



Jonesport Historical Society

*“Preserving
Our Heritage”*

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

JHS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2021

We hope you are coping with the restricted lifestyle caused by the pandemic. Although we had to cancel all the public events that were scheduled in 2020, we opened the JHS museum to visitors by appointment only, and surprisingly 25 requests came in, with a total of more than 50 visitors.

Several museum visitors came to volunteer their services. Eric Duncan, a history teacher at John Bapst High School in Bangor, digitized over 5000 shipping bills from the 1870s and 1880s from Jonesport schooners. Board member Jan Kristo also scanned hundreds of these bills and inserted the physical papers into binders organized by schooner. Lynda Fernsten and Patricia Fallon are cropping these scanned images so that they can be easily inserted into the Archives database. Greg and Sue Kelley continued their cemetery project by photographing about 100 more gravestones in Greenwood Cemetery. Students from the College of the Atlantic visited the JHS museum by boat from Bar Harbor. They are helping Galen Koch and Natalie Springuel transcribe the audio and video interviews of Jonesport and Beals citizens, which will eventually be placed on a website called Maine Sound + Story.

Last month JHS was awarded \$1900 from Eastern Maine Conservation Initiative (EMCI) to purchase a new PC laptop to replace the 15-year-old laptop. This is the 4th grant award JHS has received from EMCI. The new laptop will be used as a backup for maintaining both the JHS membership and the Jonesport Heritage Center databases and for portable presentations. It will also be used for JHS email, replacing Bill Plaskon's personal laptop for JHS mail. The Jonesport email address on the new laptop is jonesporthistoricalsociety@outlook.com. You can still reach us at jonesporthistoricalsociety@peabody.lib.me.us but we will only be sending mass emails from the outlook.com address.

Board member Kylie Hinkley has redesigned the Peabody Memorial Library website, which contains a section for JHS. To visit it go to www.peabody.lib.me.us and click “Jonesport Historical Society.” Our section includes the latest JHS Quarterly Newsletter and links to Jonesport's Down East Heritage Trail.

About 1400 photos and 1900 pages of text were added to the Archives database in the past 12 months. There are now a total of 18,000 photos and 30,000 pages of text on the Archives database. On the Cemeteries database 200 photos of gravestones, 100 obituaries and 100 photos of deceased were added. There are now a total of 2500 photos of gravestones, 1100 obituaries and 750 photos of deceased on the Cemeteries database. On Cathy Perry's Genealogy database 1700 names and 18,000 text records were added. There are now a total of 86,500 names and 528,000 text records on her Genealogy database.

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.

We are still waiting for a contractor's cost estimate to build a handicap ramp into the Sawyer building and for handicap access into the meeting room and museum. Once a contractor commits to the construction we can apply for grants to cover the costs of these two projects.

Thanks to editor Sharon Josephson the Quarterly Newsletter continues to be a big success. In the past year seven members have contributed stories. Please consider submitting your own story.

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT SHARE OUR EMAIL CONTACT LIST, AND WE BLIND-COPY ALL OF OUR MASS MAILINGS.

Because of the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic, the status of any 2021 public events is uncertain at this time. We are looking into putting some of our most popular previously recorded video presentations on YouTube, offering some live Zoom presentations, and emailing old Jonesport newspaper articles on a monthly basis. Two speakers have already shown an interest in doing a Zoom presentation for us. Dwayne Tomah is the Passamaquoddy language and cultural historian and the translator of the world's first wax cylinder recordings. Galen Koch from College of the Atlantic is willing to demonstrate the Maine Sound + Story website. We will notify you by email if these options become available.

BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN THIS YEAR ONLY UPON REQUEST, AND GUESTS MUST WEAR MASKS AND OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING. PLEASE CALL 207-747-8228 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

Membership Renewal

Because of the cancellation of all events in 2020, all membership expiration dates have been extended by one year, so there is no need to pay your 2020 dues.

Your address label shows the end of year that your dues have been paid. If you have paid your dues through 2021 or later, your new membership card is enclosed along with a donation form. If you are a member who owes dues for 2021, a membership form is enclosed. It would be greatly appreciated if you also pre-pay 2022 and 2023. 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.

We believe JHS is the only historical society in Washington County with individual membership dues of only \$5.00 per year. It is probably one of the reasons why we can boast a current membership of more than 330 individuals. But membership dues alone are not enough to pay the expenses for maintaining a 125-year-old historic building, for preserving Jonesport history by photographing and scanning more than 48,000 items, and for offering the high-quality presentations and events that so many of you enjoy. We have been able to pay for most of these with the monetary donations received from generous members every year. If you have not made a donation in the past, please consider making one now.

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