

Calling Crafters

The Center is hosting a holiday craft fair on Saturday, December 2 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. To reserve your spot visit our website for the application, or call the History Center. Space is limited and will be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Katie Worthing at kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org or call 846-6259 with any questions.

**Holiday
Craft
Fair**

COCKTAILS AT THE CAMP

November 17, 2017 7pm - 9pm
Historic Camp Hammond
275 Main Street . Yarmouth, ME

Tickets: yarmouthmehistory.org or call 207.846.6259
All proceeds benefit the Yarmouth Historical Society
Event Sponsor: **Estabrook's** Media Sponsor: **Maine Home +DESIGN**

**YARMOUTH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Yarmouth History Center
Newsletter**

**COCKTAILS
AT THE CAMP** November 17
7pm - 9pm
Camp
Hammond

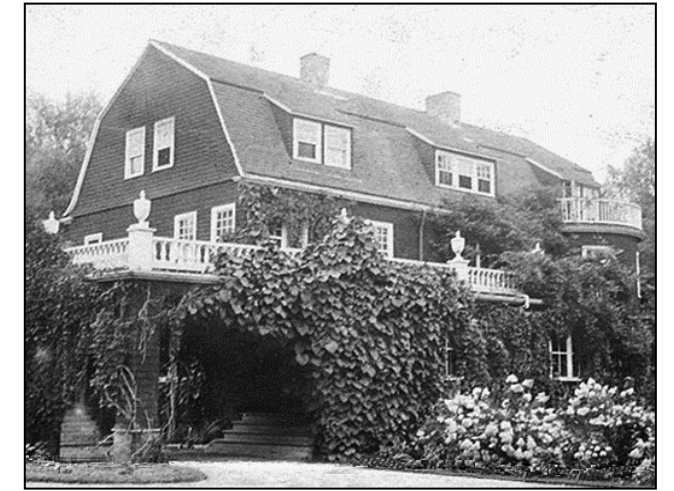
Fall 2017

118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth, Maine

207-846-6259

The Hammonds of Camp Hammond

George Warren Hammond left a lasting legacy in Yarmouth. This legacy was built through the construction of his Main Street home and the results of his tireless civic engagement, which focused on improving the quality of life for the Yarmouth community. George W. Hammond was born in Grafton, Massachusetts on April 4, 1833. George attended and finished school in Grafton. In July of 1852, he began working at Howe & Leeds Wholesale West India Goods Store on Long Wharf in Boston. Later that year, Hammond moved to the position of clerk with J.W. Blodgett & Co.



Above: Camp Hammond, Main Street in Yarmouth

George Hammond entered the manufacturing industry in 1853 when he accepted a position at his uncle S. D. Warren's paper mill in Cumberland Mills, Maine. He began his industrial career as a clerk. Four years later, Hammond had advanced to Superintendent. After 5 years as Superintendent, he became the Agent of the paper mill. In 1874 Hammond, along with Warren, purchased the rights to New England's first soda pulp processing mill in Yarmouth, Maine and established the Forest Paper Company. Forest Paper Company began operations in Yarmouth in 1874, the same year George married Miss Ellen S. S. Clarke, the sister-in-law of S. D. Warren. In 1876, George Hammond left Cumberland Mills to become the Manager of the Forest Paper Company in Yarmouth. George Hammond immediately immersed himself in the operations of the Forest Paper Company. According to History and Genealogies of the Hammond Families, George Hammond was "always sanguine of success. He lost no time if an enterprise promised well, and with a strong confidence in his theories, coupled with a will to advance and prove them correct, he took chances where others might have hesitated and lost."

For the next twenty-five years Hammond developed

the Forest Paper Company, adding buildings and improving the water supply to the ten-acre facility. His expansions helped grow the mill's workforce to over 250 employees. After years of success at the Forest Paper Company, Hammond decided it was time to build a home in Yarmouth. In 1898 he chose a building lot in the center of Yarmouth in view of the paper mill. Hammond worked with Alex Twombly, Forest Paper's engineer and draftsman, to design the plans for the home. The design he created employed the 'mill built' or 'slow burning' method of construction. Its purpose was to hinder the advance of any fire that broke out. This method, designed for wood framed mill buildings, was used by industrial architects of the day as a safety measure and to obtain the lowest rates from the insurance companies.

Hammond designed his home with a large entrance hall, library, studio, flower room, and a large greenhouse. The home was designed to have space for entertaining guests, and areas which catered to George and his wife Ellen's interests. Its high ceilings and natural woodwork gave the home a warm informal feel. The two-story reception hall features a suspended balcony and grand fireplace, representing the finest of 19th century privileged living.

