



Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Message from the President

A few months ago, we received an E-mail from Jean Holmes in Jaffa, Israel. She and her late husband Reed Holmes researched the courageous story of 156 Americans who were led from Jonesport to Jaffa, Palestine in 1866 by charismatic charlatan G.J. Adams to establish the Jaffa American Colony. Jean lives part of the year in one of the original houses from that colony and runs it as the Maine Friendship House Museum. She included a photo of a sculpture installed at the corner of her house. It is of a carriage that represents the first wheels on the first modern road from Jaffa to Jerusalem. See Page 2 for photos of the sculpture. The original carriage was brought over to Jaffa from Jonesport by Rolla Floyd, a colonist who made a living by taking tourists from Jaffa to Jerusalem. He is now considered one of the founders of modern tourism. A link to the following video is shown to visitors to the Maine Friendship House Museum and Heritage Center: www.youtube.com/user/jaffacolony

The most recent addition to the JHS Museum is the “Folk Map of Western Bay, Beals Island, Maine: Lore of Local Place-Names” by Robert E. Miller and Laura Lander. It is a collection of the lore around various local place-names featured on the map and the origins of these names. Robert is an artist and lobsterman from Beals. Laura is an author/illustrator living in Machias. See Page 2 for a photo of the map now hanging in the JHS Museum.

We are in the process of having a new website built for JHS by Jonesporter Deborah Bailey, owner and creative director of Barnstormer Design. The website name will be www.jonesporthistoricalsociety.org

One of the benefits of being a JHS member is receiving the Quarterly Newsletter over E-mail. David Crook, who lives part-time in Jonesport and has been a JHS member since 2006, has volunteered to be the new Quarterly Newsletter editor replacing Sharon Josephson, who initiated the newsletter in 2019 and published twenty issues before retiring as editor this past January. David has some ideas about adding some regular columns which should be both entertaining and informative for our readers. Thank you, David, for taking on this important job.

Bill Plaskon, President

Summer 2024

Free Presentations – Thursdays, 6:30 PM

Jul 25 - *Jonesport in the Movies*

- Bill Plaskon

Aug 08 - *Old DownEast Humor*

- Billy Milliken & Eric Kelley, Jr.

Free Movies – Fridays, 6:30 PM

Jul 19 - 1) Jenny’s Island Life - 45 min.
2) Salmon Country - 30 min.

Aug 02 - 1) Around America Adventure
by Kayak - 60 min.
2) Buz & Helen Beal’s
Model Railroad - 15 min.

Aug 16 - 1) From Stump to Ship - 30 min
2) From Pulp to Print - 25 min.

2023 – 2024

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Sculpture at the Maine Friendship House Museum in Jaffa, Israel.



Images of Jean and Reed Holmes in the carriage.



Folk Map of Western Bay, Beals Island, Maine: Lore of Local Place-Names hanging in the JHS Museum.

Unknown Visitors at Mary Jim's Point

From a booklet of stories written by Frances French Kelley, 1917-1998, who was the wife of Eric W. Kelley, and the mother of JHS Historian, Eric Kelley, Jr. The family had a home on Mary Jim's Point in Jonesport, and Frances recounts a story of visitors to their home in 1955.

Submitted by Betty Kelley, wife of Eric Kelley, Jr.

Our home, on Mary Jim's Point in Jonesport, Maine, is built on a rocky point of land with a stone beach on the kitchen side, and a view of Sandy River Beach from the living room. In front of the house, separated by the sparkling waters of Chandler Bay, we can see Gardiner's (Roque) Island. The backdrop for the house is a spruce and fir forest. It is a perfect vacation spot in a vacation area, and my husband, Eric, a gourmet cook who loves people, passes out many word-of-mouth invitations to come see us at the beach! This is not, however, a summer retreat for our family—it is a year-round home and place of business. Summer is a very busy time in the fish business supplying clams, scallops, and fish for the summer market in Boston, and it is not always easy to juggle work with unexpected company, but we manage. We have good times and good food and meet many interesting people.



