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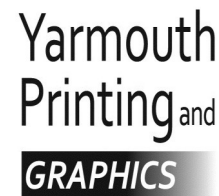
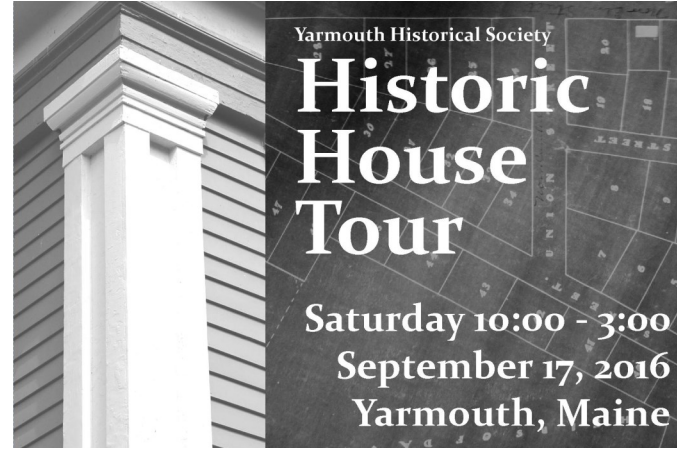


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## SAVE THE DATE!



Thank you to all of our **NEW**  
and **RENEWING** Members!  
We appreciate your support.



The Yarmouth History Center  
Newsletter

Summer 2016

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

## The Importance of Preserving Your Stories

The importance of the stories of our grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, and even the stories of our older neighbors and acquaintances is paramount when considered from a historian's point of view. An individual's oral history is a recollection about his or her past or the past of others. These stories exist nowhere but in the memories of the individual telling the story. An oral history becomes even more important when a story is told with information about a picture or document. A story's connection with an artifact gives it a tangible place in time when shared with others.

Many organizations around the country have set up resources to help record oral history interviews. The Yarmouth Historical Society's collection has a number of recorded histories on cassette tape. These are reflections and recollections of life in Yarmouth. The History Center will be working on digitizing those interviews in the future but for now we want to concentrate our efforts on inspiring residents to record their own stories.

When you decide to record the oral history of a family member or friend, be sure to take the time to prepare; have a plan. Decide before the interview which questions you want to ask. Last summer, the Yarmouth History Center commissioned Yarmouth film maker Ihila Lesnikova to create a short video for us on how to record an oral history. It is a humorous but extremely helpful video that presents the "dos and don'ts" of recording an oral history. You can see the film on our website where you will also find a number of resources to guide you through the process.

The History Center recently invested in a very simple recording device that is available for use here at the Center. If you are interested in recording your own stories or those of a family member or friend, please contact us and we will help get you started. In addition,



**Above:** Hazel Currier shares her stories about growing up in Yarmouth with Executive Director Amy Aldredge.

**See story on page 3.**

tion, most smartphones have the capability to record and store data, making them easy to use for recording interviews. Next time you attend a family reunion, holiday, or celebration take the opportunity to ask your relatives to share their stories about your family and their life. Recording an oral history interview is one of the best ways to document a family's experiences and memories so future generations can learn and benefit from them before they are lost forever.

Sadly most people do not consider their memories or experiences important enough to record, but, in truth, once you begin to collect the stories of your families and friends you will discover what treasures they are. Any story that gives first hand details of a time, place or event has value and is worthy of preserving. For those with stories about growing up and living in Yarmouth we hope you consider sharing them with the History Center so we can collect and preserve them as part of our community's history.

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





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### From the Chair

As summer gets into full swing and brings precious opportunities to spend time outdoors, on vacation, and with family, it is worth pausing to acknowledge those organizations, including the Yarmouth History Center, that enrich our community and make Yarmouth such a special place to live.



The History Center could not exist without its members, donors and volunteers. We appreciate all of their many contributions. We have just completed our spring membership drive and I am pleased that so many of our members renewed. But I am most excited by the approximately 71 new members who joined the History Center. This is a wonderful statement of the growing and positive impact of the History Center on our community. I welcome each of those new members and look forward to seeing them at future YHC events, including the opening reception on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. of our new art exhibit, A Summer in Maine, featuring paintings by Abigail Gray Swartz.

