

FUNDRAISER



1/4 PINT MILK BOTTLES
FROM
OLD TAVERN FARM
YARMOUTH, ME

\$15 PER BOTTLE

Bottles donated by Scott Logan.
All proceeds go to the Historical Society's
Collections Fund for future acquisitions.
Supply is limited.

**COCKTAILS
AT THE CAMP**

SAVE THE DATE!
275 MAIN STREET, YARMOUTH
NOVEMBER 17

All proceeds support the Yarmouth Historical Society

YARMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Yarmouth History Center
Newsletter

Summer 2017

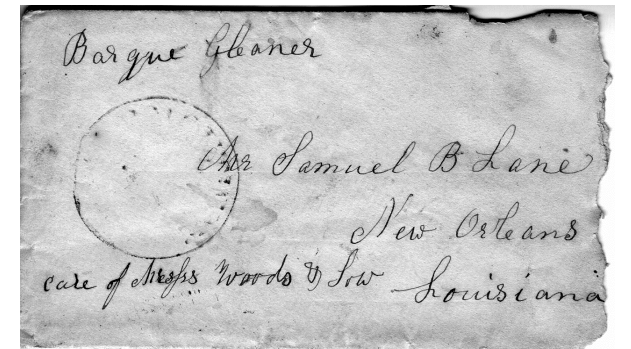
118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

New Exhibit: *Keep Me Posted* *Yarmouth's Seafaring Correspondence, 1850-1870*

Yarmouth, Feb 9th, 1850

Dear Brother,
...I do not know what I can write that would be
news to you, for news travels so fast in these days.



Above: Envelope addressed to Samuel B. Lane aboard the *Barque Gleaner*.

With this brief line in a letter to her seafaring brother Nicholas Drinkwater, Jr. (1825-1908), Jane Drinkwater (1821-1890) captures what might seem like a surprising sentiment to present-day readers. News travels fast today, but it also seemed to travel fast to Jane, writing more than 160 years ago. Indeed, Jane writes to Nicholas at a particularly meaningful time in the history of the United States Postal Service: changes made to the service in 1845 significantly lightened the expense and difficulty of sending a personal letter. After 1851, mailing a letter became even easier as the rate was set at 5 cents for a half-ounce letter traveling anywhere within the United States. The rate was further reduced to 3 cents if the postage was prepaid by the sender. These organizational improvements, alongside other changes in American social culture, precipitated major growth in the country's mail. As historian David M. Henkin writes, "In the first decade following the 1845 act, the number of letters mailed in the United States more than tripled, reaching 132 million in 1855."

Yarmouth historian William Rowe describes North Yarmouth's situation on an early postal route that ran from Wiscasset through Portland and then to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and as far south as Savannah, Georgia. By 1793, the town's post office was located in postmaster Payne Elwell's store near the lower falls of the Royal River. After North Yarmouth and Yarmouth split in 1849, a series of postmasters served the town, including Lucy V. Groves, who was appointed in 1868 and became the first woman to serve in an official municipal capacity. By the 1880s,

the town and its industries had grown enough to warrant a second post office in the upper village, also known as Yarmouthville, which operated on Main Street until 1928.

Nationally, the postal reforms of 1863 brought free household delivery to nearly 50 American cities, greatly reducing congestion at central post offices, which had up to this point served as the locus of posting and pickup for the vast majority of postal customers. Free delivery expanded to 66 cities in the first year of the reform and then to nearly 500 within 25 years. Free rural delivery followed toward the end of the 19th century. In Yarmouth, free rural delivery commenced in 1903 when Joshua Drinkwater, son of Captain Nicholas Drinkwater, Jr., was hired as the town's first mail carrier.

