

Yarmouth History Center Newsletter

Summer 2019

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259



Above left: Yarmouth's watering trough and fountain now serves as a planter outside Merrill Memorial Library. **Above right:** Watering trough and fountain located at the intersection of East Elm and Main Streets.

For Man and Beast

By Larry Sullivan

Guest contributor Larry Sullivan is a local historian affiliated with the Warner, New Hampshire Historical Society. His research into the H. W. Clapp and Concord Foundry Companies emerged from the local mystery surrounding the Warner, NH fountain, which had no maker's name, date, or other information about its origins. From that challenging starting point, he has painstakingly pieced together the stories of the two foundries and sought out examples of their fountains across northern New England. He contacted the History Center in March 2019 and was thrilled to confirm two extant fountains in Yarmouth and link them to the Clapp/Concord Foundries. To date, he has identified 22 related fountains. Read on to learn more about his project and his Yarmouth discoveries.

During the 19th century, most communities provided horse-watering troughs for travelers at roadsides and intersections. Some of these troughs were simple hollowed-out logs or barrels, and some were made of stone. It was common to find a horse-watering trough located near a tavern, where a traveler could water his team and also quench his own thirst.

By the last quarter of the 19th century, foundries were manufacturing cast iron horse troughs and fountains in New England. Iron troughs were durable, could be sited where there was a reliable source of water, and were easy to keep clean. Animal rights groups promoted the use of troughs for horses, dogs, and other animals in public places. Humane groups, including the S.P.C.A., provided watering stations and troughs

in many major cities. *Our Dumb Animals*, a prominent Boston magazine, published articles in favor of more public troughs for horses and dogs.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) and other temperance groups and Women's Clubs promoted public drinking fountains for people. Their primary goal was to provide clean drinking water for traveling men. They did not want men to enter a tavern to quench their thirst. The W.C.T.U. funded many stone and iron fountains throughout the country. Lillian Stevens of Maine was the President of the organization for a time. The organization donated "The Little Watering Girl" fountain in Portland in her memory.

In 1890, Henry W. Clapp of Concord, NH received a U.S. Patent for his invention that met the needs of these advocacy groups. According to the Patent description:

"The object of the invention is to provide an ornamental drinking-fountain adapted for the accommodation of man and beast of proper construction to avoid freezing in cold weather."

Continued on Page 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

William M. Nugent

Vice-Chair

Betsy Lane

Treasurer

Eric Leinwand

Secretary

Chuck Murray

Pamelia Adams

Art Bell

Julie Benavides

Binks Colby-George

Tamson Bickford Hamrock

Caroline Knott

Betsy Langer

Marian McCue

Jessie McGrath

David Ray

Peter Sillin

Ben Soule

Executive Director

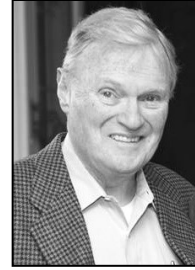
Katherine G. Worthing

Yarmouth Historical Society
118 East Elm Street
P.O. Box 107
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-846-6259
yarmouthmehistory.org

Published quarterly for the
members of the
Yarmouth Historical Society.

From the Chair

As I write this, the weather has at last turned glorious. There is no better time to enjoy the out of doors. While you're absorbing all those wonderful rays of sunshine, be aware of the history that has shaped our environment, from the banks of the rivers, to the houses of worship, and—indeed—to the homes in which we and our neighbors live. All contribute to Yarmouth's history. And soon, we will have the Route 1/ Main Street overpass construction behind us, another new page in Yarmouth's history.



I'd like personally to thank everyone, especially our Host Committee, who attended Cocktails at the Camp (Hammond) to enjoy the historic building and to help further the work of Yarmouth Historical Society. Special thanks go to our event sponsors Kate Huntress, Olivia Richmond, and Liz Porter of Portside Real Estate Group Yarmouth, and Patriot Insurance and its CEO, Linc Merrill. We also deeply appreciate the generosity of the many Yarmouth restaurants that donated more than \$650 in gift cards for the raffle prize.