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From the Chair

There are many thoughts going through my mind as I sit down to write my final Newsletter column as Board Chair. After six years on the Board and three as Board Chair, I will complete my service to the History Center at the Annual Meeting in October.

First, I have many new friends as a result of my association. The History Center is blessed with an abundance of caring and dedicated volunteers, staff and Board members. As each new challenge arises, I continue to be impressed by the response of this team. No one could ask for a better group.

Second, I am humbled by the responsibility of leading this great organization. The History Center is one of the reasons why Yarmouth is such a great place to live. For fifty-seven years, the Yarmouth Historical Society has led the effort to celebrate our rich history and preserve it for future generations. Having the opportunity for a few years to help advance this important mission has been a privilege.

Finally, I am optimistic about the future of the History Center. In the last six years we have raised over a million dollars to build a new home to display many of the historical artifacts that were previously “tucked away” on the top floor of the Library. In addition, we have increased both the Center’s annual budget and the endowment by more than 30%. Most important, we have assembled a talented and hardworking group of volunteers, staff and Board members to take the History Center to new heights. I have great confidence that the History Center will grow and prosper under the strong leadership of Executive Director Katie Worthing and incoming Board Chair Bill Nugent.

So, I conclude by saying a big and heartfelt thanks to all those who supported me and the Yarmouth History Center over the last few years. I have been incredibly lucky to serve with you.



Bill Harwood
Board Chair

Art Bell Honored with the Latchstring Award

This past June, Yarmouth Historical Society Board Member Art Bell was awarded the 2017 Latchstring Award. Art was recognized for his selfless, caring, creative, and tireless community-building service to the people of Yarmouth. The award was established in 1980; it recognizes citizens of the Town of Yarmouth whose long service to the Town and community have demonstrated exemplary leadership and citizenship while embodying the spirit of Yarmouth’s town motto: “Our Latchstring Always Out.”

Art, through the generous donation of his time, resources, and creative mind, is always seeking ways to strengthen the ties of the community. This truly exemplifies the ideals and vision of the Latchstring Award. Congratulations, Art!

A Playmaker’s Observations

This summer, Devan, a rising senior at Yarmouth High School, was the recipient of the Yarmouth Historical Society’s Summer Internship Grant. This internship, funded by Historical Society patrons Ellen Alderman and Bill Harwood, is a paid summer position for a student interested in history and/or museum studies. To familiarize Devan with the collection, we combined her interests in theater and history and had her research productions staged by Yarmouth High School. Below is Devan’s story of her experiences as a Playmaker and impressions of what she learned re-searching.



Above: Yarmouth High School’s Fall 2016 Production of Cinderella

The Yarmouth theatre program inspires and gives students the opportunity to pursue their passions in the theatre world. If you are not an actor/actress, like myself, you are either moving sets, working back stage, controlling tech, or playing in the pit band. When I walk into that auditorium, I know that it’s a place where I can express myself. If you enter into the world of being a playmaker at Yarmouth High School, then you will hear about how the playmakers are a family. If you have been a playmaker for as long as I have then you know it is true. You really can connect with the others, even if you wouldn’t normally hang out with them. Honestly, you are in a room with them for hours at a time for a few months, so you get to know one another pretty well.

Since working as an intern at the Yarmouth History Center, I have done much research on Yarmouth and feel I have traveled through time. While researching this article I have seen the changes of Yarmouth throughout the years. I have read about the different theatrical programs, flipped through decades of yearbooks, and seen how our local schools have progressed. For example, we do not have real guns in plays like there was back in the production of “Enlisted in the War.” I have discovered our passion for the arts has only become stronger. New equipment has been installed at Yarmouth High, and our directors are able to acquire the rights to stage marvelous shows.

No matter what, I think most theatre communities have common themes. First, everyone’s tired. Everyone is trying to squeeze in time to be a part of a production while they are working on a project at school or work. Sometimes, if one person is sick it gets passed around the entire cast and crew. There will be drama behind the drama, and one person will lose their script and borrow everyone else’s. But the most important thing we have in common is the joy the theatre brings us and the feeling of accomplishment (and a little bit of sadness) when the production is finished. Theatre and acting is my passion and my path in life. I am very grateful for the outstanding theatre program Yarmouth provides, and for the relentless directors that lead us to success.

