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# YARMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Yarmouth History Center  
Newsletter

Fall 2015

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259



**Above:** Yarmouth Historical Society's Executive Director Amy Aldredge can hardly contain her excitement with the arrival of the Ammi Cutter Bible, a significant artifact from Yarmouth's early settlement days.

## Two Historic Yarmouth Bibles Arrive at the History Center

The Yarmouth History Center is thrilled to announce the recent acquisition of two historic eighteenth-century Yarmouth Bibles. One of these Bibles belonged to the Reverend Ammi Ruhammah Cutter, who was the first minister of the Meetinghouse under the Ledge.

The Reverend Ammi Ruhammah Cutter was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on May 6, 1705, and graduated from Harvard College in 1725, where he studied ministry and medicine. He settled in North Yarmouth, practiced medicine and became Pastor of the First Parish Congregational Church in November 1730. Sometime before 1735, he married Dorothy Bradbury, sister of Moses Bradbury. Together they had three children. In 1742, he moved to Saco and wrote a dictionary of the Indian language. Cutter then served as chief surgeon in Louisburg, Nova Scotia under General Pepperell during the King George's War. While stationed in Louisburg, Cutter died of fever at the age of forty-two.

John Baskett published the Cutter Bible in England in 1727. In 1930, it was gifted to Kate Stanwood Cutter Pillsbury Curtis by First Parish Congregational Church and was donated to the Yarmouth Historical Society in July by Alice and Brandon Martin of Petersburg, Virginia. This remarkable volume measures 17 x 12" and weighs about 14 pounds!

The second Bible to arrive this summer was the Drinkwater Family Bible, which dates to 1789. It contains handwritten verse references and inscriptions detailing members of the Drinkwater family. At some point in time the Bible was rebound with a hand-sewn leather cover in an effort to preserve it. Carolyn Rees Stefani and her brother, Dr. Peter O. Rees, donated the Bible to the Historical Society.

The staff at the History Center is pleased to see these two historically significant objects come home to Yarmouth.

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



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Administrative Assistant

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

**From the Chair**

As we reach that point in the year where we turn our attention from outdoor recreational activities to more cerebral indoor activities, it is a natural time to consider how we got to where we are today. Whether we focus on the lousy play of the Red Sox or the sorry state of American politics, I cannot help but wonder how we got here. Of course, much of the answer lies in understanding our history.

This leads me to thinking about the Yarmouth History Center. The Center encourages us to use our imagination to envision Yarmouth as a place where ocean-going sailing ships were built in the harbor; where pulp was made on the Royal River; and where Main Street was a thriving commercial center with horse and buggy traffic! As we say goodbye to Goff's Hardware, we are reminded that nothing is static and change is inevitable. However, we also know that past decisions affect the scope and pace of future change. We must constantly look back and understand our history in order to make good decisions about our future.

Thankfully, the Yarmouth History Center is a thriving and vibrant organization that is dedicated to helping us look back at our local history. Whether it is celebrating Yarmouth native Mary Burns' knitted hats from the 1950s, recording your family's history, or attending the upcoming lecture on Maine's distillery industry, the History Center presents many great opportunities to gain a better understanding of how we got where we are today. So, as you contemplate turning up the thermostat, give some thought to learning and celebrating our local history and join me at the Yarmouth History Center for an upcoming event.



*Bill Harwood*

**Host Your Next Event at  
The Yarmouth History Center**

Contact us 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 the Royal River. There is parking at the History Center as well as across the street at Royal River Park. Call the Yarmouth History Center at 207-846-6259 for more details.



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**Leon Gorman Patron and Neighbor**

Leon A. Gorman, the grandson of L.L. Bean's founder and namesake Leon Leonwood Bean, passed away on Thursday, September 3, 2015, at his home in Yarmouth. He ran one of the most successful businesses in the state of Maine but he continued to stay connected to his roots by living in Yarmouth, in a village home located in the neighborhood where he grew up.

Leon would often be seen walking with his dog on Main Street and along the Royal River Trail. During his walks, Gorman would greet and visit with the people he met, many were strangers who had no idea who he was.

Leon's philanthropy was worldwide but he never forgot his hometown. Leon Gorman's contributions were numerous. The Historical Society is reminded of his generosity daily. Gorman, in partnership with his brother Jim, helped fund the creation of the Yarmouth History Center. The building, named after his mother, Barbara Bean Gorman, honors her early work with the Yarmouth Historical Society. For many years, Leon and his wife Lisa sponsored the Yarmouth Historical Society's Lecture Series; it is the cornerstone of the Society's programming. Leon Gorman will always be remembered as a kind, friendly neighbor and generous patron.