Our appreciation also extends to the hundreds of local (and not so local) people who, by renewing their membership, enable us to preserve and explore Yarmouth history, present various aspects of that history in writings and program presentations, and encourage young scholars to themselves delve into the history of our community.

If your home houses a budding high school history scholar, please see page 7 or visit our website for information about The Wellcome Prize, the Society's new research paper competition; we're offering a \$1,000 prize to the best student-written paper.

If there are primary or pre-school students in your family, introduce them to history, too. They likely will appreciate meeting *and riding (!)* Sandy the mechanical horse, a fun piece of Yarmouth's history. For years, Sandy was an attraction at Goff's Hardware on Main Street, ready for any rider. Goff's chapter in history has been written. Sandy's story continues at the History Center where dimes are available for all riders thanks to a donation from a former Sandy rider. Please stop in for a visit and if you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so now.

Bill Nugent

Continued from Page 1

The H.W. Clapp Co. and the Concord Foundry Co. (formerly the Clapp Co.) both sold the invention. The basic invention was a four-foot-wide iron trough-tub (bowl-shaped) sitting atop an iron pedestal. The rim of the tub was four feet above the ground level. At the center of the tub was a hitching-post, where a drinking horse could be tethered if necessary. Three other options were available. An outward-facing human drinking hood with a faucet and drinking cups would protect people from being bumped by horses at the tub. A drinking bowl for dogs could be installed at the ground level. A third option was a taller mast with a lamp. At one of these fountains, people, horses and dogs could all drink at the same time!

Wagons could drive right up to the trough. Drivers did not have to disembark or unhitch their teams. Shafts and poles of the horse-powered vehicles rode below the bowl-shaped tub. If they desired, drivers could disembark to drink from the human drinking hood. The Clapp patent was simple, functional and attractive.

Continued on Page 3



Above left: Watering trough and fountain at the intersection of Main and Portland Streets. **Above right:** Detail of the Main and Portland Street trough and fountain showing the human drinking hood.

Continued from Page 2

There are no available records of the H.W. Clapp or Concord Foundry companies. It is not clear how many of the fountains and troughs were sold. There are 22 known, surviving fountains. There are two of the Concord Foundry Co. “Man and Beast” fountains in Yarmouth. Yarmouth is the only known community that has two fountains. It is also the only known community in Maine to have surviving examples. The other fountains and troughs are in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont.

A note from Executive Director Katie Worthing:

Yarmouth’s two fountains were originally located at the corner of Portland and Main Streets and the corner of Elm and Main Streets, places that provided access for each of the distinct village areas of town. They were put in place around 1896, when the town’s water system was installed. There was a great firemen’s muster held that year and in years following to celebrate the completion of the system (the Yarmouth Clam Festival still continues the tradition of the muster every summer). Expenses listed in the Water Committee’s report for the fiscal year ending on March 1, 1897 include \$206.63 for the fountains from the Concord Foundry Company along with \$8.25 for shipping via railroad from New Hampshire.

In the historic views of the fountains on pages 1 and 3, their accessible central locations are readily apparent. Functional details, particularly the drinking hood and the tin cups held within, are also visible. As Larry Sullivan describes above, these drinking hoods would have protected human users from bumping heads with equine users and also helped to keep separate the water sources for each use.

At some point later in the 20th century, presumably to ease traffic concerns, Yarmouth’s troughs were moved to their current locations near Merrill Memorial Library and at the intersection of Main and Center Streets. Today, they serve as beautiful plant-

ers, but still possess many of the features that made Clapp/Concord fountains so attractive in the late 19th century. The main fountain bowl, central mast, and dog trough remain intact on both fountains, along with ornamental details in the iron. Take a closer look the next time you stroll by one!