Frances Kelley in her early 20s.

On one particularly beautiful, golden summer morning I had finished the regular chores and decided to take a cup of coffee outdoors to enjoy what was left of the morning. As I sat on the seawall, I looked up to see a pickup truck with a camper top and Connecticut plates driving into the yard.

A man and a woman got out of the truck and their two children ran down to the rock beach. The man held out his hand and said, "How good to see you, Frances. How's Eric? We would love to see Katie and George, too. Are they in town?" Then the lady went through a similar speech, commented on the beautiful scenery and weather, and yelled to "Billy" not to get his feet wet. At least I now knew that the boy was named Billy but was still drawing a blank on who my company was.

I didn't think I had ever seen these people before, but here they were calling me by name and asking about my in-law's. I was either losing my mind or this was company Eric knew and had invited and forgotten to tell me.

I had missed my chance to ask them who in the world they were, so I asked them in for coffee, and as we sat around the table I kept trying to solve the puzzle. When I asked the man where they lived now, he told me they lived in the same place they had lived for fifteen years. My question of "Where do you work now?" got the same no-information reply, "Same place I've worked for years!" When I ran out of what I thought were tactful questions that might give me a clue as to who they were, and it was too late to admit I didn't know them, I decided to enjoy their company and the day and wait for Eric to explain when he got home. I did wish that he would hurry up and arrive.

After coffee we walked through the woods to the popple stone beach and then back to the sand beach. Lunch time approached and Eric still hadn't gotten home. I found, though, that the lady was named Jean when her husband cautioned "Jean" not to slip on the rocks. I prepared lunch and we were eating when Eric arrived.

"Well look who is here--glad to see you!" says he as he joined us for lunch. I was so relieved to think he knew these people that I relaxed fully for the first time since their arrival. We finished lunch and Eric excused himself saying he had to unload some scallops. Jean said, "Alan, why don't you go help Eric and I'll help Frances clear up the kitchen." Eureka! I now knew this was Jean and Alan and they had a son Billy!

Time passed pleasantly and at four o'clock Jean said they must go because they were meeting friends in St. Stevens for dinner. Eric asked if they would like a quart of scallops to take with them and they said they'd really enjoy that. As they were leaving, Alan thanked us for a wonderful day and wanted us to be sure to visit them when we got to Connecticut. Eric assured them we would and asked them to come see us again on their next trip to Maine.

We stood as they drove up over the hill and Eric turned to me and asked, "Who in the H--- are those

people!?” We still don’t have that answer. We never saw them again and we couldn’t visit them in Connecticut because neither Eric nor I knew where these mystery people lived. Eric’s folks couldn’t recall a couple named Alan & Jean so our summer visitors will always remain a mystery!

Jonesport Centenarians, 2024

by Darryl B. Lamson

Centenarians born at Jonesport:

The earliest known centenarian born at Jonesport was **ELIZA GREEN NORTON⁹ (CUMMINGS) OATES** who was born 8 Apr 1843, daughter of William Peabody Jordan⁸ and Amy Noyes⁷ (Norton) Cummings. She died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 24 Sep 1945 (buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Portland) **aged 102** years. She married in 1871 her sister Cordelia’s widower John Daniel² Oates (1832-1891). They lived in Portland, Maine; Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada; and Malden, Massachusetts.

Her niece **REGENIA T.¹⁰ “Jenie” (CUMMINGS) O’BRIEN** was born here 16 Feb 1882, daughter of William Henry⁹ and Sarah Elizabeth⁵ (Faulkingham) Cummings. She died at Ellsworth, Maine, 12 Nov 1987 (buried in Forest Hill Cemetery at Harrington) **aged 105** years. She married in 1924 John O’Brien (1876-1959), a widower of Harrington.

ESTHER JANE³ (DONOVAN) KELLEY was born 20 May 1851; daughter of Jeremiah² and Hannah Libby⁶ (Farnsworth) Donovan. She died here from a cerebral thrombosis 25 Nov 1955 **aged 104 years**. She married at Jonesport in 1872 Thomas *Albert*⁵ Kelley (1846-1925), seaman & farmer at Kelley’s Point.

