

Yarmouth History Center Newsletter

Summer 2018

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

Historic Structure Survey Underway



Above: Photo of the Yarmouth Water District building from the 1972-1973 historic structure survey.

Volunteers equipped with cameras, clipboards, and pencils have been out and about in Yarmouth since February working on a historic structure survey that will bring together documentation about structures older than 50 years within the village. The study will survey not only homes but also barns, civic structures, and commercial buildings in the village. Volunteers have braved snowbanks and bitter temperatures and then raced the blooming foliage in order to document the town's historic resources by photographing unobstructed views of structures, estimating construction dates, and documenting salient architectural features and elements.

This work is part of a larger project undertaken by the Town of Yarmouth, with help from the History Center, the Village Improvement Society, and Maine Preservation, that was spurred by action items in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. Town Planner Alex Jaegerman said, "The effort will help recognize, preserve, and enhance the community's historic resources. The survey will help decide what, if any, measures should be taken to protect, preserve, or renovate certain buildings."

In 2017, the Town received a matching grant of \$12,850 from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) to participate in MHPC's statewide architectural survey program, which has been a key

HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURVEY
U-1-25
Cumberland County Yarmouth Pleasant Street
Name of Building/site: _____
Approximate Date: 1920 Style: Modern
Type of Structure: _____
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURVEY
U-1-24
Cumberland County Yarmouth 78 Pleasant Street
Name of Building/site: _____
Approximate Date: 1800's Style: Federal
Type of Structure: Residential Commercial Industrial Other: Attached barn, Several greenhouses on lot.
Condition: Good Fair Poor
Endangered: No Yes
Surveyor: MEW Organization: VIS/CPL Date: 3/14/73
Rating: _____
Historic Significance to the Community: This house was standing in 1803. The upper part of the house was burned in 1912 and rebuilt. The barn was built c.1900. The house has been in the same family.

Above: Examples of survey cards from the 1972-1973 historic structure survey.

part of the Commission's mission since 1972. The Town of Yarmouth was an early participant in the survey program: the Village Improvement Society undertook a full reconnaissance survey of the town's structures in 1972-1973. The work done at that time will be incorporated into the new survey, providing a rich archive of the town's evolution over the years.

Volunteers have taken over 800 photographs of structures in the town's central village and are currently working on collecting information about the structures' ages, conditions, and architectural styles.

All material collected and compiled for the current survey, along with scans of the 1973 survey work, will be added to the state's online database and made available to the public there. Copies will also be held in the archives at the Yarmouth History Center for consultation by future researchers and students. "This is a wonderful opportunity to document Yarmouth's older homes and structures and gain a greater understanding of the historic fabric of the town," said Katie Worthing, Executive Director of the Yarmouth Historical Society. "Collecting these photos and architectural details now will be a great step toward documenting our history and preserving a snapshot of Yarmouth at this moment for future residents, students, and researchers."

Thanks to all our survey volunteers!



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From the Chair

It's summer! It's Maine! It's a great time for a walk. You no doubt have walked—as have I, many times—the loop from the Royal River Park parking lot, down the river to Bridge Street, up the hill to Main Street, back to East Elm and to the parking lot. Along the way are the familiar icons of Yarmouth history: the remains of the Forest Paper Company, the very picturesque Sparhawk Mill, Main Street's classic churches, NYA, and more.



Now you can walk this route with a tour guide, prepared by the Yarmouth History Center's Raleigh Goessling—and the tour guide can reside on your cell phone, handy for when you want to walk and learn just a bit more. The tour is available on Pocketsights. You can download the app from your phone's app store. The app will take your location and display the tours nearest you making the History Center's tour easy to find. If you're unfamiliar with cell phone apps there is a short video on our website with instructions on how to acquire and run Pocketsights. The History Center also has printed copies of the tour. It's free and available in our reception area.

Raleigh did a fine job on this, but don't look for him at the History Center. He left us last month to train as a biathlete with the Craftsbury Green Racing Project (see below). We thank Raleigh for his work on this and much more, and wish him the best as he tries to make history himself.

I will close with a welcome to four new members of the Yarmouth Historical Society board—Pam Adams, Caroline Knott, Jessie McGrath, and Brigid Waeldner. I look forward to working with these new colleagues. Our staff, volunteers, and board members work to preserve and make available Yarmouth's history. Next time you are out walking or touring guests around our town stop by the Center for a visit.

Until then, have a great summer!