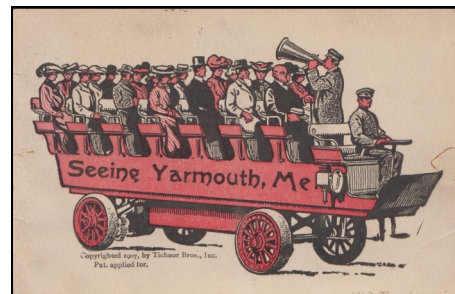
Based on their past efforts, I am confident that our talented staff will continue to produce outstanding programs, lectures and exhibits for all our members. Their recent successes include: the spring lecture series sponsored by the Leon and Lisa Gorman Fund; our collaboration with the Kismet Foundation to host the "A Walk Through Time" concert; co-hosting with the Royal River Conservation Trust the Royal River film series; supporting the Run of the Royal Corporate Canoe Race; and hosting English Country Dance Lessons in collaboration with 317 Main. As you can see, there is something for everyone at YHC and I am confident that our new members will find many rewarding opportunities to participate in and enjoy History Center events.

Enjoy the summer. And if your beach day gets rained out, remember YHC is always there for an interesting and informative visit.

Thank you.  
Bill Harwood

### Postcards From Yarmouth

If you're in town for the Clam Festival in mid-July, be sure to stop by the History Center to view a selection of our favorite postcards from the collection. Enjoy looking at scenes from Yarmouth's past and read the messages that travelers and residents sent back to friends and family. The History Center is open Tuesday through



### In Memoriam

#### Mary Louise Haskell 1921-2016

Mary Louise Haskell had a family ties to Yarmouth and made Yarmouth her permanent home in 1979. Mary Louise spent her Yarmouth years engaged in the community as an active member of the Village Improvement Society, the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, and the Yarmouth Historical Society. In recent years her visits to the History Center always ended up in lively conversations about Yarmouth history and the items in the collection donated by her family.

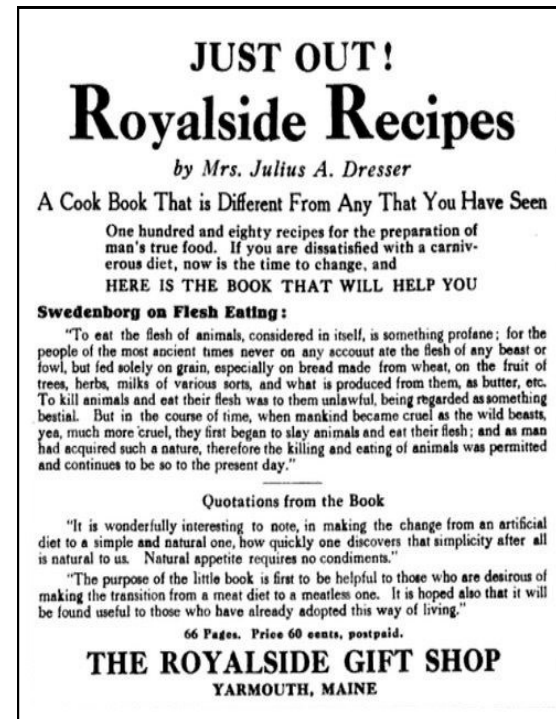


### From the Collection:

References to vegetarianism go back to antiquity. Founding father Benjamin Franklin was known to have been a vegetarian for a spell. The trend of exploring a vegetarian diet also had its time in 1900's Yarmouth. It even inspired a cookbook penned by a notable Yarmouth resident at the time.

In our collection is a lovely vegetarian cookbook by Mrs. J. A. Dresser published by the Royalside Gift Shop in Yarmouth. "This little book of "Royalside Recipes" is published at the request of many friends and guests. . . The purpose of this little book is first to be helpful to those who

are desirous of making the transition from a meat diet to a meatless one. It is hoped also that it will be found useful to those who have already adopted this way of living." Mrs. Dresser lived for a while in Yarmouth, Maine, with her journalist husband, Julius A. Dresser. Both were early New Thought Movement followers and students of Phineas Quimby. Years later the couple went on to work with Mary Baker Eddy in Boston, Massachusetts.





# Hazel Currier's Memories of Yarmouth

## Upcoming Events and Programs

Lectures are free for Yarmouth Historical Society Members and \$5.00 all others.

Our lecture series is sponsored by the Leon and Lisa Gorman Fund

### September

**Thursday, September 8, 5:30-7:00 pm**  
Exhibit Opening: Paintings by Margaret Lawrence  
Stonewall Gallery. *Free*

**Thursday, September 15, 7:00 pm**  
Royal River Film Series  
Film TBA  
*Free*

**Saturday, September 17, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**  
Historic House Tour  
A walking tour through a historic neighborhood in Yarmouth, Maine.