The family with the most longevity didn’t start that way— Silas Johnson⁹ Higgins (1861-1930) came from Eastport to be a factory worker at Jonesport. He married at Jonesport in 1882 Phoebe Mabel⁷ Kelley (1862-1898). Two of their sons and a

granddaughter lived over 100. Son **GROVER CLEVELAND¹⁰ HIGGINS** was born 21 Nov 1884. He died at Sullivan, Maine, 10 Feb 1991 **aged 106**. He was a lobsterman at Jonesport, married in 1910 Georgia Cramer Simmons (1886-1949). Son **GEORGE LORING¹⁰ HIGGINS** was born 21 Mar 1889. He died at Orono, Maine, 1 Jun 1992 **aged 103**. He was a grocery credit manager at Bangor, married in 1912 Amy Elizabeth Woodworth (1886-1965). Granddaughter **RUBY MABELLE⁶ (KELLEY) DOBBINS** was born 26 Aug 1909; daughter of Joseph Warren⁵ and Pearl¹⁰ (Higgins) Kelley. She died here 23 Mar 2011) **aged 101**. She was a teacher & author, retired home to Jonesport, married in 1932 James Hinkley Dobbins (1911-1970) U.S.C.G. lighthouse-keeper in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Another multi-centenarian family— William Ennis⁸ “E’en” Rogers (1857-1943), a factory worker at Jonesport, married at Addison in 1886 Cora Bell⁸ Hall (1867-1961). Two of their daughters and a granddaughter lived over 100. Daughter **HELEN MAUD⁹ (ROGERS) WINSLOW** was born 8 Sep 1899. She died at Machias, Maine, 10 Jul 2006 **aged 106**. She was a schoolteacher, married in 1925 Dale Ernest Winslow (1903-1943) dentist at Machias. Daughter **ETHELYN ENNIS⁹ (ROGERS) SAWYER** was born 9 Jun 1904. She died at Gorham, Maine 8 Jun 2004) **aged 100**. She married in 1932 Alfred Carleton Sawyer (1904-1985) from Lewiston, electric-utility agent at Orrington. Granddaughter **ARLINE LOUISE¹⁰ (ROGERS) RILEY** was born 3 Jul 1920; daughter of Russell Hall⁹ and Helen Mary⁸ (Steele) Rogers. She is living at Brewster, Okanogan, Washington 2024+ **aged 103+**. She married in 1946 John James Riley (1918-2004) from Cherryfield, bank manager at Jonesport.

A third multi-centenarian family— Morris Alanson⁹ Beal (1862-1933), a grocer and later a lobster fisherman at Jonesport, married (2nd) at Jonesport in 1906 Maud Isabella Ellenwood (1880-1968) from Grand Manan, New Brunswick, Canada. Two of their children lived over 100. Son **BERTRAM WINFIELD¹⁰ BEAL** was born 29 Sep 1909. He died in Portland, Maine, 12 Nov 2011 **aged 102**. He was a lumber company worker at South

Windham, married (1st) in 1937 Elva E. Gordon (1917-1977); married (2nd) in 1978 Helen Elizabeth (Gilman) Welsh (1919-2013). Daughter **LENA MAY¹⁰ (BEAL) IRWIN** was born 27 Jan 1921. She is living at Falmouth, Maine, 2024+ **aged 103+**. She married in 1946 Clark Thomas Irwin (1928-1989) home builder in Westbrook.

FLORENCE AMELIA (MANCHESTER) SMITH was born 28 Sep 1922; daughter of Milton Osborn and Mertice Elva (Church) Manchester. She died here 10 Jan 2024 **aged 101** years. She married in 1944 Philmore Harland Smith (1920-2011) lobsterman & fishing guide at York, Maine.