Continued on Page 3

NEW EXHIBIT NOW OPEN
To learn more, please join us for a free
CURATOR'S TALK
Thursday, July 18, 2017
at 2:00pm and again at 5:30pm

F.O. BAILEY REAL ESTATE
Norway Savings Bank
HANCOCK LUMBER
ALEXANDER & SCHMIDT RISK ASSESSMENT | RISK CONTROL
Estabrook's For the joy of gardening!
Kate Huntress Buyers, Sellers, Certified Home Staging
RMD R.M. DAVIS PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT
Main Line Fence
Yarmouth Printing and Graphics Image assistance and printing by Yarmouth Printing and Graphics, www.yarmouthprinting.com
Blue Star Museum We are a
LL.Bean OUTDOOR DISCOVERY SCHOOLS
Yarmouth Printing and Graphics

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

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

From the Chair



As beautiful as our building is, we know that the core strength of the Yarmouth History Center is our people. We are blessed with talented, caring and dedicated staff, Board and members. They are the ones that continually fill the Center with interesting lectures, exhibits and discussion. And, we are always excited to welcome new members and new Board Trustees. This “new blood” brings different perspectives and challenges us to be a stronger and better organization.

This spring we are in the middle of our annual membership campaign. Members are critical to the success of any museum or history center, and we are no different. We need every member to renew and also spread the word to neighbors and friends who might be interested in joining. In addition to invitations to numerous outstanding events and discounts at our gift shop, membership carries with it the satisfaction that each member is supporting an institution that helps make Yarmouth such a special place to live.

And those members who sacrifice their time and talent to serve on the Board of Trustees are essential to the governance of the History Center. As talented as our staff is, they benefit from the collective wisdom and guidance of having 17 “bosses” who share their commitment to the Center. With that in mind, I am pleased to welcome three new Board members this spring: Marian McCue, Betsy Langer and Eric Leinwand. They each bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our Board that will hopefully pay dividends to the History Center for years to come. Please thank them for their service if the opportunity arises.

Finally, I hope each of you has a fun, relaxing and safe summer and remember the History Center is always a great option if it turns out not to be a good day for the beach.

Bill Harwood
Board Chair

Chair
William S. Harwood

1st Vice-Chair
William M. Nugent

Treasurer
Stephen Parker

Secretary
Chuck Murray

Board Members
Art Bell
Julie Benavides
Binks Colby-George
Tamson Bickford Hamrock
Christie Harriman
Betsy Lane
Betsy Langer
Eric Leinwand
Marian McCue
David Ray
Peter Sillin
Ben Soule
Tim Wheaton

Staff
Katie Worthing
Executive Director

Maura Goessling
Development Director

Karen Asherman
Administrative Assistant

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

YHS Chair Receives Access to Justice Award

Congratulations to Yarmouth Historical Society’s Board Chairman, William “Bill” Harwood who was recently awarded the Hon. Edmund S. Muskie Access to Justice Award, an award that recognizes a member of the community who embodies Senator Muskie’s commitment to justice.

Bill was recognized for exceeding the high standards in the longevity and depth of his commitment to expanding justice for Maine’s low-income and needy elderly population. Bill is the past President of the Maine Justice Foundation and was chairman of the board of Legal Series for the Elderly. Bill joins a distinguished list of past award recipients such as the Hon. William Cohen, the Hon. George Mitchell, and the Hon. Howard Dana, Jr., to name a few.

Congratulations, Bill!

Aomori Art Exchange

The Stonewall Gallery at the Yarmouth History Center proudly presents an exhibition of prints by artists from the states of Maine and Aomori, Japan, which will be on view through July 1. The traveling exhibition is part of MAPS (Maine-Aomori Printmaking Society), organized by Friends of Aomori as a cultural exchange program, sharing art and artists between the sister states of Maine and Aomori. The prints will be exhibited in Yarmouth, Eastport, and York from May to October, while the same collection is being exhibited in Aomori City, Fujisaki, and Tsugaru in Aomori prefecture.

MAPS is organized by Friends of Aomori, an all-volunteer non-profit that supports the Sister State relationship between Maine and Aomori, Japan. The relationship between Maine and Aomori has been in place for 20 years, but the fascinating connection between the two states goes back to a shipwreck in 1889. In addition to MAPS, Friends of Aomori supports high school exchange programs, educational events and programs about Japan, and economic development opportunities such as a recent delegation visit of Maine fisherman and aquaculture business leaders to Aomori in October 2016.