**Monday, September 20, 7:00 pm**  
Lecture: A River Lost and Found  
Speakers: Matthew Klinge and Michael Kolster  
*Free* for members, \$5 non-members

### October

**Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 pm**  
Lecture: Ad Nauseam: Political Advertising in the 2016 Elections  
Speaker: Michael Franz  
*Free*

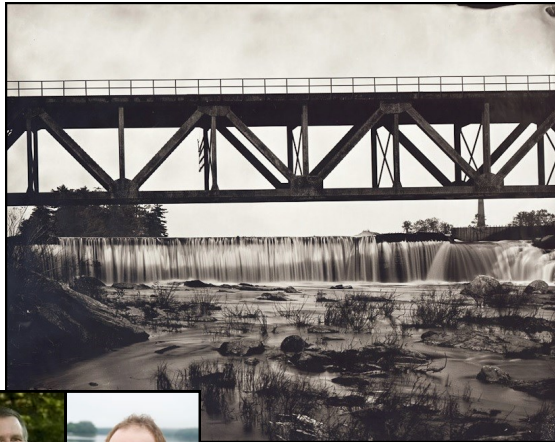
**Saturday, October 15, 11:00 am**  
Walking Tour of Baptist Cemetery  
with historian Ron Romano  
*Free*

**Monday, October 17, 7:00 pm**  
Lecture: History of Beer in New England  
Speakers: Lauren Clark  
*Free* for members, \$5 non-members

**Thursday, October 20, 7:00 pm**  
Royal River Film Series  
Film TBA  
*Free*



Above: Margaret Lawrence  
*Morning Study*, Greenhut Gallery 2013



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In February, Hazel Currier sat down with Amy Aldredge to offer the Society her memories and reminiscences of growing up in Yarmouth. Hazel was born on a farm in North Yarmouth in 1924. She and her siblings were born at home and delivered by her mother's friend Mrs. Gilbert, a midwife who in 1932 opened a hospital on the corner of Main and West Elm Street, currently Coastal Manor.

Hazel was four years old when her father got a job as a foreman on the railroad and he moved the family to Yarmouth. Hazel's father passed away five years later when Hazel was nine. Supporting a family of five was a challenge for her mother. The family could no longer afford to stay in their Cumberland Street house so they moved in with Hazel's brother who had a place on Church Street. When her mother was able to get assistance, the family rented an apartment on West Main Street.

Hazel has vivid memories of those challenging times. Her mother would receive \$25.00 a month to help cover expenses: the monthly rent, electric bill, water bill, and groceries. All the money had to be accounted for in a ledger book. It was Hazel's job to take her mother's grocery list to the store and record the price of every item she bought. Those amounts would then be entered item by item into the ledger when she got home. Every month a county representative would come to the house and inspect the ledger. The family had to lay out their clothes and present themselves for inspection. Hazel said it was humiliating and told us how she would hide until the inspector left.

At thirteen, Hazel worked at Mrs. Gilbert's Hospital on Main Street. Hazel's job was to serve patients their afternoon snacks, peel the vegetables for dinner, and clear and wash the dishes. All the money Hazel made was handed over to her mother for clothes and other household expenses. Hazel confessed that not all her earnings went to her mother.

Hazel recounted a story about a Mrs. Cushman who lived down the street from her. Mrs. Cushman would hire Hazel to do her dishes. Mrs. Cushman's apartment did not have a proper kitchen sink so Hazel had to wash the dishes in the bathroom sink. Mrs. Cushman did not wash dishes so she would call upon Hazel when she ran out of clean dishes. It would take Hazel two hours to wash Mrs. Cushman's dishes. For her efforts she earned ten cents. Hazel would take her earnings to Handy Andy's Store and buy ten cents worth of potato chips or cheese crackers. In those days chips and crackers

were bought by the pound. Hazel would take the treat to the stone wall behind Mrs. Gilbert's Hospital and eat them all before returning home. She does not believe her mother knew of her secret income.

