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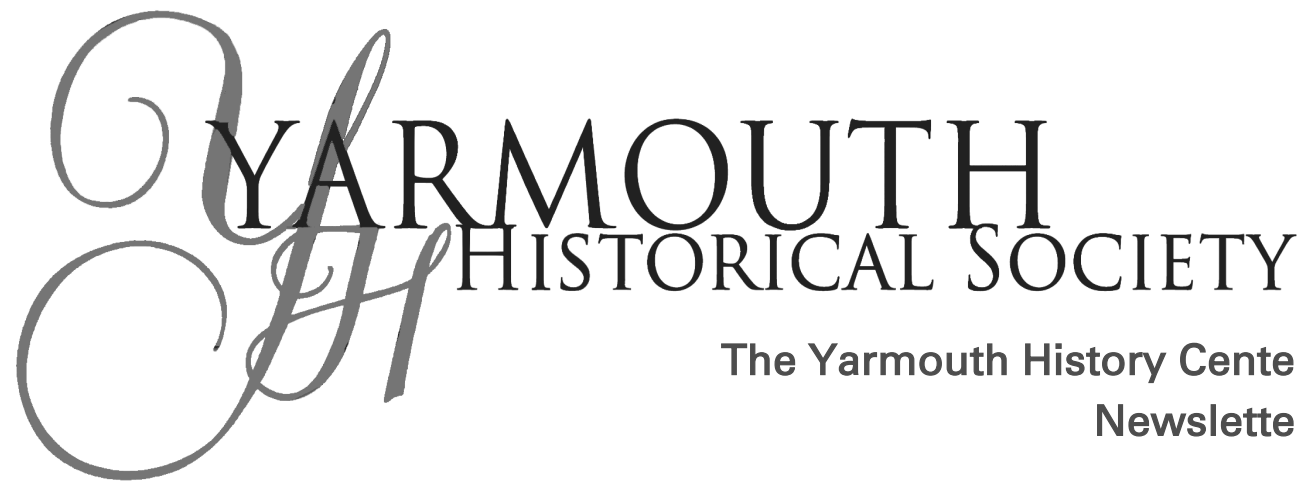
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The Yarmouth History Center
Newsletter

Spring 2015

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

**Beneath The Civil War
Uniform of Joseph Raynes**

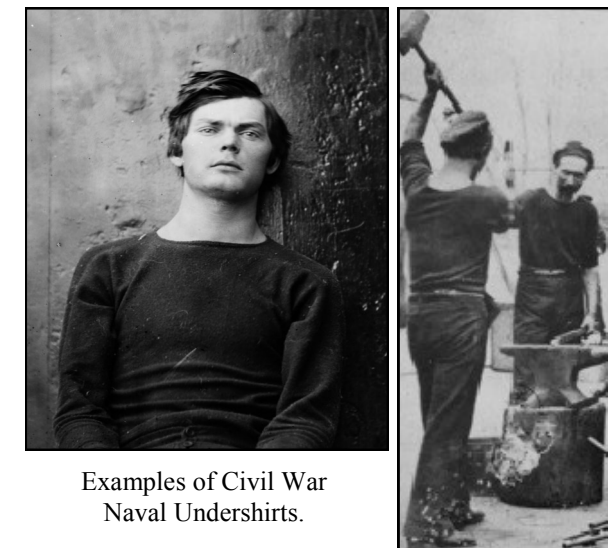
At the History Center, we witness visitors' excitement over finding a connection to their ancestors or discovering information about their home, but a visitor getting excited about an undergarment is a first for us. In October, the Yarmouth History Center received a request by an individual to view Joseph Raynes' Civil War Navy blanket. This Navy blanket is one of a few such blankets that we know of that is still in the public domain and not a part of a private collection. How fortunate for our visitor, a Civil War reenactor, for this opportunity. He could barely contain his excitement as we handed him a pair of cotton gloves and laid out the blanket for a closer look. The blanket was well worth his trip from Pennsylvania but something else in the Rayne's storage box caught his eye.