Bill Nugent

Staff News

In May we said goodbye to Raleigh Goessling, our Special Projects Coordinator. For the past two years Raleigh worked on a number of projects that included building a database inventory of the Society's book collection, curating our social media content, updating our collection database, creating a local walking tour (now available in hard copy at the Center and online at Pocketsights), and staffing special events all while training over 800 hours over this past year as an elite biathlete (a sport that combines nordic skiing and marksmanship).



Above: Goessling competing at the 2017 U.S. Biathlon National Team trials in Mt. Itasca, MN.

This spring Raleigh joined the Craftsbury Green Racing Project and is now training and working in Vermont as he prepares for the upcoming biathlon race season. Good luck, Raleigh!

You can follow Raleigh and his teammates at: <https://greenracingproject.com>.

From the Collection and Into the Community

If you shop, work, or dine in and around Yarmouth you have probably seen views of Yarmouth's history at a number of businesses in town. Perhaps you have been in Handy's, on the corner of Main and East Elm, and discovered the old photographs of the building and its neighborhood on the walls inside the store and restaurant. Royal River Grill House's interior features an immense mural of an 1864 view of the harbor. Both businesses incorporated photographs from the Society's collection to showcase Yarmouth's history in their places of business.

This year the History Center continued sharing history by working with local businesses who wanted to use historical images from the Society's collection for the interiors of their businesses. This spring the Patriot Insurance Company approached the History Center with an idea for the interior design of their new building on U.S. Route 1. They wanted to name their conference rooms after vessels built in Yarmouth. Patriot staff members met with Director Katie Worthing to view the Society's photographs of the Yarmouth-built vessels as well as photographs of Yarmouth's shipyards, places that were once the dominant scene in the town's harbor. Patriot's idea became a reality as their new conference and gathering spaces offer a collection of impressive visuals that mix large prints and smaller photos that hallmark Yarmouth's history.

Not only has the Center assisted with large interior projects but we have also helped businesses with smaller additions to their visual space. Seeing an opportunity to tap the Society's collections after sprucing up their staff areas, Yankee Marina and Boatyard approached the History Center to help the company add a little more of Yarmouth's shipbuilding history into their space.

Yarmouth Historical Society business member Brickyard Hollow Brewing Company will feature Yarmouth's history in their brewpub's interior. They have chosen to brand their new beer and brewpub after the neighborhood's historical name from the 1800s. Patrons of this new establishment will have plenty of opportunity to acquaint themselves with local history as there will be a number of images and local facts about our town on display.

Katie Worthing, Executive Director of the Yarmouth Historical Society, sees working with local businesses as a great way to bring images from the Society's collection out into public spaces. "We collect and preserve history in order to share it with the community. Working with local business on projects like these helps us achieve our mission."



Above: Architect David Matero, Patriot Insurance President Linc Merrill, and the Yarmouth Historical Society Executive Director Katie Worthing stand before a copy of the Society's photograph of the Yarmouth-built vessel, the *Commodore*.

Below: A detail of a winter image of Brickyard Hollow from the Society's photograph collection now installed as a mural in the new Brickyard Hollow Brew Pub.



In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



Above Top: Appraisers Colleen Donovan and Peter Combs and member Meta McDonald review details of her antique clock. **Above:** Members Delores and David Field get information from the event's visiting Asian antiques expert Peter Combs.

Above from Left to Right: Historical society directors Carolyn Small of Cumberland, Katie Murphy of North Yarmouth, Jim Cram of Freeport, Katie Worthing of Yarmouth, and Larissa Vigue Picard of Pejepscot.

Antique Appraisal Day

This past April the History Center hosted appraisers Colleen Donovan and Christopher Considine from Foreside Antiques in Falmouth and visiting Asian expert Peter Combs for the Center's third Annual Appraisal Day fundraiser. Our guest appraisers used their expertise to convey the history and estimate the value of the antiques and collectibles presented to them by our attendees.

It was great to see so many Yarmouth Historical Society members attend and take advantage of the membership benefit of one free appraisal. Equally fun was welcoming all the new visitors who came with their treasures to be appraised by our experts. Thanks to all for supporting the fundraiser. If you missed it this year Appraisal Day will return in April of 2019.

Ancient North Yarmouth Directors Meet

In early June the directors of the historical societies of Ancient North Yarmouth gathered for lunch at the Yarmouth History Center. The group met to share updates from their societies and discuss ways in which they could collaborate on future projects with the purpose of promoting the history of our region.

The State of Maine's upcoming bicentennial celebration in 2020 was a big topic of conversation. The group is excited about the possibility of working together on a project that will involve each of the region's organizations. "Meeting with other Historical society directors is so helpful." said Worthing, "We have many common goals, similar challenges, and a shared history so the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences is invaluable."