Hazel attended North Yarmouth Academy and would have graduated but the war changed those plans. She had met her husband Owen while in school and they were engaged for a year when he received his draft papers. Owen was to ship out on December 28<sup>th</sup>. On the night of December 5<sup>th</sup> Owen showed up at her door and asked her if she wanted to get married that night. He took her to Portland to buy her a dress. At 9:00 pm the couple was ready to visit the Justice of the Peace in Freeport. They invited Hazel's mother but it was too late for her to go because she had to work the next morning. Owen asked his mother Lillian. She and her friend joined Owen and Hazel for the trip to Freeport to witness their nuptials. The Justice married them wearing his robe and slippers.

Owen left on December 28<sup>th</sup> 1942. Hazel saw him once after he completed basic training and did not see him again until October of 1945. After the war Owen found a job in Fryeburg driving a tractor for a logging company. Hazel and Owen built a home and eventually started their own business in Fryeburg. Hazel lived in Fryeburg until 1992, moving back to Yarmouth the year Owen passed away.

Hazel returned to Yarmouth and pursued her hobby of doll collecting. She started collecting dolls in the 1970s after visiting a North Conway antique shop and finding a doll she really liked. Since then she has collected more than 10,000 dolls making things a little crowded in her Yarmouth home.

Last winter on a trip to Fryeburg Hazel visited the Fryeburg Historical Society. The visit gave her an idea that would solve the problem of her doll collection overcrowding her home. Hazel decided to donate her collection to the Fryeburg Historical Society. The Society is in the process of turning the old registry of deeds building, a one-story brick building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, into the Hazel and Owen Currier Doll Museum. Fryeburg is excited about the museum and feels it is a perfect fit for the Main Street building. Hazel is happy her dolls will have a permanent home and be shared with all who wish to view them.

This is just a sample of Hazel's memories of living and working in Yarmouth. We are grateful to Hazel for sharing with us her history and letting us share it with others. Thank you Hazel!



## In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



**Top Left:** Uncommon Threads Exhibit **Top Center:** Chamber of Commerce Local Non-profit Night  
**Top Right:** Antiques Appraisal Day **Above:** English Country Dancing Class.

In April, the Stonewall Gallery opened the fiber arts exhibit *Uncommon Threads*. The show presented the works of fiber artists Karen Asherman, Kendra Biddle, Kathy Angel Lee, Peggy Lovejoy, Julie Weaver, and Anne Walker. The works ranged from abstract, modern quilts to vibrant fabric collages inspired by historic postcards from the collection of Yarmouth Historical Society. Many of our area quilters and fiber artists expressed their delight in the show, as did the artists, who enjoyed showing their art in our exhibit space. Antiques Appraisal Day, a long-standing fundraiser, returned with appraisers Colleen Donovan and Christopher Considine from Foreside Antiques in Falmouth. This talented team of appraisers assisted our visitors and members with uncovering the history and value of their favorite antiques and collectibles.

If you happened by the History Center on a Wednesday evening there was music in the air—elegant classical excerpts, driving jigs, or lively reels. The source of the music was the live musicians that accompanied the participants in the English Country Dance Class. The classes, a collaboration with 317 Main Community Music Center, were held in the Hamill Room of the History Center. This year the Center hosted two sessions and is planning to resume classes in the fall. Check with the History Center staff if you are interested. Beginners are welcome.

Unlike most residencies that provide isolation for their artists, the KISMET Foundation asks artists to use art and creativity to embed themselves in the local community for a month. The result of this collaboration was the production of several concerts held throughout March and April. The Yarmouth History Center hosted one of the six free concerts offered to the community by KISMET. The concert, “A Walk Through Time,” a musical, time travel experience narrated by our Executive Director Amy Aldredge and performed by cellist Benjamin Noyes and violinist Tracey Jasas-Hardel, was a resounding success. This appraisal is based on the reaction of the capacity audience that rose to their feet at the conclusion of the program.

The Royal River Conservation Trust ran its first Run of the Royal Corporate Canoe Challenge this May. The relay race began and ended at the boat launch at the Yarmouth History Center. Throughout the day the Center bustled with participants and viewers. Everyone enjoyed the live music, food, art show, raffles, and the permanent collection on exhibit in the main gallery. It was a great day to share the space with the RRCT for this fun event. Congratulations to the winning teams: Aquatic Flyers (L.L. Bean), Scott Dugas Trucking & Excavating, and Team Cascon.

## In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



**Above and Right:** The Run of the Royal Corporate Canoe Challenge  
**Below:** Chamber Concert: *A Walk Through Time* with cellist Benjamin Noyes and violinist Tracey Jasas-Hardel. **Bottom Photo:** Celebrating our Royal