Intriguingly, however, neither fountain retains its original drinking hood. Perhaps these were removed to facilitate plantings once the troughs no longer served as drinking

fountains (if that’s the case, maybe there’s hope that they still exist in a local barn or basement). Concerns about public health and sanitation caused many municipalities to decommission public drinking fountains that, like these, employed shared drinking cups for users. This, along with the rise in automobile use, led to the general decline in popularity of such troughs. The need for scrap iron during World War II led to further loss, making the survival of Yarmouth’s two fountains remarkable and noteworthy. Thanks to the research efforts of local historians like Larry Sullivan, we can now view these familiar items in a new light, full of freshly discovered details and historical context.



Above: Trough and fountain as a planter currently located on the corner of Center and Main Streets.

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



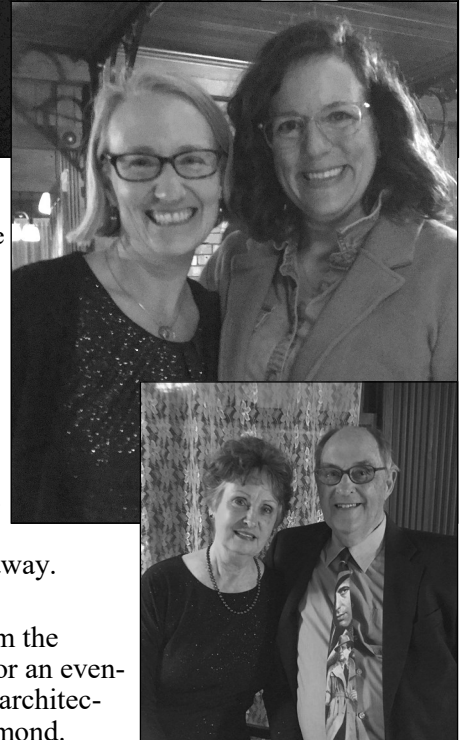
Top left: Left to right, Trustee Julie Benavides, Sky Grant, Barbara Parkhurst, Rick Parkhurst, and former Board Chair Linda Grant arriving during a downpour. **Top right:** Left to right, Trustee Eric Leinwand, Jackie and Matt Schumacher, Tina and Jim Jenkins, and Katie Leinwand. **Above left:** Trustee Marian McCue and Bud Stiker. **Above right:** Event Sponsors, Portside Yarmouth: Kate Huntress, Olivia Richmond, and Liz Porter. **Right:** Lynne Gawtry and Jenn Wilson. **Lower right:** Jan and Ray Sawyer.

Cocktails at the Camp

April showers turned into an April downpour at the start of the Historical Society's Cocktails at the Camp event. The heavy rain and season's first claps of thunder were not enough to keep our guests away. And we were so grateful for that!

Out of the rain, our guests found Camp Hammond's fires lit to warm the rooms and a jazz duo performing the perfect music to set the tone for an evening of socializing and fun. All this was wrapped within the historic architectural jewel located in the center of Yarmouth's village, Camp Hammond.

We would like to thank all who came out to support Yarmouth Historical Society, especially our event sponsors, Yarmouth's Portside Real Estate Group and Patriot Insurance. The event would not have been the success it was without all of your support. We would also like to thank the restaurants (*See page 8*) who donated over \$650 in gift certificates to the event's grand prize, *Taste of Yarmouth*. One lucky individual won the self-guided culinary tour of Yarmouth's eateries. Congratulations and bon appetit, David Ray!



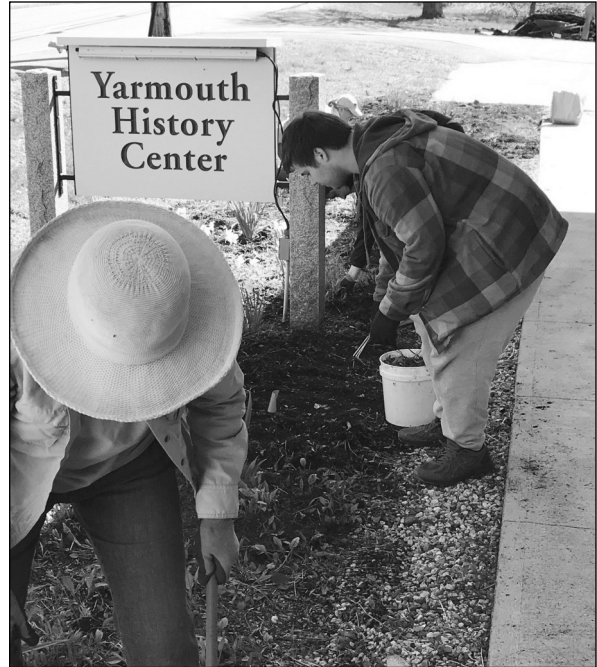
In and Around the Yarmouth History Center