In Memoriam

Frederick Sturdivant Vaill, Jr. 1926-2017

We are sad to learn of the passing of Yarmouth Historical Society’s first president, Frederick Sturdivant Vaill, Jr. Mr. Vaill had a rewarding public life offering his time and expertise to many organizations. On May 20, 1960, at the incorporation of the Historical Society, Mr. Vaill was elected the Society’s first president and served again as president in the 1980s.

Left: Fred Vaill (left) and other founding members display some of the first items donated to the Yarmouth Historical Society.



Architectural Survey Volunteers Needed

This fall volunteers will be needed to assist in an Architectural Survey of Yarmouth. Volunteers will be needed to photograph and input data for the survey area focusing on the “village core.” The project will be supervised by a historic preservation professional and all volunteers will receive training. The project represents the first phase of a multi-year initiative to document historic architectural resources within the town of Yarmouth.

Yarmouth recently received a grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for this project. The amount of the grant is to be matched with volunteer hours from the Town’s planning department, community organizations such as the Yarmouth Historical Society, the Village Improvement Society, and local citizens interested in the field of historic preservation. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by September, 2018. This is an opportunity for our members to be a part of a community project that is based on the community’s pride in its historic character exemplified by the village center’s historic homes, civic structures, and commercial buildings. Please contact Katie Worthing to sign up to volunteer: kworthing@yarmouthmehistory.org

Upcoming Events and Programs

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

September

September — October

Stonewall Gallery Exhibit: Tom Flanagan

Tuesday, September 19th, 7:00 pm

Lecture: *Wabanaki History*

Speaker: Joe Hall

Hall teaches colonial, environmental, and American Indian history at Bates College. His current research examines how Wabanakis and non-Indians shaped the Maine landscape and how the landscape exhibits signs of their changing and sometimes conflicting ambitions.

Free for members, \$5 non-members

Thursday, September 21st, 7:00 pm

Royal River Film Series: *Voyagers Without Trace*

A group is inspired by a mysterious sign, a lost diary, and a daring journey down canyons of the West in search of three kayaking voyagers from 1938.

Free

October

Sunday, October 14th, 1:00 pm

Walking Tour at Old Ledge Cemetery with genealogist Victoria Thomas

Free

Monday, October 16th, 7:00 pm

Lecture and Annual Meeting: *Maps from the Osher Map Library*

Speaker: Ian Fowler, MSLIS, Director of the Osher Map Library and Library Digital Initiatives, will present an illustrated lecture exploring maps from the Osher Map Library.

Free for members, \$5 non-members

Thursday, October 19th, 7:00 pm

Royal River Film Series: *Overburden*

After a mine accident kills her brother, a coal activist joins forces with a liberal grandmother to take down a coal company

Free

November

Friday, November 17th, 7:00 pm

Cocktails at the Camp, the Historical Society's fundraiser featuring the Hammonds' unique 19th century mill-built house. For more details: yarmouthmehistory.org

The Royal River Film Series co-hosted by the Yarmouth History Center and the Royal River Conservation Trust.

Royal River Film Series sponsored by:

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COCKTAILS AT THE CAMP

The Hammonds

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Camp Hammond was perfectly suited to George and Ellen's lifestyle. After the house was completed, the Hammonds split their time between Boston and their new Yarmouth home. The house was referred to as their 'Camp.' It was set up as a summer retreat and, in the tradition of the 19th century, welcomed many long-term guests throughout the season.

Ellen Hammond is credited with the distinguished visual features of the house. Ellen worked to incorporate the treasures she and George collected during their travels into the interiors of the rooms. An 1891 article reviewing the home noted the ingenious way the treasures were "wrought into the fabric of the house." Ellen was also known to have been a promoter of dental hygiene. Local lore recalls Lucy Ring's story about how Mrs. Hammond would stop children on the streets and check their teeth. If they were in need of dental care she would arrange appointments and pay the bill. She also invited local girls to dinner and took the opportunity to teach them the proper way to set a table.

Ellen and George were involved in the town's Social Library and organized the local Antiquarian Society. The couple purchased the meeting house on Hillside Street and installed a library that was opened to the public on Saturdays. Books from other libraries and gifts from friends helped build the library collection to eighteen hundred books. The Hammonds also had interests in gardening. This is reflected in the original landscape design for the property. The landscape plans were drawn in 1889 by the firm of F.L. Olmsted & Co. The plans included numerous gardens, an orchard, and an arbor of grapevines. For many women of the time, flower arranging was a popular pastime. Ellen no doubt made great use of the home's heated greenhouse and the year round blooms it produced.

