

# Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Spring 2023

## Message from the President

This Summer the Jonesport Historical Society, founded in 2003, will be observing its twentieth anniversary. In the past we have celebrated every fifth anniversary by inviting our members to celebrate with us, and we would like to continue the tradition for this anniversary by inviting our members to a buffet dinner. So please reserve Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> in your calendar. An invitation and agenda will be PO mailed to you in June.

In the Winter 2023 Newsletter I mentioned that one of the items being added to the Archives database is news articles about a downed nuclear attack bomber off Jonesport waters. Several people have asked me about that incident. See pages 3 and 4 to read the story.

*Bill Plaskon, President*

## 2023 Board of Directors

### Officers:

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

### Directors:

*Gregory Campbell*  
*Barbie Cirone*  
*Aaron Dennis*  
*Leland Faulkingham Jr.*  
*Andrew Hutnik*  
*Betty Kelley*

## My World War II Shoes

by Maxine (Smith) Morris

Recently I received an email that included the post-World War II photo of a little Austrian boy admiring new shoes. I have no memory of my first pair of post-war footwear, but I will never forget my last pair of WWII shoes.

The upper part of those shoes were made from a canvas-like material. As for the soles, I only know what they weren't: neither leather nor rubber, materials which weren't available *for the duration*. The first day I returned from Jonesport High School and removed the shoes, I discovered the soles had split. For the remainder of the war I saved cardboard. Each morning before going to school I would trace my feet on the cardboard, cut out the drawings, and insert them into my shoes. Of course, by the end of the day the cardboard would have split and I went through the tracing, cutting process again and again. All of my white bobby socks had a black streak across the bottom that no amount of washing or bleach removed.

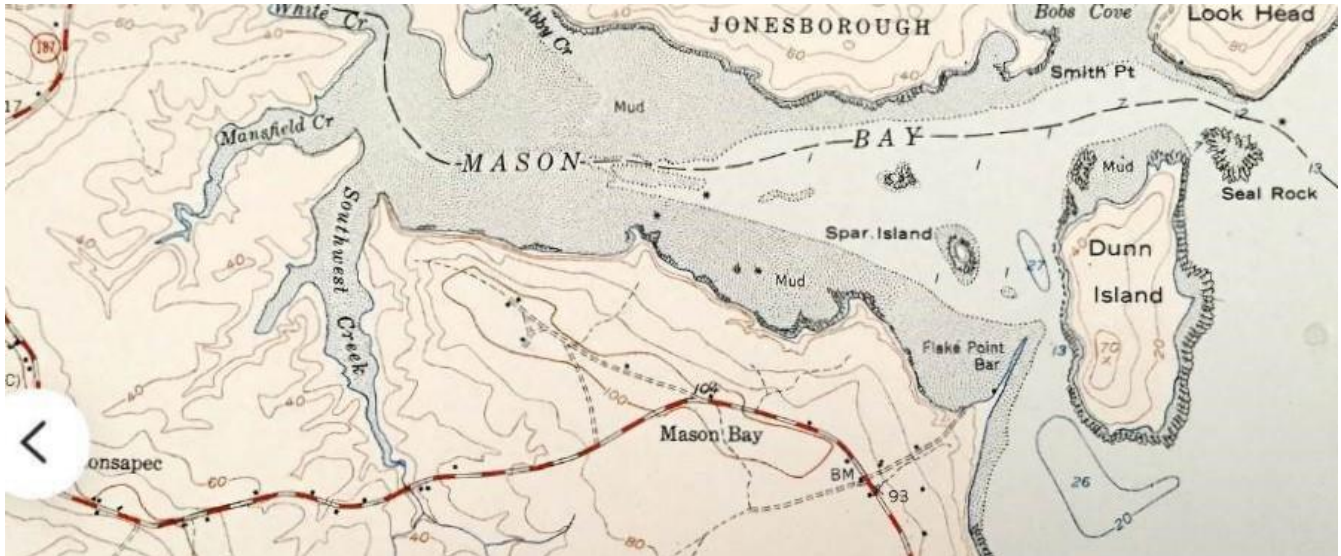
In the photo, the little Austrian boy's face is gleeful. During the war, when I contemplated my shoes, my face was filled with disgust. Looking back, I know I was luckier than most of the European children during the war, but I'll never forget those miserable World War II shoes.

*Maxine (Smith) Morris grew up near the corner of Main Street and Underwood Lane (presently Bridge Street). Now a retired school teacher in South Portland, she has many memories of Jonesport during the Depression and World War II. The short piece to the left, about shoes, is one of them.*

*What are **your** memories? Won't you please share one with the JHS Newsletter? —SMEJ*

## The Area of Jonesport Known as Monsapéc

by Linda Harvey



I once found newspaper items from 1897 through 1934 regarding the family of Willis White of *Monsapéc*. They lived at what is now 1561 Mason Bay Road in the home passed to son Carl and Annie White and now occupied by Ike and Lois Hubbard. I'd not before seen Monsapéc as a location. Further research revealed several more references. To get oriented, note that the name Monsapéc appears on the 1951 Jonesport Geological Survey/Topo Map shown above, just by the arrow in the lower left corner. Google Maps pin the Hubbard house if you search for Monsapéc.

The earliest reference was in the 1897 *Maine Register*, which lists three local post offices: Jonesport, West Jonesport, and Monsapéc. Alice M. Look was postmaster of Monsapéc. A newspaper item from the 12 June 1901 *Ellsworth American* notes her residency there prior to being sentenced to the Machias jail.