Our visitor had just come from the Maine State Museum in Augusta where he had the opportunity to examine some Civil War textiles in their collection. As a reenactor, he and his associates research every aspect of the uniforms of the era in order to ensure they are wear reproductions that are as close to the original garments as possible. One artifact our visitor discovered at the Maine State Museum was a soldier's undergarment, a pair of drawers. So imagine his surprise that part of our collection of Joseph Raynes' Navy uniform included an undershirt. We never saw someone so excited over a find. Suddenly he was phoning another Civil War enthusiast/reenactor to share the news about the garment and his observations of it.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the Union Navy was composed of only 42 battle-ready ships. During this time the only regulation regarding sailors' uniforms was that they be of a general cut. Sailors mostly made their clothing from any blue fabric they could find. The reason our garment had lquid this reenactor's interest was its construction. Mr. Raynes' undershirt does show signs of having been hand stitched in the sleeve seams and collar. The

body of the undergarment however appears to be machine knitted. In mid-nineteenth century, circular knitting machines and automatic fully-fashioned machinery developed into an industry to meet the demand for cheap goods. "In the United States and Europe, technicians worked to develop machines capable of automatically producing heels and toes on stockings and socks. Large diameter circular frames continued to be used to produce fabric for cut-and-sew knitwear and underwear." (www.cwreenactors.com and www.knittingtogether.org.uk)

To have these rare Civil War artifacts, textiles that once belonged to Yarmouth resident Joseph Raynes, is the embodiment of the Historical Society's mission. Providing opportunities to share these items with an out-of-state researcher, students, and the community is the reason we are here. We want thank everyone who has made this possible through their support of our Annual Fund and through their Membership. It is an honor and pleasure to work for all of our supporters and to ensure that the artifacts of Mr. Raynes and other Yarmouth residents are preserved and made available for study. *Continued Page 3*



Examples of Civil War Naval Undershirts.

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P. O. Box 107
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From the Chair

I have had the pleasure of serving as the Yarmouth Historical Society's Board Chair for only a few months. However, in that short time, my appreciation for the History Center has grown steadily.

First, I have a much greater appreciation for the Board leaders who preceded me. The History Center has benefitted greatly from the tireless and dedicated commitment of Ted Noyes, Linda Grant, John Hodgkins, John Palmer and Curt Scribner, just to name a few. They have left a strong organization and high expectations for their successors.

Second, as the needs of the History Center become clearer to me, I appreciate even more the incredible generosity of our donors. Whether making a major gift to the capital campaign or a modest gift to our annual fund, every donation is important and assures that we have great exhibits, informative lectures and interesting programs. Without the hundreds of generous gifts every year, the History Center could not exist.

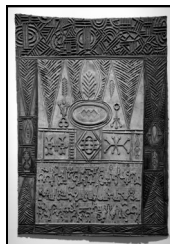
Finally, I have more and more appreciation for our talented and hardworking staff. When Michael Chaney stepped down as Executive Director last spring, he left a large void. Without hesitation, our Program Director, Amy Aldredge, stepped up as our new Executive Director to fill that void. Along with her two colleagues, Maura Goessling and Karen Asherman, they keep the snow shoveled, the doors open, the phones answered, and the bills paid at the History Center, in addition to constantly thinking up great new ideas to capture the imagination and interest of our visitors and 300+ members. All of this, with warm and welcoming smiles.

Overall, the Yarmouth History Center is a pretty cool place—something we can all be proud of and a fitting celebration of Yarmouth's long and rich history. I hope to see you there soon.

Bill Harwood



Winter 2015 at the Yarmouth History Center. (**Below:** before and after)



Stonewall Gallery

GEORGE MASON: ROMANCING HISTORY
FEB. 16—MARCH 30

This event is part of The Kismet Foundation's Community as Art program.

Yarmouth to Yarmouth: October 17- 25, 2015

From the busy streets of London to the stunning vistas of the Isle of Wight the Yarmouth Historical Society's tour will offer a journey to sites on the mainland as well as an opportunity to participate in the Isle of Wight's Autumn Walking Weekend. The Yarmouth Historical Society has collaborated with AAA to put together an adventure to see the highlights of southern England as well as travel off the beaten path to walk paths on the Isle of Wight.

The Island has over 500 miles of well-maintained foot-paths through beautiful countryside and along spectacular coastal trails with inspirational views. In October, the Island scenery takes on the colors of autumn foliage.

Contact Amy Aldredge at the Yarmouth History Center for details about the trip. Closing date June 15, 2015.



A Year On the Banks of the Royal River

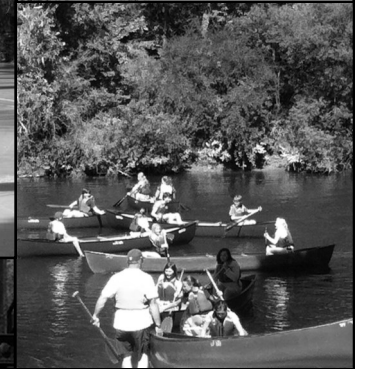
As the History Center embarks on its third year on the banks of the Royal River we reflect on the presence of the river and the important role it played in the formation of our town.