**Above:** Leon Gorman speaking at the Grand Opening of the Yarmouth History Center in 2012.

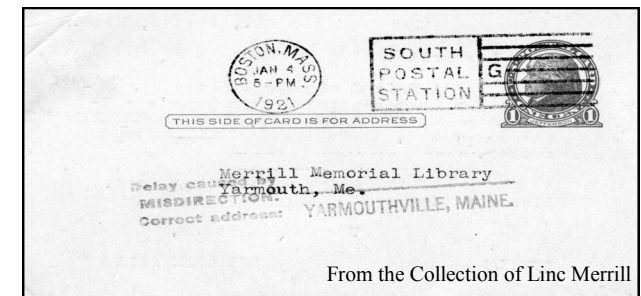
**Where is Yarmouthville?**

Ask a local citizen where the dividing line between Yarmouth and Yarmouthville was located and you will get the answer, "at the railroad tracks." That is what we thought and this was confirmed when we asked Mary Estelle Blake this question at our morning coffee social held here at the History Center.

What prompted this question was an old envelope addressed to Merrill Memorial Library. It caught the eye of local collector Linc Merrill and he brought it to the History Center for us to view. The envelope is interesting because of how it was stamped: "MISDIRECTED. Correct address: YARMOUTHVILLE, MAINE."

In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Yarmouth had two post offices. One was in Falls Village near the harbor (present-day area of Rosemont Bakery) and the second in Corner Village, which then became known as Yarmouthville (present-day intersection of Main Street and the Elm Streets).

It was the expansion of the Forest Paper Company that created the need for this second post office. The town had always been informally split by the landscape. Brickyard Hollow, where the library and town hall are today, frequently flooded and the two parts of town were often divided by water. Even today it is not unusual to hear a longtime Yarmouth resident use the term "lower village" when talking about where they grew up or shopped.



From the Collection of Linc Merrill

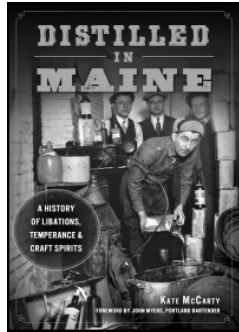
What I did not realize is that when the library was built in 1904, it had the postal address of Yarmouthville. In researching this, I came across an interesting article that put a political spin on the topic. A letter to the editor dated 1885 refers to the attempt of Democrats in Yarmouthville to appoint a postmaster in Yarmouth. It is clear that there was a division between the two villages.

To quote, "If the Democrats of Yarmouthville without consulting those of Yarmouth can dictate who shall fill the offices, then the Democrats of North Yarmouth, Freeport and other adjoining towns, must be on their guard or Yarmouthville will become the distributing center, and assume entire control politically."

We will continue to research this topic and the interesting evidence that the dividing line between the two villages went beyond the physical post offices. Clearly, it extended into the social and political realms of the residents who lived here at that time.

**Amy Aldredge**

## 2015 Upcoming Events



**Friday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.**

### Kate McCarty “Distilled in Maine” A Book Talk and Tasting

Author, teacher, and food blogger Kate McCarty’s newly published book, *Distilled in Maine*, chronicles the tumultuous history of distilling in Maine, from the rum trade through temperance and prohibition and finally to today’s resurgence in locally made craft spirits. She will discuss this intriguing industry and its place in Maine’s history. Samples of historic spirits, cocktails, and ‘mocktails’ will be available! Tickets for this event are \$20.00 for members of the Yarmouth Historical Society and \$25.00 for nonmembers. Tickets are available to purchase online.

**Friday, November 6, 11:00 a.m.**

### A Trip to the Jagger Brothers Mill, Springvale, Maine

This is a free factory tour of one of Maine’s working spinning mills. In the winter of 1884, Uriah B. Jagger and his family left England to come to Maine. Uriah was a yarn spinner and had obtained employment with Goodall-Sanford Mills in Sanford, Maine. In 1898, Uriah’s two sons started Jagger Brothers, a worsted spinning operation, in southern Maine. Jagger Brothers still manufactures Custom Spun Products and Stock Yarn. To reserve a spot on the tour contact Katie at the Yarmouth History Center, by phone: 846-6259 or email: [kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org](mailto:kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org).



## Fall Lecture Series

Lectures are free for Yarmouth Historical Society members and \$5.00 for nonmembers.

This lecture series is sponsored by Leon and Lisa Gorman.



**Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.**

### “The Life and Times of Bartlett Adams, Gravestone Cutter”

**Ron Romano**

Adams was a stone carver who crafted a number of headstones in Old Ledge Cemetery on Gilman Street in Yarmouth.



**Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.**

### “The History of Down East Magazine”

**Kathleen Fleury**

The history behind this iconic Maine publication.