Above: Executive Director Katie Worthing visits with the members of the Friends of Aomori.

Impressions of Yarmouth

For the past four years the Yarmouth History Center has hosted a North Yarmouth Academy senior to assist in fulfilling their community service requirement for graduation. This year NYA senior Manna joined us. While working at the History Center we asked Manna to write a piece for this newsletter about her impressions of Yarmouth:

I came to Yarmouth and started to study at North Yarmouth Academy in the winter of 2015, so I have already been in Yarmouth for two and a half years. Yarmouth was the first place I had been to in America, and I had never heard about Maine before I came here. I lived in Beijing, which meant I had spent all my previous 16 years in the city, so my time in Yarmouth was an entirely new experience for me.

There was no traffic jams and no crowds. I could see familiar faces every day when walking on the street, and I could enjoy my every breath of fresh air, which I could never have had in Beijing. On the other hand, I had to ask my host mom to drive me to Portland or the mall, or wait for 20 minutes to have an Uber driver to pick me up. It could really get inconvenient sometimes for a city girl, like me, who was used to taking taxis and subways to everywhere, but I still loved and cherished my time here. I enjoyed the moments when I could smile and say “hello” to people who walked past me; I enjoyed the blue sky, green trees and squirrels running across the street. I still remembered the first time I saw a squirrel on the front porch and screamed because of the surprise. I even loved the time when my host mom forgot to lock the door at night, because there was really no need to do it in such a quiet and safe town. Next year, I am going back to my city life and will be living in Boston, but I will never forget my wonderful experience in Yarmouth.

I am going to graduate on June 4th, and I will travel with my parents and my host mom to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and San Francisco before returning to China. I will get a driving license in China, because driving is apparently an important life skill in America. In September, I will come back and start my new journey at Carrol School of Management at Boston College.

Manna, May 2017
Yarmouth, Maine



Above: NYA senior Manna working on cataloguing the collection’s books.

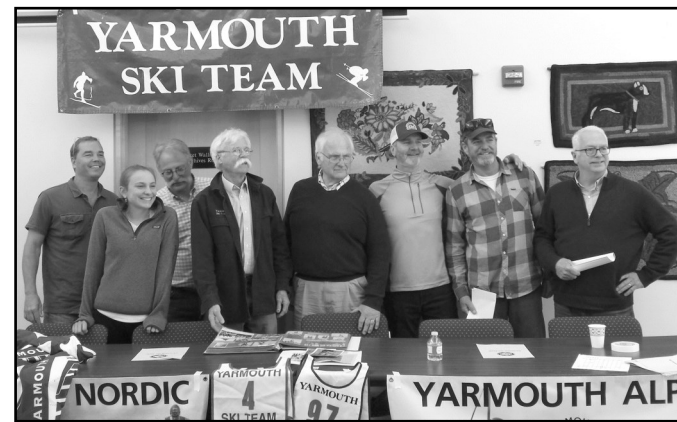
The 2nd Annual Run of the Royal

The second annual Run of the Royal Corporate Canoe Challenge took place on May 13 on the Royal River adjacent to the Yarmouth History Center. This annual event is a fundraiser for the Royal River Conservation Trust. Perfect weather greeted 17 teams of eight paddlers from local businesses and organizations. Participants in this year's event included: Aging Excellence, LL Bean, Maine Beer, TJD&A, Scott Dugas Trucking & Excavating, Stantec, Fluid Imaging Technologies, Yarmouth Boat Yard, Garmin, Air & Water Quality, Planson International, Hancock Lumber, Brookside, and others. The race itself pitted the eight member teams against one another in a relay format over four legs, with two teammates paddling at a time. In addition to the racing, the day featured great live music, local food trucks, art, a raffle and the exhibits at the Yarmouth History Center.