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center

Third Run of the Royal

The environs of the History Center were once again the epicenter for the Royal River Conservation Trust's third running of the Run of the Royal. The group had a great day for their corporate canoe relay race where 21 relay teams (more than 150 paddlers) competed and helped raise thousands of dollars to support RRCT's work to expand conservation and access up and down the river. Congratulations to long-course winners Gedakina, a Wabanaki group focused on revitalizing the Native American identity of youth and families, and to the short-course winners and one of the Society's newest business members, Yarmouth Boat Yard.



Above: Corporate teams queue up for the start of the third running of the RRCT's Run of the Royal.

Fourth Grade Visits

Yarmouth Elementary fourth graders visited the History Center in early June to tour the museum and learn about their town's history. The students also came to view a number of Civil War artifacts from the Society's collection and learn through these artifacts a little about life during the Civil War.

After touring the museum, the students worked in small groups and made their way around the Hamill Room to visit six information stations. The stations displayed an array of artifacts that included examples of Confederate money, period tintype portraits, a local 1861 call-to-arms broadside, a diary, letters, and two portraits of former Yarmouth residents who were Civil War soldiers. For many in this group the visit to the History Center was not their first. We hosted many of these students when they were in second grade. It was satisfying to learn that many students remembered facts presented to them during that first visit like. . . clipper ships were never built in Yarmouth!



Above: Executive Director Katie Worthing answers questions about the Forest Paper Company.

Below and Left: Katie Worthing and board member and former teacher Brigid Waeldner present Civil War artifacts to curious 4th graders.



Upcoming Events and Programs

July

Recent Works by Mardie Weldon

Stonewall Gallery

July through August

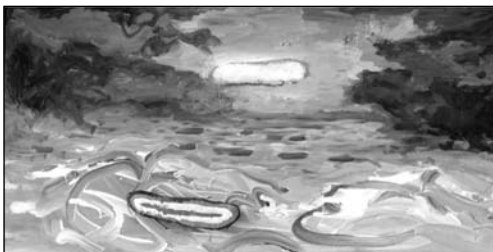
Image to the left: *Pink Sky*

Reception

Friday, July 13, 2018

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Free



During the Clam Festival: Yarmouth in the '80s

Yarmouth History Center

A display of artifacts from the Society's collection.

Free



Photo Exhibit and Sale

Merrill Memorial Library

On display at the Merrill Memorial Library's Reading Room, a sampling of photographs from Yarmouth Historical Society's collection. Copies of these photographs will be on display and for sale at the library from July through August. See our website for more details. The photograph of the Grand Trunk Station, seen above, is one of a dozen images that will be for sale during the show.

A Drawer of Curiosities

Each spring the History Center offers work to a North Yarmouth Academy senior as an opportunity to complete their community service requirement for graduation. This year's senior, Leo, worked at the Center for two weeks this past May. The following is a short impression of his time here at the History Center.

My name is Leo and I recently had an intriguing experience as an intern at the Yarmouth History Center. On my second day of working there, I accompanied Director Katie Worthing to the collection's storage facility and while touring the collection found a box of unique artifacts, including the bone of an extinct bird found by Charles Greeley in a Native American shell heap and some pebbles from the King of Sweden's driveway brought back to Yarmouth years ago by Helen Small from one of her many adventures around the world. I took the artifacts and created my own small exhibit, which can be found displayed in a drawer opposite the museum's front desk. Creating my own exhibit was my favorite part of working at the History Center because I was able to do research about the items that interested me and share my discoveries with the people who visit the museum.

Congratulations to Leo on his graduation from NYA and best of luck to him in the future.



Above: NYA student Leo and his exhibit of curiosities found in the collection.

Below: A detail from the exhibit: bone of the Great Auk, now extinct.



Destination Yarmouth

In the late 1800s, fashionable grand hotels sprung up around the state, inspiring city dwellers to visit the pristine coast of Maine for a respite from city life. Maine offered an idyllic place with its long coastline and expansive woodlands. Because of its shoreline and islands Yarmouth became a summer destination along with its neighboring coastal communities of the region. Resorts on Princes Point, Drinkwater Point, Brown's Point, Littlejohn Island, and Cousins Island offered vacationers opportunities for fishing, boating, and bathing.