## Royal River Film Series Movie Night

The Yarmouth Historical Society and the Royal River Conservation Trust are pleased to present free film screenings on the third Thursday of each month through March (no film in December). Film subjects will focus on nature, adventure, and conservation. For more details and the schedule of upcoming films visits: [yarmouthmehistory.org](http://yarmouthmehistory.org) or [rrect.org](http://rrect.org).

**Right:** Past films from this series.



## Knit a Piece of Yarmouth History

Katie Worthing, Yarmouth Historical Society’s Program Director, has created a historically themed knitting program at the Center. The idea came together last spring when Dick Knight dropped in to visit a regular attendee at the Center’s weekly coffee social. He wanted to show Mary Burns, a life-long Yarmouth resident, that he still had the hat that she had knitted for him when he was a student at North Yarmouth Academy. Mary’s hats became so popular that in the late 1950s most of the NYA high school students wore a hat knitted by Mary.

Dick’s watch cap, knitted in NYA orange and black, was made to complement the girl’s hat, a headband style. Joyce Tanguay still has her hat too. Joyce kindly lent her hat to the History Center so we could create a pattern from it. Two days later Katie reproduced Joyce’s headband in Yarmouth High School’s blue and white. Mary was touched that the hats were still treasured by their recipients. Mary told us that she and a friend were one of the first crafters to put up a table at the Yarmouth Clam Festival.

As a result, the History Center now has a fiber-filled fall and winter planned starting with a November field trip to the historic Jagger Brothers mill in Springvale, Maine, and continuing with a series of workshops and knitting circles throughout the winter. Join us to learn how to knit or participate in our Knit-Along creating special winter accessories with ties to our town’s history (Mary Burns’ hats!). The programming closes with a lecture by Anne Emlein of the Maine College of Art, who will speak about knitting’s colorful history. Come to one event or come to them all.

## Schedule of Events

**Nov 6, 11:00 am Field Trip to Jagger Brothers Mill, Springvale**

This is a free tour; please reserve your spot by calling 846-6259 or emailing Katie at [kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org](mailto:kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org). Meet at the Mill at 11:00, carpooling is encouraged.

**Nov 14, 1-3 pm LEARN TO KNIT workshop and knitting circle**  
Learn how to knit or just drop in with your current project.

**Dec 12, 1-3 pm Knit-Along and knitting circle**  
Join us to knit Yarmouth-specific winter accessories or bring your own project and enjoy the company of other knitters. Call or email for information on materials needed for the knit-along patterns.

**Jan 16, 1-3 pm Knit-Along and knitting circle**

**Feb 13, 1-3 pm Knit-Along and knitting circle**

**Feb 17, 11-noon Story time and kids’ craft activity**

We will read “*Extra Yarn.*” Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Mar 15, 7:00 pm Lecture: Anne Emlein on knitting history**



**Above:** Dick Knight, Mary Burns, and the hat she knitted for him.

**Below:** The headband cap as made by Mary Burns and Katie Worthing.



**Right & Above:** Mary Burns celebrated her 96th birthday in early September. Another great milestone for Mary was the birth of her great, great, great, granddaughter Mia, the sixth generation of her family.

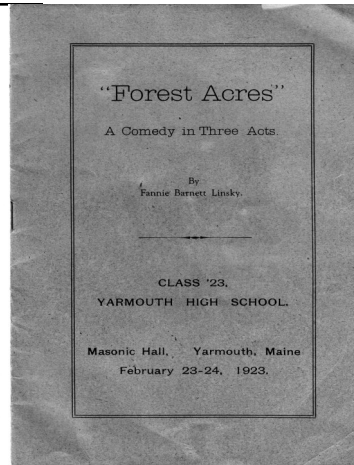
## A History of Yarmouth.

In the not too distant future we hope to publish a history of our grand old Town from the earliest settlement to the present time. *You* can help. *Will you?*

If you have in your possession or can get for us, old deeds, muster rolls or other military papers; church, school or town reports; old wills, family records, diaries or account books; descriptions or drawings of old buildings or maps or street plans; news paper clippings, scrap books or news paper files; hand bills and public notices; lists of or information concerning shipping built in this town; & .&.—in fact any thing that would add to the interest or value of a history of the town, even if what you have does not seem of importance to you, kindly let us see it, we will carefully preserve it or if you prefer copy it and promptly return it to you.

In thus aiding us you will do a real service to your home town. In historical matters *nothing is unimportant*. What contribution will you make?

WILLIAM H. ROWE



Advertisement found in the program for the Yarmouth High School's production of "Forest Acres."