Garden Restoration Project

Last summer the weeds dominated the plantings in the gardens outside Yarmouth History Center. Thanks to Trustee Pam Adams, the weeds will have a difficult time returning this season.

We were fortunate to have Pam, an experienced gardener, volunteer to spearhead the garden restoration project. Pam had a great response to her call to action. Board Chair Bill Nugent, and Trustees Betsy Langer, Art Bell, and Caroline Knott were joined by Pam's grandson and two high school volunteers working to fulfill their community service requirement.

The group identified the perennials, pulled weeds, and laid heavy mulch over newspaper in an effort to discourage weed growth. The results so far have been fabulous and the gardens are looking healthier by the day. Now all we need is a few days of continuous sunshine to get things growing. A huge thanks to Pam and her volunteers!



Above: Pam Adams, under the wide brimmed hat, and volunteers restore the Center's front gardens.



Above: Patterson addresses guests at her show's opening.

Stonewall Gallery Show

The gallery is hosting "Trees and Dancers," a collection of work by artist Wendy Newbold Patterson. The inspiration for this work, rich in color, form, and lyrical movement, came to her when she was temporarily immobilized, recovering from surgery. "Out of my windows, I rediscovered the presence, the silent and stationary power of the trees who have been my neighbors for 34 years. I am still learning their many names!" The show includes works in oil, encaustic, and ink and will be on view until June 29.

Student Art Exhibit

Yarmouth High School honors art students were the featured artists in the History Center's Stonewall Gallery for two weeks this past February. Art prints, poems, and sculptures inspired by the animals the artists encountered in their daily life were among the pieces exhibited in this show. Students worked with visiting artist Tim Christensen.

The project produced incredible pieces, all made with the intent to encourage the viewer to pay attention to the beauty of the typically unnoticed fauna around them.



Above: Art Honors students and guests view the show. **Left:** A print created by junior Ashlyn Feeley. This print received an Honorable Mention for the 2019 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Upcoming Events and Programs

JUNE



Tuesday, June 18, 7:00 pm

Lecture: *What Style is My House?*

Using clues from the details of a structure from foundations to dentil trims, Julie Larry, Director of Advocacy, Greater Portland Landmarks, will share information on how to find clues to help you 'read' the history of an old house.

The lecture is FREE for members and \$5.00 for all others.



JULY



Friday, July 12, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Opening Reception: *Recent Works* by the Artisans Collective

The Artisans Collective, a local group of artists dedicated to supporting and nurturing the artisans in the Yarmouth area, will be exhibiting recent works in the Stonewall Gallery July through August.

FREE and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



Clam Festival weekend and throughout the month of August

Fun Event: Yarm-opoly



Visit the History Center during Clam Festival and play an oversized Yarmouth-themed board game inspired by a classic.



COMING FALL 2019

Tuesday, September 17, 7:00 pm.

Lecture: WPA Post Office Murals in Maine

Sarah Jane Wallace, Independent Art Historian, will present her research on WPA Post Office murals in Maine. **The lecture is FREE for members and \$5.00 for all others.**



Monday, October 21, 7:00 pm

Lecture: Archaeology of Casco Bay

Arthur Spiess, Senior Archaeologist, Maine Historic Preservation Commission will present a talk on the Archaeology of Casco Bay. **The lecture is FREE for members and \$5.00 for all others.**



Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 pm

Lecture: Winners of The Wellcome Prize for Maine Student Historians

Topics in Cumberland County History. See Page 7 for the story about the Prize and our website for full competition details.