Gladys Ella (Kirby) Smith was born 8 Aug 1895; daughter of William Thomas and Mary Ellen (Bickford) Kirby. She died at Ellsworth 27 Dec 1998 **aged 103**. She married in 1915 Leon Roscoe Smith (1892-1983) lobsterman at Jonesport.

Annie May⁹ (Norton) Polk Church was born 15 May 1870; daughter of Phineas Manwarren⁸ and Anna May³ (Wallace) Norton. She died here 4 Oct 1972 **aged 102** years. She married (1st) at Jonesport in 1891 Samuel Warren Polk (1859-1920+) lobsterman at Jonesport. Annie married (2nd) at Beals 27 Jun 1936 Oliver Franklin Church (1870-28 Dec 1936), a widower at Beals.

ELEANORA LEA⁹ “Nora” (ROGERS) BRADFORD was born 3 Nov 1891; daughter of Alton Victor⁸ and Julia E. (Sawyer) Rogers. She died at Scarborough, Maine, 18 Feb 1994 {buried in Scarborough Memorial Cemetery} **aged 102** years. She married in Portland, Maine, in 1917 Charles Ford⁹ Bradford (1879-1971) wholesale grocery buyer in South Portland, Maine.

SYLVIA EVELYN (THOMPSON) DAWES was born 15 Apr 1896; daughter of Irving J. and Bertha Etta (Stover) Thompson. She died here 3 Apr 1998 **aged nearly 102** years. She married at Jonesport in 1912 Austin Lee Dawes (1892-1964) clam-factory worker.

VELMA BELLE (KENT) DUNNING was born 13 Feb 1899; daughter of Thomas Franklin and Adeline Richardson⁵ (Kelley) Kent. She died here 17 Sep 1999 **aged 100** years. She married at Machias in 1920 Harvey Lorenzo Dunning (1899-1961) seaman at Jonesport & Portland.

JULIA LEIGHTON¹¹ (MANSFIELD) SAWIN ANDREWS was born 19 Aug 1902; daughter of [dentist] Henry Alton¹⁰ and Mabelle Groves (“Church”) Mansfield. She died at Daytona Beach, Volusia, Florida, 24 Aug 2007 **aged 105** years. She married (1st) at Lakeville, Connecticut, in 1923 Robert Washburn Sawin (1896-1974), teacher at Brimfield, Massachusetts, and they divorced at Machias in 1929. Julia married (2nd) in Maine in 1933 Luther Dyer Andrews (1901-1982), an insurance agent in New Hampshire & Massachusetts, then retired to Southwest Harbor.

EVELYN JANE BARKER⁹ (ALLEY) WATT was born 17 Jan 1905; daughter of Josiah Merchant⁸ and Emily Delia⁸ (Alley) Alley. She died in Hernando County, Florida, 5 Mar 2005 **aged 100** years. She married in 1932 Clarence Emery Watt (1903-1972) fisherman at Jonesport.

DORALIES MINNIE (LIBBY) SAWYER BOBRYK was born 20 May 1913; daughter of Samuel Addison and Vandelia (Bickford) Libby. She died here 23 Sep 2015 **aged 102** years. She married (1st) at Jonesport in 1928 Hollis Vinal Sawyer (1904-1955) grocery-store clerk at Jonesport. Doralies married (2nd) 5 Aug 1995 Harold William Bobryk (1925-29 Aug 1995).

HILDA BEATRICE (GROVES) PEABODY was born 21 Aug 1914; daughter of Edward Josiah Alley and Flora Mabel Groves. She died at Machias 11 Feb 2015 **aged 100** years. She married in 1931 Myron Eugene Peabody (1911-1987).

ALICE JEANETTE¹¹ (BEAL) PARRY was born 3 Apr 1916; daughter of Horace Fairfield¹⁰ and Mabelle B.⁸ (Joy) Beal. She is living at Sanford, Seminole, Florida, 2024+ **aged 108+** years. She was a teacher. She married in Maine in 1942 Rev. Maldwyn Vaughan Parry (1913-2008) and retired to Florida.

