

# Sawyer Cove

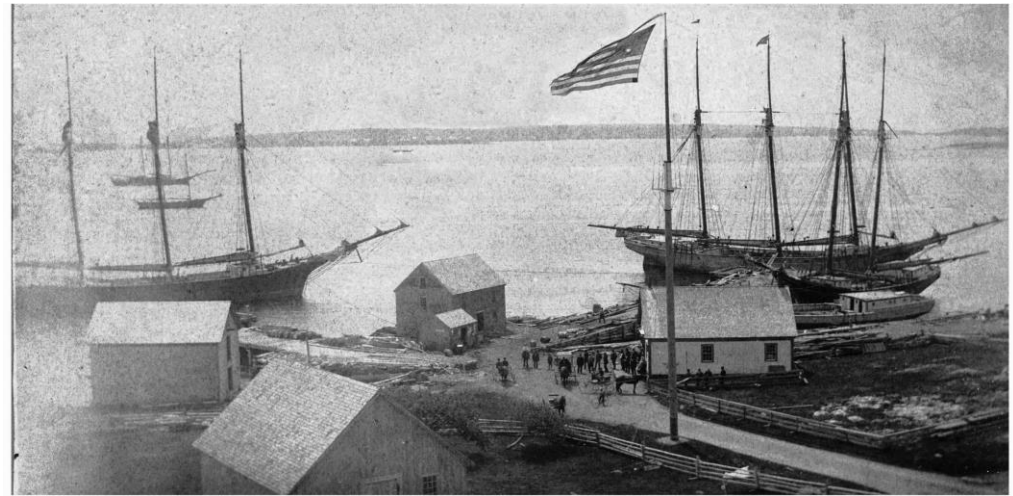


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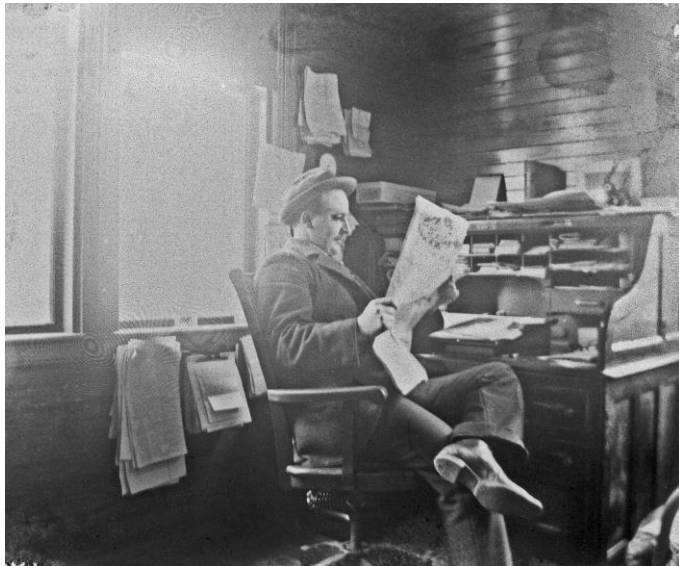
**During the late 1800s and early 1900s, when the sailing vessels were traveling the waters off the coast of Maine and beyond, it wasn't unusual for a captain to shout to a passing ship, "Where do you hail from?" on the megaphone of the ship. A captain from Jonesport would return with "Jonesport". When the inquiring captain would yell back "Jonesport, where?" the Jonesport captain would return with "Jonesport America". It is believed that Jonesport remains the only town in the entire world with this name.**

**NOTE:** Any photos identified as from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. Collection, courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum, can be obtained as beautiful reproduction prints from the Penobscot Marine Museum at <https://penobscotmarinemuseum.org>

## Shipping Industry (GPS 44.531928, -67.595350)



**At one time Jonesport was a busy port for shipping. In the 1880s about 2500 vessels would pass through Moosabec Reach into Sawyer Cove every year.**



