



Jonesport Historical Society Newsletter

“Preserving Our Heritage”

Message from the President

Over the past nineteen years at least seven articles about the history of Jonesport Historical Society were published in newspapers or magazines. The latest one was in September of 2021, when JHS Historian and I were interviewed by a reporter from the *Ellsworth American* newspaper, as the three of us drove through Main Street in Jonesport and told stories to the reporter about the current or prior factories, stores, churches, businesses, marinas, wharves, opera house, and library that lined the street.

Although not about JHS, I did provide information for an article that appeared in the November 2021 issue of *Down East* magazine. It was a special feature called “70 Over 70”, about 70 extraordinary Mainers over 70 years old, in which twins Lucille Woodward and Rosalie Carver related their memories of growing up in Maine. Sadly, as I am writing this, I just heard that Lucille died yesterday, January 11, at the age of 90.

Bill Plaskon, President

Jonesport Historical Society member Ann MacMichael is a Sawyer descendant who fondly remembers her childhood visits to Jonesport.

Jonesport Means Family

by Annie Sawyer MacMichael

I grew up in Pittsfield, Maine, west of Bangor; my mother, Dorothy Louise Sawyer, grew up in Jonesport, so our trips to Jonesport were fairly frequent. Although I was plagued by motion sickness and was usually carsick before we left Pittsfield, I was always excited to make the 2½ hour trip to Jonesport.

My grandparents, John V. and Annie Sawyer, were the family glue. My grandmother, especially, kept in regular contact with everyone by mail, and organized our holiday gatherings. They had brought up their three children—Frances, Daniel J., and Dorothy—in the house in which my grandfather grew up with his Uncle Daniel J. and Aunt Emeline Sawyer, that house on the west leg of Sawyer Square that became the Congregational Rectory. In later years, when my grandmother had a spell of arthritis, they moved from “the big house” into a small house down the

(Family continued, page 2)

Winter 2022

2022 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:

Byron Carver Jr.
Leland Faulkingham Jr.
Kylie Hinkley
Andrew Hutnik
Betty Kelley
Charlene Nelson

(Family continued)

hill on the shore where the marina is now. It was to be a temporary move, but they ended up staying there. Although I didn't think much about it at the time, I now look back in amazement. My grandparents' living area in this little building was upstairs. They had only one bedroom up there, so my grandfather had a small second-floor addition built above the attached blacksmith shed, just big enough for a set of bunk beds, so my brother and I could stay with them. There was no running water, so my grandfather supplied the water by carrying up buckets from a rain barrel. There was a small bay window by the kitchen table from which we could watch the lobstering activities on the wharf near the house.

From my grandmother's doughnuts, lemon meringue pies, and always-delicious cooking, our stays there were exciting and memorable.

We had Thanksgiving and Christmas at the big home on the corner that had originally belonged to my great-grandparents, Edward Mansfield Sawyer and Frances Victoria Hall, but at that time housed pairs of aunts and uncles upstairs and down.

My grandmother Sawyer would call kids our age for us to spend time with when we visited, and I'm remembering Nancy Gray, Carol Woodward, Bert Sydney Look; Kathy, Deborah, and Dorinda Look; and when we were at the camp at the beach, Gordon, Ricky, and Gale Kelley; and Carol, John, and Daryl Young.



John and Annie Sawyer's home on Sawyer Square as it looked c 1890 when owned by Daniel James Sawyer.

Sawyer Square was just that; every house was occupied or had been occupied by relatives. We heard countless stories of those no longer there and from those who still were. We shared all the love at the Sawyer Memorial Church, where all important family events were held and Sunday services at that time were offered by Paul Malicote. We played all over the neighborhood, and at the beach we were back and forth from one side to the other.

For me, Jonesport means family and family means Jonesport. It always has been and always will be a town that I love, the home of family and friends that I love, and the location of my most cherished memories. The family members and friends are too numerous to mention, but are always in my thoughts.

Jonesport, Maine—I love you.

A Christmas Poem by a Lighthouse Keeper

Jonesport-born David K. Winchester (1936—2007) was related to a long list of Jonesport people on his mother's side. She was Edith (Kelley) Winchester, not only a Kelley, but also a descendant of Faulkingshams and Beals and Sawyers and Woodwards. He was a cousin of Jud Carver, Bill Hinkley, and Maxine (Smith) Morris, who brought this poem and biographical information to my attention some years ago.

Like his father, James W. Winchester, David served in the USCG for over thirty years. He retired in 1987 as a chief warrant officer and chief engineer on the USCG Barque *Eagle*.

In the 1960s David served a tour as keeper of Nubble Lighthouse at Cape Neddick in York, Maine. Besides its scenic location, the lighthouse is famous for its red beacon. At the time of his tour, David and his wife had newborn daughter Wendianne, 4-year-old daughter Robyn, and 7-year-old son Rick. Nubble Light is the setting for David's poem, "Christmas Eve on a Lighthouse."

After a brief illness, David passed away December 24, 2007. His daughter once again found herself repeating her childhood words, "He commed, he commed," as she read her father's poem at his memorial service at the Coast Guard Memorial Chapel in New London, Connecticut.

— Sharon (English) Josephson, editor

Christmas Eve on a Lighthouse

by David Winchester

'Twas the night before Christmas and all round about,
the beacon told mariners, their course was no doubt.
For eighty odd years now, it always kept watch,
warning of danger, with its brilliant red torch.
The keeper, his wife and children three,
were nestled in bed, warm as could be.
Waiting for old St. Nick to arrive,
hoping the wild nor'east storm he'd survive.
The wind it was blowing a regular gale,
and the snow was a-driving, almost like hail.
A hard night for sailors alone on the deep,
when into their bones the cold starts to creep.
Home with family, slippers and tree,
on the eve of Christmas, all men should be.
The fog bell gongs a prayer in sound,
guiding sailors, homeward bound.
Through the night the faithful beam,
sends its light as small folk dream.
The storm is over, it's almost morn,
a hungry howl from the babe newborn.
Small feet I hear across the floor,
and two bright faces appear in the door.
Down the stairs with a shriek of glee,
Hurry Mommie, look at the tree.
I follow suit, with sleep still numbed,
and over all I hear, He commed, he commed.



In recent years, Nubble Light Station at Cape Neddick in York, Maine, has become known for its Christmas lights.

**Membership Form (Q)
2022**

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**

\$ _____ 5.00 2022 Membership	Make check payable to <i>Jonesport Historical Society</i>
\$ _____ 2023 Membership (\$5.00)	
\$ _____ 2024 Membership (\$5.00)	Mail to: Jonesport Historical Society P.O. Box 603 Jonesport, ME 04649
\$ _____ 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.

Jonesport Historical Society
P. O. Box 603
Jonesport ME 04649
207-497-2395 or 207-747-8228
Located at 21 Sawyer Square
jonesporthistoricalsociety@outlook.com or jonesporthistoricalsociety@peabody.lib.me.us

NOTICE:

Until the COVID-19 restrictions are over, the Jonesport Historical Society Museum and Heritage Center will be open in 2022 only upon request May through October. Please call to make an appointment.