

As a Golz fellow, I set out to study the 110-year history of the *Sylvina W. Beal*, a knockabout fishing schooner built in East Boothbay for Charles H. Beal of Jonesport. My goal was not

More precisely, I strove to explore the people and events it witnessed, using the vessel as an historical portal. Thus, I found myself researching Maine coastal communities through time, with a wooden sailing vessel as a focal point: the village of East Boothbay and its hub of shipbuilding activity, the Maine fishing scene of the twentieth century, and the collective that is the people of the Maine coast, from the turn of the century through today.

My research consisted of physical documentation aboard the vessel at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum; consulting historical archives at the Boothbay Historical Society, Maine Maritime Museum, Penobscot Marine Museum, and other historical institutions down the coast; and exploring accounts of the people who worked, owned, or knew of her throughout her career.

Built in 1911, the *Beal* saw a variety of uses as a herring seiner, mackerel fisherman and lobster smack under the ownership of Charles H. Beal, until she was sold to the Seacoast Canning Co. There, she carried sardines from Passamaquoddy Bay to canning factories in Eastport. After the Second World War, under the umbrella of the R.J. Peacock Canning Co., the *Beal* worked out of Lubec and Portland until the late 1970s. In 1980 she was sold to John Worth of Belfast, where she entered service as a windjammer. She has remained in that line of work under a variety of owners ever since.

The nature of my research made Route 1 my right-hand man. I enjoyed following the *Beal* through her history, from her launching site at the Frank C. Adams yard in East Boothbay to her

Portland, and so on. I made it a goal to get a feel for both the landscape she witnessed and for the human lives she touched.

Currently, the *Beal* awaits a communally funded, volunteer-driven rebuild that will begin in the spring of 2022, led by shipwright Harold Burnham of Essex, Massachusetts. She is the oldest auxiliary knockabout fishing schooner in North America and will be one of two Maine-built