HELEN ARLENE¹² (CARVER) FOUCHER was born 25 Feb 1922; daughter of Frank Leon¹¹ and Mildred Arletta⁹ (Hall) Carver. She died at Eden, Erie, New York, 8 Feb 2023 **aged nearly 101** years. She married in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1941 Richard Phillip Foucher (1920-1995) machinist at Jonesport.

GERTRUDE MERLE⁵ “Trudy” (SMITH) LIBBY was born 24 Jun 1922; daughter of Emery

Farnsworth⁴ and Belle *Vesta* (Dobbins) Smith. She died at Lake City, Columbia, Florida, 26 Apr 2023 (buried in Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell) **aged 100** years. She married at Wellesley, Massachusetts, in 1941 Chester Bradford Libby (1919-1995) who served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. They retired to Lake City, Florida, in 1974.

Four Centenarians were at Beals Island before 1925 when it was still part of Jonesport:

MARJORIE MORELAND⁹ (EMERSON) BEAL was born at Addison 23 Apr 1893; daughter of Christopher Plummer⁸ and Cora Arvilla⁶ (Tibbetts) Emerson. She died at Milbridge, Maine, 26 Jun 1994 **aged 101** years. She married in 1912 Avery Enes¹⁰ Beal (1893-1967) lobsterman & merchant at Beals.

LOUISA A.¹⁰ (BEAL) MCCASLIN was born at Beals Island {Jonesport} 27 September 1897; daughter of James Mariner⁹ and Letitia Wallace⁷ (Eaton) Beal. She died at Machias, Maine, 13 August 1999 **aged 101** years. She married at Harrington in 1926 Bartlett Francis⁶ McCaslin (1890- 1947) day-laborer at Harrington.

MILLARD EUGENE⁷ CROWLEY was born at Beals Island {Jonesport} 12 Dec 1902; son of Alvin Roscoe⁶ and Inez Etta⁹ (Stanwood) Beal. He died at Machias, Maine, 19 Jan 2003 **aged 100** years. He was a lobsterman for 90 years at Beals. He married in 1924 Aura Velma (Alley) Carver (1902-1988).

OBELINE ALVERNA (BURKE) CROWLEY was born at Beals Island {Jonesport} 29 Aug 1917; daughter of Frank Able and Fannie Belle (Alley) Burke. She is living 2024+ **aged 106+**. She was a teacher. She married in 1939 Jerome Winfield⁷ Crowley (1917-2008) fisherman & merchant at Beals.

Two centenarian residents were born in neighboring towns:

ALTHEA BARSTOW (JOY) BROWN was born at Addison 16 Jun 1897; daughter of David E. and

Mary E. (Burns) Joy. She died here 16 Jan 2000 **aged 102** years. She married in 1919 Ralph Lawrence Brown (1894-1978) from Dresden. He was superintendent of schools at Jonesport.

BARBARA NOYES (BRIDGHAM) DOBBIN was born at Jonesboro 12 Mar 1921; daughter of Alfred and Juanita Adelaide (Noyes) Bridgham. She died at Machias 24 Apr 1923 **aged 102** years. She married in 1941 Rollins Eugene Dobbin (1918-2014) research chemist & president of Cabot Corporation of Canada. They lived in Texas and in Ontario, Canada, then retired home to Jonesport.

How many people live to a 100?



- According to the 2020 Census, about 1 in 500 people in the US is 100 years old or older—just over 80,000 total.
- Female centenarians outnumber males by about 4 to 1.
- Since the 2010 census, the number of centenarians living in the U.S. has increased by about 50%.

... and did you know...

- In 2020 Maine had the oldest population of all states. Half of Mainers were older than 45.1 years and half were younger.

**Membership Form (Q)
2024**

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)** _____

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\$ _____ 5.00 2024 Membership	Make check payable to <i>Jonesport Historical Society</i>
\$ _____ 2025 Membership (\$5.00)	
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\$ _____ Tax Deductible Donation	
\$ _____ Total Amount	

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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