Third Thursday of the month beginning in September

Royal River Film Series

Heading into its 5th season, the Royal River Film Series will be showing a variety of films on the third Thursday of every month starting in September. Check Yarmouth Historical Society's website later this summer for the 2019-2020 film list.



Event is **FREE** and open to the public. Refreshments and cookies by Maple's.

The lecture series is sponsored by the
LEON AND LISA GORMAN FUND

The film series is sponsored by

RMD R.M. DAVIS
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Wellcome Prize

The Trustees and staff of Yarmouth Historical Society are pleased to present The Wellcome Prize, a history competition open to high school students in Maine. Students are invited to undertake original historical research about a local history topic related to Cumberland County and write a research paper about their findings. Papers will be judged on the quality of writing and research. The writers of the three winning papers will be asked to present a talk about their project in November 2019. The first prize winner will receive \$1000, second prize \$500, and third prize \$250.

Any high school student residing or attending school in Maine is eligible to enter. Entrants should be current high school students (grades 9-12) during the fall of 2019. Papers must be submitted via email by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. Winners will be announced on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Winning students will present a talk on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Yarmouth History Center at 118 East Elm Street in Yarmouth, Maine.

Research should maintain a strong connection to local history and be limited to subjects related to Cumberland County, Maine. We encourage all entrants to consult their local historical societies and/or libraries for appropriate archival materials and resources. Papers must be the original work of the student entering the competition. Written papers should be between 1500 and 2500 words and should include citations and a bibliography of sources consulted. Yarmouth Historical Society may choose to publish any submitted paper in a future newsletter or publication.

The Wellcome Prize is named after Elsie Wellcome (1893-1918). Elsie was raised in Yarmouth, attended local schools, and became an involved community member as a young person.

For more information about the Wellcome Prize visit yarmouthmehistory.org



New to the Collection

We recently acquired a Gothic style oak pew from a local estate sale. The History Center was fortunate to get a call from member Sarah Swann Van Fleet who saw the pew for sale at a neighbor's estate sale. Knowing the history of the pew Sarah felt we should be aware of its existence and current status. Always ready to spring into action for any history emergency, Director Katie Worthing and Development Director Maura Goessling headed out to the sale to view the artifact.

The pew was originally part of a chapel used by the Franco-American Oblate Fathers and later the Oblate Missionary Institute. The Oblates purchased the former Drinkwater Inn on Drinkwater Point in 1947 and used it as a summer residence and retreat. Local residents recall seeing the clergy riding their bicycles around the area in the summer. The property was owned by the Oblates until 1967, after which it was developed into the Seaborne Drive neighborhood.

Do you remember the Oblates? Do you have photos of this area when they were in residence? Please consider sharing your memories with us!

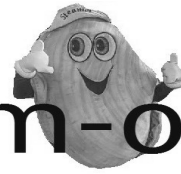


Above: An oak pew from the Oblate Missionary Institute on display at the History Center.

Yarmouth Historical Society thanks:

Gather, More & Co, Owl and Elm,
 Royal River Grillhouse, Binga's Wingas,
 Bistro 233, Clayton's, Pat's Pizza,
 Brickyard Hollow, Maple's,
 Muddy Rudder, Rosemont,
 Woodhull, Maine Roasters, Otto

**for making the Cocktails at the Camp
 grand prize "Taste of Yarmouth" possible!**



Yarm-opoly

Debuting at the History Center
 during Clam Festival is Yarm-opoly!
 Come play the oversized Yarmouth-themed
 board game inspired by a classic.



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's



RMD | R.M.DAVIS
 PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Yarmouth Image assistance and
 Printing and printing by Yarmouth
GRAPHICS Printing and Graphics



Non-Profit
 Postage PAID
 Permit No. 46
 Yarmouth, ME

Yarmouth, Maine 04096-0107
 P. O. Box 107
 YARMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