George Hammond's civic pursuits in Yarmouth during his tenure as manager of the Forest Paper Company were performed with enthusiasm regardless of the work and, for the most part, done without compensation. Hammond served as the President of the Yarmouth Water Committee and worked to ensure a steady water supply to the town. He was also the Chairman of the Trustees of the Merrill Memorial Library, playing a major role in the design and construction of the town's public library. Hammond's Forest Paper Company donated the land for the library, ensuring the building would be located in the center of Yarmouth. In addition to his civic pursuits, Hammond was an enthusiastic student of horticulture and all things flora. His knowledge of trees and plants earned him a place on the Overseers' Committee at Harvard's Gray Herbarium. George Hammond's affinity for flora is clearly evident in the unique landscaping which he and Ellen had installed at Camp Hammond.

In 1891 Camp Hammond was reviewed in an issue of *The American Architect and Building News*. The article noted the home's warm and hospitable atmosphere despite "the absences of traditionally finished walls." Many people could visit Camp Hammond and never discover that there was anything unique or unusual about the shingle style house. That is just what Mr. Hammond had sought to achieve with his experiment: a welcoming home built to endure the test of time. Decades later, in 1979, Hammond's house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Above: Ellen Hammond
Below: George Hammond



SIX TOWNS TIMES.
Thursday November 3, 1892.

About sixty-five guests, young and old, assembled at Camp Hammond on Saturday evening, the occasion being a reception given by Mrs. G. W. Hammond to the teachers and pupils of the Academy and High School. After refreshments were served the guests were shown about the unique dwelling. The appearance of the "mill built camp with its varnished walls and ceilings" is very pleasing to the observer, yet one might go away from the house without noting that there was anything peculiar in its construction. The assembly broke up with the very pleasing ceremony of the presentation of the love cup. Mr. G. W. Hammond in a few well chosen words presented the cup to Rev. B. P. Snow, the academy principal, who after taking a draught, passed it to each of the older guests in turn. Then Mr. Stephen Hammond passed it around among his young friends. The occasion was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

Above: A newspaper clipping from Ellen Hammond's scrapbook

Continued on Page 4

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



Above: Mary Burns and Irene DeLorme showing their Yarmouth spirit at the Yarmouth History Center.

Above: Dick Knight, Linda Ferreira, Mary Ellen Welch, and Irene DeLorme.

Yarmouth Nonagenarians Visit the History Center

This summer two life-long Yarmouth residents met for coffee at the Yarmouth History Center. Mary Burns, 98 this year, and Irene DeLorme, who had just celebrated her 99th birthday the day before her visit, spent time with a group of family and friends talking about Yarmouth back in the day.

We appreciate that these ladies took a moment during their visit so that we could take a photograph of them. Thank you, Mary and Irene!

The Hammonds

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On Friday November 17, 2017 the Yarmouth Historical Society will feature Camp Hammond at the fundraising gala, *Cocktails at the Camp*. The Hammonds entertained often and were known to host many community gatherings at Camp Hammond. Some of their events were even recorded in the local paper (see 1892 newspaper clipping from Mrs. Hammond's scrapbook: page 2, bottom right). We too are planning an evening of pleasant socializing and, for those interested, an opportunity to discover the Hammonds' splendid 19th-century home, view the Olmsted Firm's landscape design for the grounds, and see a glimpse of what life was like in Yarmouth during the 1890s.

We hope to see you there!