The Native Americans and early settlers chose this area because of the river; it helped provide for their daily existence. As time passed, the Royal was dammed and used for industry.

Today, the river is primarily used for recreation. It is certain that for hundreds of years the inhabitants of this area have found a way to make the Royal River a part of their lives.

Photos (bottom L to R): East Elm Street bridge construction, L.L. Bean Discovery School paddle board class, maiden launch of the Travis McDuffie Family's homebuilt dory the *Edna Mae*.

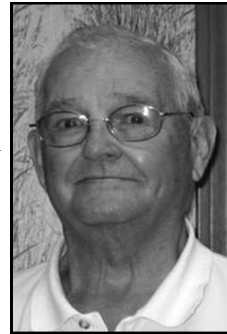
Photo (far right): Yarmouth High School's canoe paddling class.



2015 Spring Lecture Series

Thank You Carl Winslow for your talk on The History of the Yarmouth Fire Department

Carl Winslow grew up in Yarmouth and served as Chief of the Yarmouth Fire Department from 1979 to 1996. He also served three terms on the Town Council and was principal of both the Rowe School and the Elementary School. He was the 2014 Latchstring Award recipient, acknowledged for his exemplary citizenship and leadership in the town of Yarmouth.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .



April 14 Speaker: Sandy Oliver Beyond Baked Beans

Sandy Oliver is the author of many books about the history of food in New England and the United States. She spends her time researching and teaching about historic recipes and food. When she is not writing or teaching, she spends her time in her 100-year-old house on Islesboro, tending her gardens and chickens, and cooking meals the way they would have been done at the time her house was built. Her website is foodhistorynews.com

May 19 Speaker: Amanda Devine of the Maine Coastal Heritage Trust The History of Lanes Island: Past, Present and Future Uses of the Land

Amanda Devine, MCHT's Regional Steward for southern Maine, is a graduate of the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program. She has worked as a naturalist and guide in Alaska before her stewardship here in southern Maine. Lanes Island, one of L.L. Bean's favorite hunting spots was donated to the trust in 2014. Lanes Island is located near the mouth of the Royal River; the island will be the subject of Ms. Devine's talk.



June 16 Speaker: Bob Greene The History of the Carter, Ruby and Freeman Families of Yarmouth and Portland

A native of Portland, Bob Greene is a retired Associated Press journalist and a Maine historian. Bob's genealogy research at the Maine Historical Society and in the Maine State Archives helped him find information about his family; those who fought in the Civil War, served as a Texas state senator and lived in this region. Mr. Greene will speak about his research into the history of these three, prominent African American families of Maine. Bob has taught "Black History of Maine" at OLLIE and is on the Board of Trustees for the Maine Historical Society.



This lecture series is sponsored by Leon and Lisa Gorman.

Joseph Raynes of Yarmouth *Continued from Page 1*

Joseph Raynes, the son of Joseph and Mary Parron Raynes and a direct descendant of President John Tyler, was born in New Gloucester, Maine on March 25, 1843. At the age of thirteen Raynes' family moved from New Gloucester to Yarmouth. He attended the North Road School and then North Yarmouth Academy from 1858 to 1861. In 1863, at the age of twenty, Raynes left Yarmouth to enlist in the Navy at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston.

