

Yarmouth History Center Newsletter

Spring 2020

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

Take a Walk with History

Last year, Yarmouth History Center participated in a new pilot partnership project with the web-based destination marketing group Vamonde. The group offered to work with members of Maine Archives and Museums to help launch their content to Vamonde's tourist information site.

Yarmouth History Center was one of the first members to upload content to Vamonde. The Center's program archives had several existing walking tours that could be used for the pilot program. These tours showcase the Historical Society's extensive collection of historic photographs and feature many historic places in town.

For its pilot tour the Center selected the *Mills and Main Street* tour. The tour is based on the Society's longest running walking tour (9 stops) looping from the History Center on East Elm Street, along the Royal River, up to Main Street, and returning to the Center. Preparing the *Mills and Main Street* tour for its debut online went smoothly and the tour launched seamlessly to Vamonde's website.

Walkers taking the self-guided tour can choose to do the whole tour or select pieces. You can check out the tour online. The link can be found on the History Center's website, through Vamonde's website, or you can download the free Vamonde app to your phone and access Yarmouth's tour and many other tours offered worldwide by Vamonde. With the Vamonde app, users can select the tour's alert setting to let them know there are tours in the area they are visiting.

This is an exciting way for the History Center to offer content on a portable, digital format and provide a new way for our audience to access and experience Yarmouth history. It is instant family fun available to the community and our visitors.

If you are searching for a local, free activity visit our website, follow the link to the *Mills and Main Street* tour, and check it out. And next time when you see folks on the street with their phones in hand remember, not all will be checking their social media accounts. Some may be taking a walk with history!



The screenshot shows the Vamonde website interface. At the top, the VAMONDE logo is on the left, and navigation links for Destinations, Events, and Nearby are on the right. Below the navigation is a list of four featured locations, each with a small image and a brief description:

- 1. Royal River Manufacturing Company**
Yarmouth's first cotton mill was built on the Royal River in 1848.
[Read More](#)
- 2. Yarmouth History Center**
Start here to learn about Yarmouth's past!
[Read More](#)
- 3. Forest Paper Company at Third Falls**
Yarmouth's largest mill produced wood pulp for the paper industry.
[Read More](#)
- 4. First Parish Church**
Built in 1867-68, First Parish Church houses Yarmouth's oldest congregation, which dates back to 1730.
[Read More](#)

Above: A view of the Center's *Mills and Main Street* mobile tour on the Vamonde website.

Find the *Mills and Main Street* Tour at
<https://www.yarmouthmehistory.org/new-walking-tour/>



OR

<https://www.vamonde.com/nearby>

From the Chair

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Yarmouth Historical Society
members.

Hello members and thank you all for your support of the Yarmouth Historical Society. My name is Chuck Murray and I am honored to serve as president of the board of trustees for 2019-2020. Born and bred in Maine with deep roots in Franklin and Somerset Counties, I have been living in Yarmouth for nearly 20 years with my wife, Lisa, raising our two children and nursing an addiction to historical homes!



The preservation of both local and national history has never been so important, and I am proud that our community has such a vibrant resource on East Elm Street. If you haven't stopped by yet, please do so soon to see what your support has created. If you have visited Katie and our staff at the History Center recently, you will have noticed the building repairs that have been happening since the fall. While it has been a challenge to operate the Center over the winter amid teams of contractors and plastic sheeting, it has been inspiring to see Katie and her team work to minimize the impact to our community programming.

The good news is that the work has been completed and we are in the process of cleaning up and reinstalling artifacts in the museum. Soon it will be back to business as usual! The office, shop, and Hamill Room are open during the regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Please email or call the staff with any questions.

Thanks again for your membership and annual fund support. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead.

Chuck Murray

2019–2020 Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Mary Dunn

Pamelia Adams
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Meredith O. Walker

In Memory of Helen G. Maxell

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Thank You to Our Annual Fund Donors!

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In and Around Yarmouth History Center



Above: A full house at Brickyard Hollow for Trivia Night. **Right:** The winning team: Battery Point Bombers, Alan and Katie Hall and Betsy and Ben Soule.



Yarmouth Trivia Night

This past December on a cold Wednesday night Yarmouth's Brickyard Hollow was busting at the seams with community members ready to test their knowledge of Yarmouth. Ten teams signed in to compete for the bragging rights of being crowned the first champions of Yarmouth Trivia Night.