## The Not too Distant Future is Now

Ninety two years ago local pharmacist, Justice of the Peace, and amateur historian William Rowe put out a call to the townspeople of Yarmouth looking to collect documents and stories in order to publish a history of "our grand old town."

Mr. Rowe's call was answered and the book, *Ancient North Yarmouth and Yarmouth, Maine 1636-1936: A History* was published in 1937. The book has become a bestseller in the History Center's gift shop. It is also a valuable resource for the History Center staff when researching information about Yarmouth.

Mr. Rowe's efforts are the embodiment of the Yarmouth Historical Society's mission: collecting and preserving the stories of this town and region. We are once again calling out to the folks of Yarmouth. This year the History Center is working to promote the recording of oral histories. Do you have memories of living or working in Yarmouth? Do you know someone who has a story that deserves to be preserved for the future? Would you like some help preserving those stories? Stop in at the Yarmouth History Center for some assistance.

We have expanded our website with links to resources about recording oral histories. We have also created a humorous video illustrating what "not to do" during your interview. The film cleverly points out the funny things that you might never

consider a distraction to you or your subject. We would also like to invite any individual or group to come to the Center to talk about Yarmouth 'back in the day.' We would be happy to take notes or record the stories for you. We do not want to lose any opportunity to collect and preserve the stories that make up Yarmouth's 'most recent' history.

We would like to encourage everyone to take the opportunity during this upcoming holiday season to record the stories of your own family's history. What a great activity to do as the family gathers and waits for the holiday meal to be served. It will be a wonderful gift for the next generation, an audio recording of the family's history as told by your family members. It's easy: use your smartphone, video recorder, even an old tape-recorder. We hope that the Yarmouth families with deep roots in the community will consider sharing their recordings with the Yarmouth Historical Society so they can be preserved. Even if you think your memories and stories of Yarmouth are unimportant, remember the words of Mr. Rowe: "In historical matters *nothing is unimportant*."

So, are you ready to tell your story? If so, please stop by for a visit and talk about how you can help preserve Yarmouth's history with your story. Let's pick up the story where Mr. Rowe left off.

## Holiday Craft Fair

### History Center Hosts Holiday Craft Fair

The History Center is hosting a holiday craft fair on Saturday, December 5 in conjunction with Yarmouth's town-wide craft show. We are currently looking for crafters or artists who are interested in setting up shop in the History Center for the day. Each space costs \$60 and includes a table and two chairs. Space is limited.

For more information call Katie at the History Center, 846-6259, or email her at [kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org](mailto:kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org).

### Young Authors Camp

For the third year, the Yarmouth History Center provided the venue for one of the Southern Maine Writing Project's Young Authors Camp. This venue provided the writers with the opportunity to explore the History Center and the town of Yarmouth as they ventured out to write about all they encountered. This year the young writers used the History Center's collection for some of their inspiration for their writing. One writer was inspired by a wedding dress on exhibit in our gallery. The following is her short story about the dress and the woman who wore it.

(Printed with YAC permission, as written by Ella, age 10, of Brunswick, Maine.)

#### "The Wedding Dress"

It was my wedding day 1876 and everything was perfect I was wearing the most beautiful wedding dress I could find. We were on the field near my Mothers house though strangely she wasn't here for the reception yet. While I was putting my veil on I heard a carriage pull up, surprised I dropped the mirror I was holding and sighed I slipped on my heels and walked out of the door.

In the driveway was a tall man wearing a black suit and seemed vaguely familiar.

"Hello?" I said questioning him. His voice drawled out in a Dutch accent and a memory of him tried to come to my mind.

"I am looking for Victoria Grant Shallensburg please, as soon as possible it is urgent."

"I am her why?" I hoped he couldn't see my chest pumping in and out, I felt a sweat break on my forehead.

"No time to explain you must come with me right now!" He answered forcefully.



Above: Yarmouth's Young Writer's Camp July 2015

"But what about my fiance?" My voice quavered.

"You must get away from him now."

"You're asking me to leave my wedding, my fiance, all of the guests, and come with you!" I screamed.

"You are in grave danger come with me!" he grabbed my wrist I struggled, but he was strong I saw my fiance run out of the house screaming "STOP!" and with that I was whisked away with this Dutch man into his carriage. The ride was long and awkward with this strangely familiar Dutch man sitting across from me riding backwards. I had finally stopped crying but was still furious at this man. We pulled up to this huge fancy house.

"Come inside." He said gruffly I reluctantly followed after him.

We stepped over the threshold.

"There are some things that I have wanted to tell you." The man said

"Like what?" I asked.

"First and foremost I am your father." he let me take that in, the look in his eyes showed me that he was telling the truth.

"Also well..." A woman walked into the room, she looked exactly like me, I couldn't take it. I fainted.