Summer Visitors

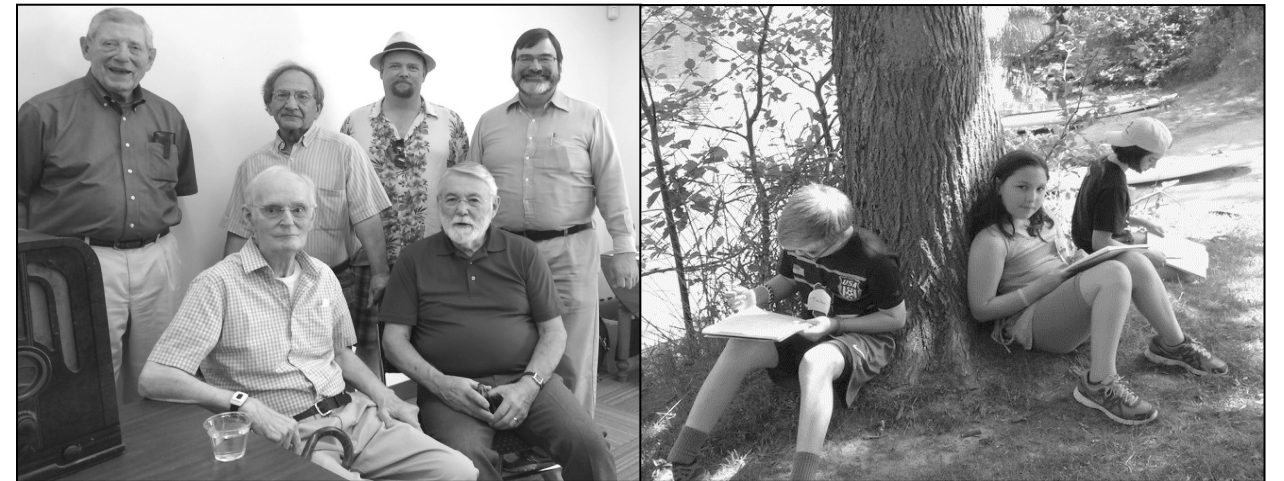
You never know who you're going to meet at the History Center. This summer the DeLorme sisters had a chance meeting with an old acquaintance, Dick Knight. The group had a great time catching up on news and sharing memories.

Throughout the summer the History Center hosted visitors hailing from Florida, Manitoba, and many places in between. These visitors came to the History Center for a variety of reasons, but we are happy they found their experiences viewing the exhibits in the museum and Stonewall Gallery educational and enjoyable.

Many visitors who sign the guest book comment that they visited because they were "just walking by" or "stopped in after paddling" or "driving by and decided to stop in." We hope you all stop in to visit soon!

- Kathy and Keith, Bayport, Long Island, NY**
"Thank you for your help with our family research—very helpful."
- Liz, Freeport, ME**
"Here with my Grammie who has lived in Yarmouth since 1928, revisiting her history!"
- Camille, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada**
"Super interesting and fascinating."
- Carolyn, Lexington, MA**
"Very beautifully done, my first visit. Will return!"
- Julia, Westchester, IL**
"Brought my dad 'back home' for his 80th birthday."
- Debra, Yarmouth, ME**
"Have been wanting to visit for quite some time! Beautiful displays."

In and Around the Yarmouth History Center



Above: The Voices of WYAR. From left to right. Back row: Carl Bradford, Mark Persky, Scott Scroggins, Jim Brown. Seated: Gary King, Wayne Newland.

Above: Young authors at the History Center seeking inspiration on the banks of Yarmouth's Royal River.

Heritage Radio Society

Yarmouth Historical Society and Heritage Radio Society presented the third installment of the History Center's ongoing Yarmouth Stories series. The presentation featured the work of Gary King and the story of how he and his late wife Lois made their retirement dream a reality. In 1995, after retiring, Gary and Lois King established the Heritage Radio Society and in September of 1998 the radio station WYAR 88.3 FM aired its first program.

The Heritage Radio Society is a non-profit corporation that uses entertainment as an educational tool while keeping the spirit of the station's programming nostalgic and fun. Their mission focuses on the preservation and encouragement of traditional American popular music, especially the music from the early to mid-20th century. In addition to broadcasting, the Society's activities include the collection and preservation of early sound recordings and cataloguing the historical data associated with them. The Society also works to support the education and arts communities in the Greater Portland area, running free publicity spots for special events for charitable and educational organizations. The event also gave the other "voices" of WYAR an opportunity to share their connection and experiences in broadcast radio as members of the Heritage Radio Society.



Young Authors Camp

In June, the History Center hosted the Southern Maine Writing Project's Young Authors Camp. The camp provides young writers the opportunity to develop their skills in a fun and motivating environment.

This is the third year the Center has hosted the camp. The group loves the center for the proximity to the Royal River Park and the village. The group also visited the Center's Old Ledge School as a place to find inspiration for their writing.

At end of the camp, the Society received wonderful thank you cards. Many of the campers shared their appreciation of the Center: "Your exhibits are amazing!" "The view is spectacular!" "I feel so lucky that we live in a town with such a good historical center!" We are appreciative of their thanks and look forward to hosting them again next year.

Help with Dissertation

A doctoral candidate in Annapolis, MD researching artwork created during the Holocaust is looking for information on Alfred Kantor, a Holocaust survivor and former Yarmouth resident. The candidate is hoping to interview people who knew Mr. Kantor and gather impressions of what he shared about his experience creating art as a concentration camp prisoner. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Contact Elizabeth Hlavek by phone at 443-540-3143 or through email at lizhlavek@gmail.com.