Despite their pedigree, the winning team, the Battery Point Bombers, won by the slimmest of margins with 28 points. The Casco Bay Group took second place with a close 27.5 points. Prizes were awarded for first and second place as well as for the group that tried the hardest but came up short, the Skyhawks with 11 points, and for the best team name, Whitlock's Warlocks. The History Center is planning to host Yarmouth Trivia Night 2 at Brickyard Hollow this spring. More details to come.



Above: Artist Emily Blaschke welcomes guests to her recent opening at the Center. **Right:** Enjoying the art are guests Diane Nichols and Kristen May.

The New Year Gets Underway

The opening of Emily Blaschke's exhibit of dazzling collages was the Center's first event of the new year. It was a fun evening of visiting with our members and Emily's guests. Guest were treated to the culinary fare offered by Gather and music performed by violinist Lee Federle, a senior at Yarmouth High School. Emily's work will be on view in the Hamill Room until the end of February.

In and Around Yarmouth History Center

Join Our Gardeners

Last year a team of garden volunteers, led by Yarmouth Historical Society Trustee Pam Adams, launched a spring clean-up that prepared the Center's garden for summer. Thanks to Pam and her team the coneflower (*Echinacea*) blooms last summer were dazzling and the number of bees and butterflies that visited the garden was equally spectacular. Inspired by the results, Pam worked to build on the restoration efforts of last spring.

Pam and a group of experienced gardeners approached landscape designer Susan Parrish Carter to create a more sustainable design for the History Center's garden spaces. Last year the group consulted with Estabrook's to acquire the plants for the first phase of the garden's redesign. A cherry tree (*Prunus Accolade*) and two large shrubs were planted in the fall with additional plants due to arrive for this spring's planting.

The History Center gardeners are looking for others to join them to work on the planting and continued maintenance of the gardens. The group will meet at 10am on Thursday, March 19 at the History Center to present the new landscape design and outline the planting plan for this spring. All are welcome to come hear about the plan and enjoy refreshments.

Interested individuals do not have to be experienced gardeners to help. This is a great opportunity for those gardeners who no longer have space for gardens at home or for those thinking about learning to garden. There's no better way to begin than to work side by side with this group of seasoned gardeners.

Garden Volunteer Meeting - March 19 at 10am, at the History Center!

Wellcome Prize Winners Present Research

The winners of Yarmouth Historical Society's Wellcome Prize for Student Historians presented their research this past November at a public talk that took place at North Yarmouth Academy.

Brunswick High School senior Rowan Joyce won first prize for her exploration of the life and times of Captain John D. Pennell of Brunswick. Joyce is an active member of her school's theater program and a dancer at the Ballet School.

Awarded second prize was Gray-New Gloucester High School senior Makayla MacGregor who presented her investigation of the social and economic history of the Cumberland Fair. MacGregor is interested in English, frequently writes fiction in her free time, and plays the violin.

Stay tuned for details on the 2020 Wellcome Prize!

Daffodil Remembrances

In 2013 when the History Center was completed 100 daffodils were planted in the Center's front garden by Linda Grant as a memorial to long-time patron of the Historical Society Donald W. Bourne. This past fall the daffodil memorial was expanded with additional daffodils planted in honor of former Society president Mary Dunn who passed last year.

Daffodils were also planted as part of United We Bloom, a daffodil tribute memorial project. The project, created by the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative, is a community initiative that organized a statewide planting of daffodils, the flower of the suffragettes, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Signed in Maine November 1919, the amendment was officially adopted as part of the U.S. Constitution in August 1920. This spring, watch for the Center's daffodil blooms and hundreds of other daffodil gardens across the state.



Right: Katie Worthing with prize winners Makayla MacGregor and Rowan Joyce.