The 2017 race was won by L.L. Bean, followed by runners up Scott Dugas Trucking & Excavating, with Garmin taking the last podium place. Congratulations to the winners.



Above: The starting line of the Run of the Royal.



Above: Yarmouth High School skiers line up for a photo. Below: Attendees and panelist share stories about their days as members of the Yarmouth ski teams.



Yarmouth Stories II: Yarmouth H.S. Skiing

The Yarmouth High School Ski Team was the focus of the Yarmouth Historical Society's second installment of the "Yarmouth Stories" series. "Yarmouth Stories" is a vehicle for local people to share their Yarmouth experiences with others.

Founded in the early 1970s, the Yarmouth ski program has been around for nearly 50 years. Hundreds of kids have participated in the program over the years and have been exposed to Maine's great outdoors. The event featured a panel discussion which included accomplished YHS Ski Team alumnus Walter Shepard, former Yarmouth High School coaches Bill Richards and Don Miller, and current YHS Nordic coach Bob Morse.

Andy Shepard, founder of the Outdoor Sports Institute, moderated the discussion. A large and enthusiastic crowd of former YHS skiers, parents, and current YHS team members enjoyed a fun and lively discussion of Yarmouth's proud skiing tradition. The focus of the talk was to travel through the history of the YHS Ski Team. Attendees and panelists so enjoyed the afternoon that the panel only reached the 1980s era of the team's history. A second event is being planned for this fall and will pick up where this event left off, continuing the reminiscing from the 1980s to the present.

New Exhibit: *Keep Me Posted*

Continued from Page 1

The mid-19th century letters in our collection form a local picture of contemporary Americans' dependence on the post to communicate family news, daily expenses and other financial information, and the emotion of separation. By this time, Americans could depend on an affordable and accessible postal service that could relay letters from one point in the country to another with reliable efficiency. Service between Yarmouth and New York, for example, was rapid; some contemporary estimates put the time lapse at only a day or two. But, what changed when one of the correspondents was at sea? How often were ship captains able to mail a letter home? What challenges did Yarmouth's letter writers face in sending news to someone on board a ship bound for distant locales? Our mid-19th century seafaring letters tell us about some of these barriers to communication and simultaneously illuminate an undeterred community of correspondents. Letters left Yarmouth for far-flung destinations around the globe and replies arrived in town bearing news from afar. The details carried in these letters tell us much about Yarmouth at mid-century, about the lives and careers of the town's mariners, and about the exchange of news in the mid-19th century. We invite you to stop by to see them for yourself. The exhibit will be on view through March 2018 and includes letters and objects from several of Yarmouth's seafaring families, including the Curtis, Humphrey, Lane, Drinkwater, and Small families.

Welcome to our New Board Members



Marian McCue considers herself fortunate to have grown up right in the center of Yarmouth, in the 1950s and 60s. It was a small town of vitality and simplicity. The wonder is that although the town is now much larger, it maintains the same characteristics of small town life. Marian attended Yarmouth Public Schools (old gray school buildings where the Town Hall is now), Waynflete, Milton Academy, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Marian pursued a journalism career in New York and Boston before happily returning to Maine in 1982. Marian worked in the Maine newspaper business before taking over *The Forecaster*, which she ran from 1990 until 2006. She now writes a column on Maine politics for *The Forecaster*.



Eric Leinwand grew up outside New York City in Westchester County, New York. Eric attended Bucknell University where he graduated with degrees in both History and Economics, a well-matched combination for our Historical Society's Board. At Bucknell, Eric met his wife Katie, a Harpswell, Maine native. Eric worked in finance in New York City until 2002 and slowly began his migration north, first living and working in Connecticut before arriving in Maine in 2015. Eric has become involved in many local charitable, community, and youth sports organizations. With two school-age children Eric has a busy summer ahead; look for him on the sidelines at our local lacrosse and youth soccer games.



