



# *Jonesport Historical Society*

*“Preserving  
Our Heritage”*

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## JHS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER: April 2024

I am pleased to announce that in 2023 Barbie Cirone joined the JHS Board of Directors for a three-year term, and Holly Dennis joined for a one-year term. Betty Kelley has volunteered to be the Secretary, replacing Ashley Faulkingham who has resigned from the board.

I want to thank all of the board members for volunteering so much of their time and services for getting through an exceptionally busy year. In April Aaron & Holly Dennis, and Betty & Eric Kelley helped process the annual membership bulk mailing to more than 300 members. In May Barbie Cirone, Aaron Dennis, Jean Guptill, Betty Kelley, and Nancy Sawyer assisted in updating the membership database with the dues and donations received through the mail. In June the entire staff put together a wonderful ceremony to award the Boston Post Cane to the oldest town resident, Florence (Manchester) Smith. Greg Campbell, Barbie Cirone, Jean Guptill, and Betty & Eric Kelley volunteered to be docents at the JHS Museum during July and August, when a total of 95 people came to visit.

In June 2023 one of our charter members died. Rosalie Carver was also a past board member, and one of our few honorary life members. We also lost many other members who died or who relocated to other states. However, thirty new members joined Jonesport Historical Society, keeping our total current membership over 300. Thanks to all those new members and to those who keep their dues up to date.

Also in June, a scale model of the *William Underwood* sardine carrier was donated to JHS by Gary Wooler of Boothbay Harbor. A professional modeler, Gary scratch-built the exact replica in 2018. The model is in the display cabinet of JHS Museum.

Last July 22nd we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jonesport Historical Society by inviting all our members to an Open House at the JHS Museum, with more than fifty people attending. The JHS staff provided buffet style food and refreshments, ran a door prize every half hour, and played a continuous running slide show titled *20 Years in 20 Minutes*.

We had two public presentations with guest speakers in the summer. On July 13<sup>th</sup> Billy Milliken presented *Finding Lost Items from Jonesport's First Permanent Family: Thomas Kelley – 1740-1812*. At the end of the meeting 30 personal items belonging to Thomas Kelley were donated by Billy to JHS in a beautiful display case. On August 24<sup>th</sup> Eric Kelley, Jr. and Ernest Kelley, Sr. presented *DownEast Weir Fishing*. Eric did weir fishing when he was younger. Ernest, at the age of 96, is the last of the veteran weir fisherman.

There were also the popular Free Friday Night Movies. Last summer we showed three movies: the 1931 Seth Parker movie *Way Back Home* co-starring Bette Davis, *Sinking of the SS Portland*, and the video version of the Jonesport Soundwalk.

The last of the public activities was on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, when JHS was invited to set up a sales and promotion table at the Jonesport Library End of Summer Celebration. Barbie Cirone, Betty & Eric Kelley, and I sold two books, photos and T-shirts, and signed up a couple of more members.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> JHS Historian Eric Kelley and I video-interviewed Faye (Pliskowski) Carver, adding to our DVD collection of more than 75 interviews of local senior citizens.

The Cemeteries database now includes 38 more graves buried in Greenwood Cemetery, thanks to Tonia Merchant from the Jonesport Town Office.

More than 700 items are being added to the Archives database, consisting of about 200 photos, 400 newspaper articles, and 100 pages of documents and other text. In total there will be over 51,000 items on the Archives database, consisting of more than 19,000 photos, 4,500 pages of local newspaper articles, 27,000 pages of documents and other text, and more than 470 audio/video clips that run a total of 17 hours.

Sharon Josephson has retired as editor of the JHS Quarterly Newsletter. She has been its editor ever since she created it in the spring of 2019. Many of our members have enjoyed reading it, judging from the feedback we often receive. If anyone is interested in being editor, or at least helping with putting together the newsletter, please contact us. **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.**

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.

On July 11<sup>th</sup> Bernard Fishman, Director of the Maine State Museum, will explain how vintage photos of Jonesport have been converted to 3-D images. The audience will be able to see these images on the wall-mounted screen using 3-D glasses.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> Bill Plaskon will explain how there have been eight movies that were partially filmed in Jonesport, or were supposed to take place in Jonesport, or show Jonesport folks in the movie, or were assisted by the society or the town in making the movie.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> *Old DownEast Humor* will be presented by Billy Milliken and Eric Kelley, Jr. 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 events 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 2024 or later, your new membership card is enclosed along with a donation form. If you are a member who owes dues for 2024, a membership form is enclosed. You are not required to pay dues prior to 2024. It would be greatly appreciated if you also pre-pay 2025 and 2026. 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