Upcoming Events and Programs

MARCH



Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 pm

Lecture: Maine's Irish Longshoremen

Michael Connolly, Professor of History and Political Science, St. Joseph's College.
The history of Maine's Irish longshoremen. \$5.00/**FREE** for members



Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Film: *More than Honey*

Oscar-nominated director Markus Imhoof tackles the vexing issue of why bees, worldwide, are facing extinction. Co-host Royal River Conservation Trust. **FREE**



APRIL



Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 pm

Nonfiction Readers Circle: *A Midwife's Tale* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

An early 19th century Maine story read in the spirit of Maine's Bicentennial.
Co-host Merrill Memorial Library. Meets at Yarmouth History Center.
FREE



Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 pm

Lecture: Stagecoaches in Maine

Leland Hanchett, historian and author of *Connecting Maine's Capitals by Stagecoach*.
The routes and roles of Maine's stagecoaches. \$5.00/**FREE** for members.



Thursday, April 16, 7:00 pm

Film: *The Human Element*

With rare compassion and heart, *The Human Element* follows environmental photographer James Balog on his quest to highlight Americans on the frontlines of climate change, inspiring us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world. Co-host Royal River Conservation Trust. **FREE**



MAY

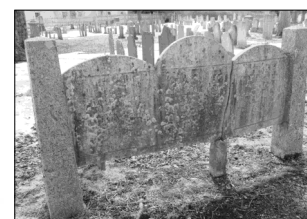


Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am

Talk and Walk: Gravestones and "Family Billboard" Markers

Ron Romano, local cemetery historian and author will give a talk at Yarmouth History Center followed by a cemetery walk.

Walk begins at the History Center on East Elm Street and continues to the Baptist Cemetery on Hillside Street. **FREE**



Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 pm

Lecture: Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years, 1915-1935

Nancy Ellenberger, Professor Emerita, U.S. Naval Academy.
Churchill's years in exile from political position.
\$5.00/**FREE** for members.



JUNE



Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 pm

Lecture: The Year Without a Summer

Jan Eakins, Historian.

Details about the summer of 1816 when Maine experienced wintry conditions all summer with disastrous consequences. \$5.00/**FREE** for members.



The lecture series is sponsored by the
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Welcome New Trustees

This year Yarmouth Historical Society welcomes two new Trustees to the Board. We are excited to have Ed Libby and Sarah Wallace share with us their enthusiasm for Yarmouth History.

Ed Libby is the owner of Real Maine Real Estate, a locally focused real estate company involving investment, brokerage, development, and lending. Ed grew up in Camden, then attended The Wharton School in Philadelphia, graduating with a BS in Economics, and eventually landed in Yarmouth in 1996. Ed is committed to creating quality places close to home that are economically sustainable and socially contributing. That pursuit has sparked an interest in our local history over the past few years. In his spare time, Ed retreats to his camp on Parker Pond, the Maine North Woods, or Casco Bay to pursue his many interests in the great outdoors. *Ed will serve out the remainder of Christie Harriman's term, ending at Annual Meeting 2020.*

Sarah Jane Wallace currently works as a research analyst in the software industry and attended the College of Wooster where she majored in Art History. While there she focused on 17th Century Dutch art as well as American art from the 30s and 40s. She had the chance to work for the Smithsonian Institution and PBS before entering the technology sector. After moving to Maine she noticed there were many WPA post office murals and started to write a book. In doing so, she returned to her previous residence of Washington, D.C. to visit the National Archives where she brought back more information about the Maine murals and donated it to the State of Maine archives in Augusta. Sarah currently resides in Yarmouth and, although she is busy working and raising Anna (a junior) and John (a 7th grader), she still has an interest in art history and tries to visit museums when she travels the world for work. *Sarah will serve out the remainder of Brigid Waeldner's term, ending at Annual Meeting 2021.*

From the Collection

In January, Pastor Dustin Ward of Yarmouth's First Baptist Church reached out to the Society with an invitation to take a look at some archival materials in the Church's collection.

Director Katie Worthing and Collections Committee Chair Julie Benavides enjoyed the visit and accepted a wealth of materials on behalf of the Society. These items, ranging from annual reports and newsletters to account books and building plans, will greatly enhance our collection and support our efforts to preserve and tell the stories of Yarmouth's past. The materials will also be available by appointment to community members and researchers interested in learning more about the history of the Church.



Above: Trustee Ed Libby



Above: Trustee Sarah Wallace



Above: Society's Trustee Julie Benavides surveys pieces of history in the attic of the 1st Baptist Church.



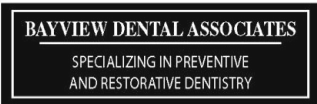
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