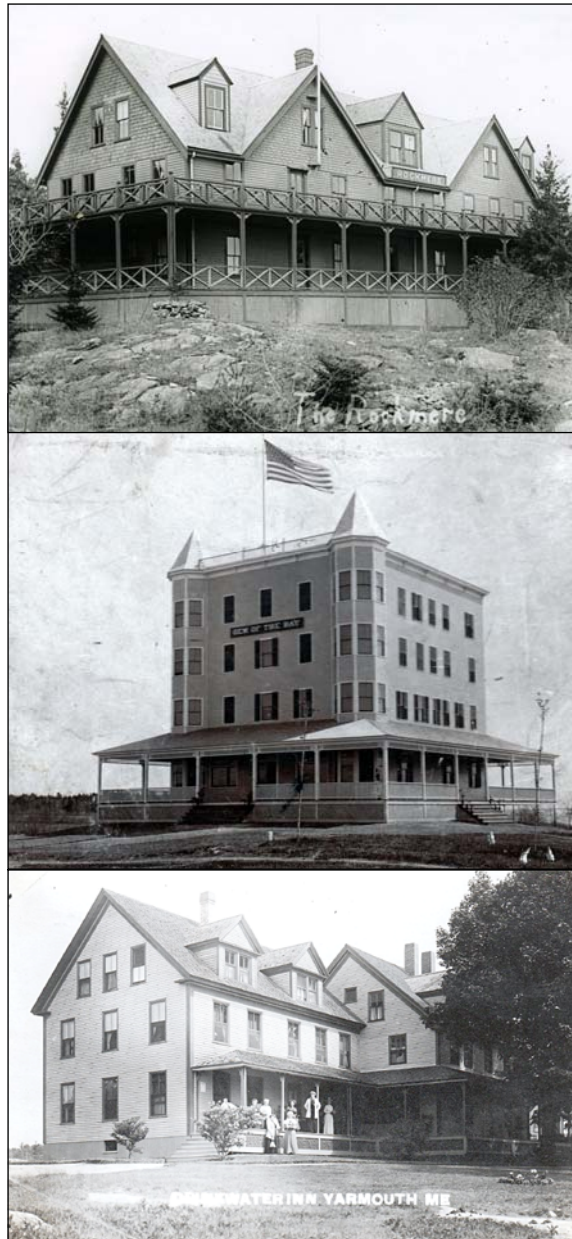
The Hotel Rockmere on Littlejohn Island served as both a summer hotel and the center for the island's social life between 1894 and 1945. The hotel had rooms to rent, a large dining room, a billiards room, a small store for ice cream and candy, and a tennis court. Over the span of a half century it was believed that every "island girl" served as a waitress or chamber maid during the summer season at the Rockmere.

For a short time the Gem of the Bay became a Casco Bay landmark. Built in 1899 the Gem of the Bay, located at the end of Princes Point, was a four-story heated wooden structure with a 12-foot piazza surrounding all sides of the building. The hotel boasted a ladies' parlor, dining hall, and guest rooms with hot and cold running water. The guest rooms were connected to the main office by call bells. It was believed that no summer hotel on Casco Bay had better accommodations. Sadly, after two years of operation a devastating fire burned the hotel to the ground.

The Drinkwater Inn, on Drinkwater Point, was another summer destination in Yarmouth during the 1900s. It boasted accommodations for up to 65, advertising their rates at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day or \$9.00 to \$16.00 a week. The Drinkwater Inn's close neighbor and one of Yarmouth's longest running resorts, Trimble Farm (later named Homewood Inn), charged \$8.00 to \$12.00 per week.

Trimble Farm's property included the 1782 home of Samuel Bucknam as well as a large house that was added to provide accommodations to boarders. In 1912 Burton Lyman purchased the farm and 'developed' the property into a resort and renamed it Homewood Inn. The resort offered a dining room, parlor, clay tennis court, rooms for lodging, and cottages for rent along the waterfront. Throughout the years, each owner added their personal touch to the resort.

The Webster family owned the property from 1963 to 1992 and was the last to operate it as a resort. In 1992 the property was converted to an association with provisions to protect the area by making sure no other buildings would be added, minimal changes would be allowed to the existing buildings, the open fields would continue to provide sanctuary for wildlife and enjoyment for the village members and their families. What hasn't changed is the environment Marie Trimble, Burton Lyman, and their families worked so hard to preserve.




Top to Bottom: A sample of Yarmouth's grand hotels, The Hotel Rockmere on Littlejohn Island, Gem of the Bay on Princes Point, Drinkwater Inn on Drinkwater Point.

Sign of Spring

One of the History Center's harbingers of spring arrived on May 18th. Wilby and Historical Society member Lois Howlett stopped by on their way to the Royal River Park where they help celebrate Arbor Day with students from the Rowe School. Wilby never fails to visit the History Center on his way to the park.



Yarmouth History Center



Vintage Monogram Zip Top Tote

Tues-Sat
10 to 5

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