Betsy Langer and her husband Len have been Yarmouth residents since 1980. Betsy has been an educator since 1974. Betsy began her career at Berwick Academy and went on to teach at Harrison Middle School in Yarmouth and Waynflete in Portland. Betsy currently teaches history, coaches lacrosse, and runs a recreational ski program for middle school students at Waynflete. Betsy has also been a small business owner in Yarmouth as well as an avid organic gardener and beekeeper. Betsy will be retiring from teaching in June and will join the YHS Board this coming Fall.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 20th, 7:00 pm Lecture: The KKK Confronts Franco-Americans in the 1920s **Speaker:** Mark Richard
Free for members, \$5.00 for non-members

Thursday, July 13th, 5:30—7:00 pm Exhibit Opening: Painter Susan Parrish Carter's views of Yarmouth
On view through August at the Stonewall Gallery. Free

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



Top: Appraiser Christopher Considine takes a closer look at a painting.

Above: Colleen Donovan and Society member David Asherman review the finer details of his antique terrarium.

Top: John and Beth Hodgkins, Gretchen Long, and Katie Worthing.

Above: Attendees Art Bell, John Palmer, Gretchen Long, Chip Ahrens, Beth Hodgkins, and Helen Kibler gather after the presentation.

Antique Appraisal Day

The Yarmouth Historical Society's long-standing fundraiser, Antiques Appraisal Day, took place on Saturday, April 8. Appraisers Colleen Donovan and Christopher Considine from Foreside Antiques in Falmouth used their expertise to uncover the history and estimate the value of the antiques and collectibles presented to them.

It was great to see so many of our Yarmouth Historical Society members take advantage of their membership benefit of a free appraisal. Equally fun was to see the event go beyond our members as many in the community took the opportunity to have their items analyzed by our experts and support the Society's fundraiser.

Everyone left the event with new knowledge of their items and ideas for what to bring next year. If you missed it, Antiques Appraisal Day will return in 2018.

National Parks Talk

On Thursday, March 2 the Yarmouth Historical Society and the Fortnightly Club of Yarmouth partnered to host a free talk by Gretchen Long on the United States National Park System.

Long is a current member of the National Parks System Advisory Board, a past Chairman and Trustee Emeritus of the National Park Conservation Association, a graduate of Harvard Business School, and a noted leader in the nonprofit conservation arena. The talk included an overview of the Park System, along with Long's personal views and experiences on the valued and beautiful National Park spaces.

Ms. Long's perspective was well received by the crowd that assembled to hear her speak. The engaging stories and enchanting images delighted members of the Yarmouth Historical Society, Fortnightly Club, and the Yarmouth community members who attended this afternoon event.

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



Top Left: Mitch Howard, winner of our Hooked Rug raffle. **Top Right:** Freeport Historical Society Curator Holly Hurd displays a hooked rug from Freeport's collection for the YHS staff during a recent visit and tour.

Above Left: YHS Board Member Christie Harriman and husband Phil view the hooked rug exhibit with fellow Board Member Ben Soule. **Above Right:** Rug Hookers and their guests visit at the exhibit's opening.

Maine Hooked Rugs

During the months of March and April, the Stonewall Gallery exhibited hooked rugs by the Maine Tin Pedlars. The Maine Tin Pedlars group was founded in 1980 as one of the nine local New England chapters of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists, an international organization dedicated to helping people express themselves through fiber art. The name of the group honors Edward Sands Frost of Biddeford, who, in 1865, was the first to design tin stencils for hooked rug patterns. The group currently boasts over 100 members.

The colorful, handmade, and unique pieces of fiber art which made up the show brought huge numbers of rug hooking enthusiasts and curious gallery goers into the Yarmouth History Center. Shoppers in the Yarmouth History Center's gift shop were also treated to handmade pieces by Tin Pedlars artists. Members of the Maine Tin Pedlars offered visitors to the Yarmouth History Center weekly demonstrations of rug hooking techniques. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to see new pieces take shape and draw on the Hookers' knowledge of their craft.

The show, gift offerings, and demos were enjoyed by over 300 visitors to the Stonewall Gallery making this show one of the most successful and best attended of the year.