These will enter the high school.  
Mrs. Emma M. Sargent, who was sentenced in the United States district court at Bangor last week to forty days in the Hancock county jail, for attempt to defraud the government by a fraudulent pension affidavit, was brought here Saturday night. Mrs. Sargent formerly lived at Bayside. Mrs. Alice M. Look, of Monsapéc, who was a party with her in the attempted fraud, was found guilty of forging the name of Capt. J. S. Foss to the fraudulent pension affidavit in favor of Mrs. Sargent, and was sentenced to five months in the Machias jail. Judge Lowell in announcing the sentences said they were only a fraction of what would have been given if the offenders had been men.



The 1910 Jonesport town register refers to the Monsapéc school district. Its improvement league was called the Longfellow League.

The canning label above was donated to the Jonesport Historical Society by member Mark Edwards, whose Farnsworth family operated the Dirigo Packing Company in Monsapéc. Mark reports the factory, located at Mason Bay, was built prior to 1909 by Emery Farnsworth and his father, Lewis; together they ran the company.

The Bayview Cemetery corporation papers show it was incorporated in 1916 in the Monsapéc District. That cemetery on Mason Bay Road is just a few miles from the Rt. 1 intersection.

# Missile is recovered at bomber crash site

By Clayton Beal  
NEWS Machias Bureau

**MACHIAS** — A short range attack missile, believed carrying 1,000 pounds of solid propellant and a dummy nuclear warhead, has been recovered from 130-foot-deep waters off Jonesport where a FB-111A nuclear attack bomber crashed and sank on the night of Oct. 6, 1980.

According to informed sources at Jonesport and Beals, the missile was carefully packaged in a liquid-filled cement coffin about 12 feet long by military ordinance and explosives experts after it was raised from the crash site about a mile south of Black Rock.

After being navigated seven miles to the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Jonesport, the missile was loaded aboard a flatbed truck and shipped on Saturday to an undisclosed Air Force base. The highly explosive piece of armament is expected to be disarmed and studied along with several other pieces of the 75-foot bomber located during the past several days of the renewed salvage operation.

The Air Force is heading the investigation to recover key components of the \$10 million airplane which crashed into the sea and exploded in flames about 10:20 p.m. Oct. 6, killing both the pilot and navigator. A cause of the crash is also being sought.

Mangled parts of the bomber's delta-shaped

wings have been recovered by salvage crews which have operated from two U.S. Navy ships during August and the first week of September.

Although the training version of one of the bomber's missiles has been recovered, other armaments and the plane's flight recorder are reported to be key objectives of the search. The plane's twin engines are sought.

Before the latest successes in the 10-month-old salvage effort, the Navy and Air Force managed to recover only about 5 percent of the aircraft which crashed while flying a low-level training mission from Pease Air Force Base, N.H.

Several members of an Air Force safety investigations team have been working out of Jonesport Station to supervise the recovery of the 1968-vintage attack bomber weighing 25 tons.

The 17,000-ton salvage vessel *Preserver* from Norfolk, Va., was used in October 1980 before bad fall weather chased the 213-foot vessel. As a follow-up to the Navy's retreat, a contract was let by the Air Force to Hope Industries of Warwick, R.I. Hope used two mini-submarines during the fall and winter of 1980 and earlier this spring and summer to help locate the bomber's wreckage.

Military officials have not specified credit to Hope or any other salvage unit in the latest recoveries.



Landing gear retrieved

# NEW ENGLAND AVIATION HISTORY

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## Atlantic Ocean – October 6, 1980

October 16, 2018

### Atlantic Ocean – October 6, 1980

On the night of October 6, 1980, two U.S. Air Force FB-111A fighter jets, each with a crew of two aboard, left Plattsburgh Air Force Base in upstate New York for a routine training mission over Maine and the Atlantic Ocean. One aircraft was flying about twelve minutes ahead of the other.

At 10:12 p.m., while both aircraft were over the ocean about 18 miles off the coast of Jonesport, Maine, the second FB-111 suddenly disappeared from radar. A search and rescue mission was instituted for the missing jet.

About 3 1/2 hours later, a Coast Guard vessel recovered a helmet and seat cushion floating in the water, but there were no signs of the crew. Some small partial debris of the aircraft were recovered later also floating on the surface. The search for the missing crew was called off two days later.

The deceased crewmen were identified as:

The pilot, **Major Thomas M. Mullen**, 35. Major Mullen died just 11 days short of his 36th birthday.

The Navigator, **Captain Gary A. Davis**, 32.

Both men were assigned to the 380th Bomb Wing at Plattsburgh AFB.

The FB-111 was a strategic bomber, and it was initially reported that the aircraft involved in this accident was unarmed, but it was later reported that it was carrying a "training missile" which was equipped with an explosive warhead. On September 4, 1981, the missile was recovered by navy divers.

Sources:

*Westerly Sun*, (R.I.), "Unarmed Bomber Crashes Off Maine", October 7, 1980, page 16

*Westerly Sun*, (R.I.), "Crew Of Downed Plane Presumed Dead", October 8, 1980, page 33



FB-111  
U.S. Air Force Photo

**Membership Form (Q)  
2023**

**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>2023 Membership</b>	<b>Make check payable to <i>Jonesport Historical Society</i></b>
\$ _____ <b>2024 Membership (\$5.00)</b>	
\$ _____ <b>2025 Membership (\$5.00)</b>	
\$ _____ <b>Tax Deductible Donation</b>	<b>Mail to: Jonesport Historical Society</b>
	<b>P.O. Box 603</b>
	<b>Jonesport, ME 04649</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.

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