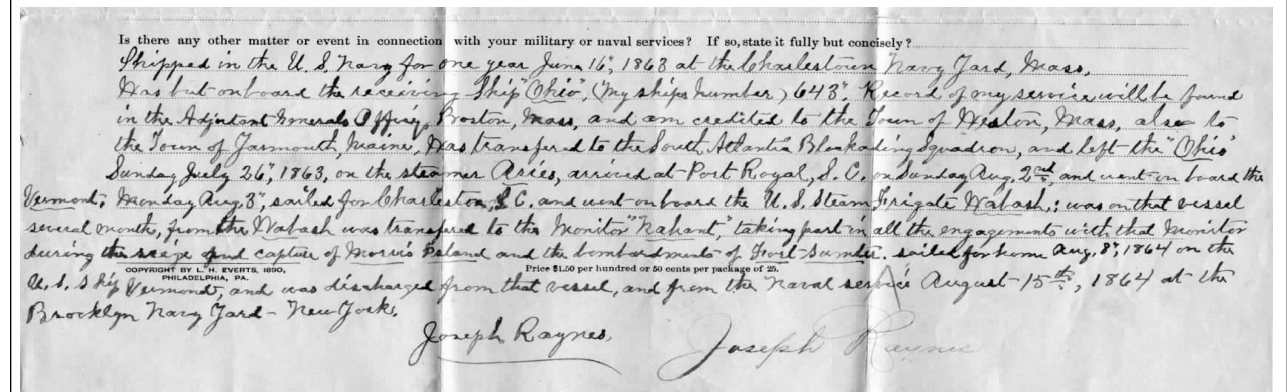
Joseph Raynes served aboard a number of vessels before he was assigned to the Monitor, *USS Nahant*, one of ten Passaic class ironclads in the Union's fleet. On board the *Nahant*, Raynes participated in Rear Admiral Du Pont's valiant, but ill-fated attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston in 1864. "In the fighting the *Nahant* had been hit 36 times disabling her turret and breaking off a large piece of iron inside her pilot house killing her helmsman and wounding her pilot. The next day with her sister monitors, she retired to Port Royal for repairs." When the post of engineer's yeoman became vacant during this battle, Raynes assumed the vacant position and held the post until the end of his Naval service. After repairs the *Nahant* went on to battle and succeed in assisting in the capture of Morris Island. (www.historycentral.com/navy/Monitor/Nahant.html)



Joseph Raynes

Raynes returned home and assumed his infirmed father's post at the Grand Trunk, Kennebec and Portland Railway Station in Yarmouth. After a change in management at the Railway offices, Raynes was promoted to agent, a position he held until 1878. Raynes then engaged in business in Yarmouth as a cigar manufacturer until 1886 when he was appointed Postmaster at Yarmouthville. Mr. Raynes married Esther Abbie Johnson on March 7, 1867. They had three children, Mary Ann, Albert Joseph, and George Edward. He was a prominent member of the Yarmouth community; he belonged to many organizations, held a position as the Town Treasurer from 1901 to 1905, and directed and performed with the Yarmouth Band. Joseph Raynes, died October 20, 1939. At the time of his death Raynes was the last survivor of the bombardment of the Confederate stronghold of Fort Sumter of 1864 and the oldest resident of Yarmouth.

Joseph Raynes' 1864 photo of the Monitor, *USS Nahant* is currently on display at the Yarmouth History Center.



A summary of military service written and signed by Joseph Raynes.

Host Your Next Event at the Yarmouth History Center

Contact the History Center for details on hosting your next meeting or event at the Yarmouth History Center. Enjoy a modern, spacious, handicap accessible facility in a picturesque setting adjacent to Royal River. There is parking at the History Center as well as across the street at the Royal River Park.



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There are so many ways an individual can support the Yarmouth Historical Society. All gifts, no matter the form they take—an item for the collections, time volunteering at the Center or for a fundraiser, contributions to our Annual Fund Campaign or support through Membership—all of these efforts help us to preserve and share the heritage of Yarmouth. The Society cannot exist without this kind of support. What is surprising and greatly appreciated by the Society is the donor who offers support in a multitude of ways. Diana Richards Hibbard is one of those supporters.

This year Diana's work on our House Tour Committee and her support through membership only scratches the surface of how she has contributed to the Society. As a community member with deep roots in Yarmouth, Diana has helped us fill in some gaps in our efforts to gather details of Yarmouth's more recent history. She connected us with two of our senior community members, Viola and Mable Knowles, so we could record an oral history.

Viola Knowles shared with us her experiences working for Lida Gilbert at the Coastal Manor Nursing Home. In the late 1930's, Lida Gilbert owned and operated a Maternity hospital on East Elm Street in Yarmouth before she moved her business to Main Street. During our interview, Viola and her sister Mable also shared their recollections of living in Yarmouth and the surrounding area during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Diana herself



Viola Knowles, Diana Hibbard, and Mable Knowles.

was able to offer us some details about the long-established Yarmouth business of Mrs. Gilbert's Hospital, now Coastal Manor. Diana's mother was the Hospital's cook and Diana has vivid memories of visiting her mother at work before she went to school.

Diana has not only offered us her gift of time but she has recently gifted to the Society a collection of her family's photographs and papers documenting her ancestor's presence here in Yarmouth. Along with this gift to the Historical Society Diana also made herself available to the staff to help sort papers and identify the subjects in the collection's photographs. It is rare to receive such an extensive gift, even rarer to have the resource of a family member's information to accompany it.

Thank you Diana.

Our apologies if we have made a mistake or omitted your name from this list. Please, don't hesitate to contact us and we will make all adjustments necessary. Also, check your address label and make sure it is correct. Thank you.