Adams drinking heavily. By October 1867 twenty colonists died of disease or starvation. Most of the remaining could not take the hardships of life and the abuses of Adams and wanted to return to the U.S.

Mark Twain, who was touring the Holy Land at that time on the vessel *Quaker City*, heard about the misfortune of the group and was instrumental in getting a wealthy passenger to pay the passage in gold for 40 of the colonists. Twain later wrote about this episode in his book *Innocents Abroad*. That was Twain's most popular book during his lifetime. Here is an excerpt taken from chapter LVII of Project Gutenberg's eBook "The Innocents Abroad":

At Jaffa we had taken on board some forty members of a very celebrated community. They were male and female; babies, young boys and young girls; young married people, and some who had passed a shade beyond the prime of life. I refer to the "Adams Jaffa Colony". Others had deserted before. We left in Jaffa Mr. Adams, his wife, and fifteen unfortunates who not only had no money but did not know where to turn or whither to go. Such was the statement made to us. Our forty were miserable enough in the first place, and they lay about the decks seasick all the voyage, which about completed their misery, I take it. However, one or two young men remained upright, and by constant persecution we wormed out of them some little information. They gave it reluctantly and in a very fragmentary condition, for having been shamefully humbugged by their prophet, they felt humiliated and unhappy. In such circumstances people do not like to talk.

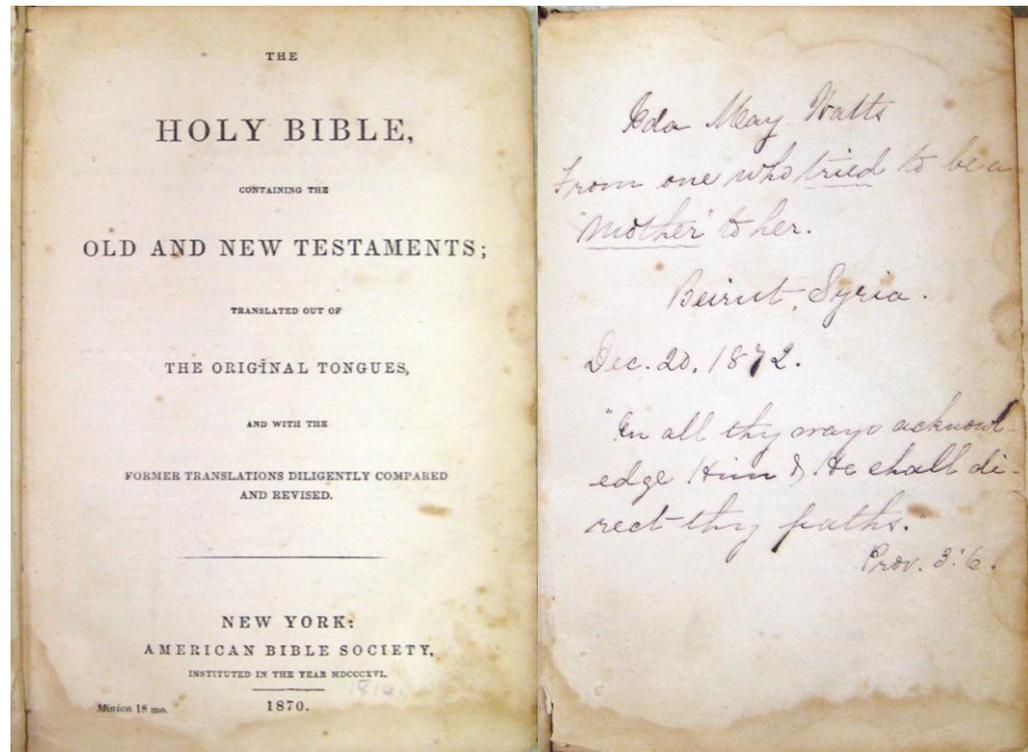


Abe McKenzie

Abe McKenzie was a close follower of Adams and was supposed to bring another boat load of church members to Jaffa a year later. McKenzie canceled the voyage when he learned of the fate of the 1866 colonists.



This wooden luggage box was brought back from Palestine by Ida May Watts when she was returned to the United States as a small child. She traveled with her parents and 3 siblings to Jaffa Palestine when she was only five months old. Three months after arriving in Jaffa, Ida's 2-year-old sister died. Six months later her 5-year-old sister died. Ida May's father, fearing that his remaining family would die, returned to Maine with Ida's brother, but Ida May's mother refused to leave the colony and stayed in Jaffa with Ida May.



When Ida May's mother died in Jaffa, Ida's aunt, who was also a Jaffa colonist, tried to take care of her niece, but eventually sent her to a convent. After Ida May became ill, Ida's aunt got her on board a ship in 1872 to return her to Maine, with the wooden box which had all of Ida May's belongings, along with this bible. Ida May traveled alone, with a tag around her neck for identification, as if she were baggage. Ida May Watts eventually married and had 5 children of her own.



A rare photo of some of the colonists in Jaffa. Seated in the 2nd row with the black beard is Rolla Floyd, who started a successful tour agency through Jerusalem with his horse buggy. One of his tourists was General Ulysses S. Grant.



Author Reed Holmes standing at one of the remaining pre-fab wooden buildings brought over from Maine in 1866, and what his wife had refurbished as their winter home in Jaffa, where they created a Welcome Center and museum.

Jonesport Packing Company (GPS 44.528483, -67.611953)



The Jonesport Packing Factory was also known as the Middle Factory or the Pinch Penny, in honor of Bart Small, who was known to save money any way that he could. The Jonesport Packing Company ran the factory from 1883, off and on, until 1962 when it was sold to Oscar William Look II and the wharf is operated today as O.W. Look and Son. It is shown here in about 1940.