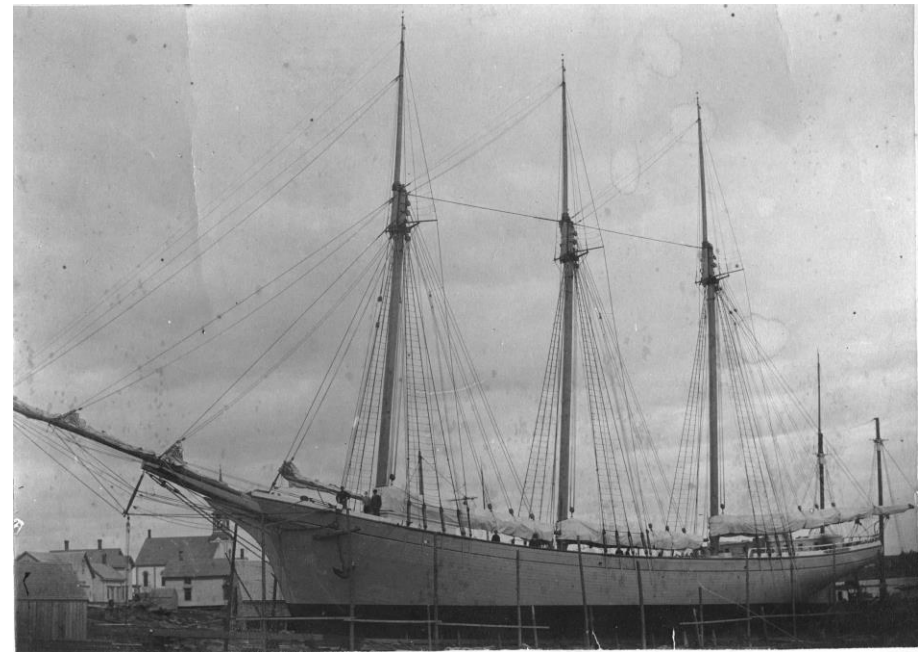
**All vessels entering or leaving Sawyer Cove were inspected by the Deputy Collector from the U.S. Customs office, which at one time was in the D.J. & E.M. Sawyer Store, located on Sawyer Square. The Deputy Collector would enter, clear, and issue papers to vessels, and was instrumental in the prevention of smuggling. He would also measure the load capacity of a vessel before it launched.**

**Ship Building (GPS 44.531928, -67.595350)**



**Ship building is a big part of Jonesport's heritage; more than 260 sailing ships have been built in Jonesport. Many of the ships were built at Sawyer's Dock, the current site of the Jonesport Marina. This photo shows the *D.J. Sawyer* under construction in 1890. It was the last vessel built in Sawyer Cove.**

**Daniel James Sawyer and his brother Edward owned 43 wooden vessels during their 16-year business.**



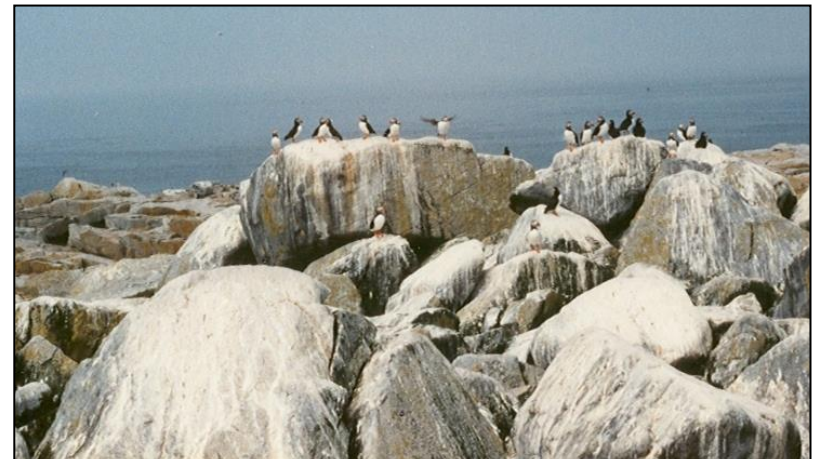
**The *D.J. Sawyer* was a 326 ton 3-masted vessel built by Henry Lewis Watts, a master builder from Jonesport. Daniel James Sawyer was the largest single owner of sailing vessels.**

**Captain Barna B. Norton and Machias Seal Island (GPS 44.531928, -67.595350)**



**Captain Barna B. Norton from Jonesport would moor his boat *Chief* in Sawyer Cove. Barna believed that his great-grandfather Barnabus “Tall Barney” Beal claimed ownership of Machias Seal Island in 1865, and that when Tall Barney died, he willed the island to the first descendant named for him, that being Captain Barna. Even though Canada claims ownership of the island and maintains a lighthouse on it, Barna’s claim is backed by a 1983 letter from the U.S. State Department that reads: “Machias Seal Island is part of the United States and has been since the founding of the Republic”.**

**On most days in the summer months Barna Norton would take a boat load of people to Machias Seal Island to observe the large flock of puffins that roam around the island, bringing fish to their baby chicks.**





**Every Fourth of July Barna would plant the American flag on Machias Seal Island.**



**On all the other days he visited the island he would carry an umbrella with a small American flag attached to it.**

## Lobster Crate Races (GPS 44.531928, -67.595350)



One of the Fourth of July events in Jonesport is the lobster crate races, where children try to run across a string of lobster crates in the water at Sawyer Cove. The winner receives a trophy. In 2009 eight-year-old Tabitha Pottle set the Jonesport record by running 350 crates in 7 laps, even though she was wearing her winter boots which can be seen in this photo. The boots got filled with water because she had to jump into the 50-degree water after each lap.



After winning the lobster crate races in 2009, eight-year-old Tabitha Pottle was interviewed with her mother by the Jonesport Historical Society. In this photo Tabitha is sitting on her mother's lap holding her winning trophy.



Tabitha later donated her boots to the Jonesport Historical Society, which are on display in the JHS museum.