

This Issue:

Page 1
Jewels on
Main Street

Page 2
From the Chair
& New Board
Members

Page 3
New Board
Members

Page 4
Jewels on
Main Street,
continued

Page 5
New Role as
Caretaker
& Expanded
Shopping
Notes

Page 6 & 7
Annual Fund
Donors

Page 7
Spring Lecture
Series

Page 8
Thank You
Business
Members!

Jewels on Main Street The Windows of First Baptist Church

by Sofia Dibble



Above: Detail of a stained glass window and its dedication from the First Baptist Church on Main Street.

Old stained glass, while being a beautiful inheritance from those who have gone before us, requires quite a bit of upkeep every century or so. This we are learning at First Baptist Church at 346 Main Street, where the came (the black lead between the glass panels), after 130 years, have begun to deteriorate. As you could imagine, this puts the glass panels in a precarious position, and is not exactly safe nor impervious to weather. For a small congregation like ours, this is quite a daunting task financially — but should we opt to replace the stained glass with regular windows, the aesthetic and historical loss would be nothing short of tragic.

The First Baptist congregation, which was incorporated as a society in 1797, moved from the Old Baptist Meetinghouse on Hillside to its new Main Street building in 1889. It is only one of six churches designed by Stevens & Cobb in the shingle-style remaining, and the only that we know of that was expanded by Stevens as well to include a fellowship hall, library, and several classrooms. Stevens would later become a nationally recognized architect, made famous for his design of shingle-style summer cottages that have become a landmark of Maine's architecture.

In a conversation with historian Earle Shettleworth, the authority on Stevens, I found out that the eleventh chapter of Stevens & Cobb's book "Examples of American Domestic Architecture" is devoted to their opinions on church

architecture, contrary to the title. They detail the ideal, "cheery" church further, specifying that the ceiling should follow steep rise of the roof, that the beams should be exposed, that flourishes on the walls or columns should be avoided, and "cathedral glass of harmonious tones and simple geometric figure" should fill "the majority of windows."

Indeed, beautiful memorial windows fill the sanctuary with their soft hues, opalescent glass, and geometric arrangements. Vibrant medallions with Christian iconography line one million window and the two rose windows overhead. The iconography calls to mind Scripture, such as an anchor representing the hope of Jesus Christ as "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19). Small "jewels" - circular glass of vibrant reds and blues - are used as accents. One would think that the makers of stained glass would sign their work or leave some kind of insignia, however discreet. But, alas, no, nothing.

Even the numerous newspaper articles that detail the grand opening of the church make no mention of who made the windows. However, it does abundantly detail other things, like the folding seat pews "made by C. B. Demorest & Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., and ordered through their Boston agents, Mssrs. Cabrera & Co." and equipped with "hat rack, cane and umbrella rack".

Continued on Page 4



From the Chair



One of our family's favorite board games is "Perspectives." Perspectives works by having a series of cards that had a historical fact on one side and a date on the other. The goal is to play your cards on a timeline relative to cards that had been played before. The "game" part comes in not knowing the exact date of each fact and being able to challenge another person's placement of a card. An interesting thing about Perspectives is that the facts are drawn from all around the world and from many historical genres. Trying to place the cards in order is a challenge, because you may know a lot of facts about Chinese art history, but not know how they are ordered compared to facts from the Crimean War. Facts arranged side by side like this may lead to some interesting speculations, such as: "The first commercial fax system (1863)," "Abraham Lincoln assassinated (1865)" and "Samurai class formally abolished (1867)" creates the overlapping possibility that a samurai could have sent a fax to Abraham Lincoln.

This spring the Yarmouth Historical Society will be hosting a series of lectures spanning the history of Yarmouth and its environs. These will all be held at the History Center and are free to all. Come collect some facts, find out what overlaps and fill in your Yarmouth timeline!

Binks Colby-George
Chair, Board of Trustees

The schedule for spring lecture series and the listing of the speakers and their topics can be found on page 7.

Yarmouth
Historical Society
**BOARD
OF TRUSTEES**

Chair
Binks Colby-George

Vice-Chair
Jessie McGrath

Treasurer
Sarah Day

Secretary
William Nugent

Pamelia Adams
Julie Benavides
Cecilia Guecia
Jocelyn Handy
Kendall Harnett
Jim Highland
Ted Jordan
Caroline Knott
Betsy Langer
Eric Leinwand
Ed Libby
Melina Roberts
Peter Sillin
Brittany Strout
Sarah Wallace

Executive Director
Katherine G. Worthing

Development Director
Maura Goessling

**Administrative
Assistant**
Karen Asherman

**Museum
Assistant**
Grave Atwood

Yarmouth Historical Society
118 East Elm Street
PO Box 107
Yarmouth, ME 04096
207-846-6259

Published quarterly for
Yarmouth Historical
Society members.

Meet Our New Board Members



Cecilia Guecia

After growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, Cecilia Guecia attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. At Wesleyan, Cecilia majored in European History and International Development, focusing on the Middle East and South Africa. She performed in plays and musicals (taking one to The Edinburgh Fringe Theatre Festival) and was an active member of The Eclectic Society.

After college, Cecilia was an actress in New York City and Boston, where she performed as a member of the Chelsea Repertory Theatre, studied at The Acting Studio, and appeared in independent films. Cecilia left acting to participate in a year-long AmeriCorps literacy program, then she attended law school at The University of Maine School of Law. During law school, Cecilia worked at the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, participated in the Protection from Abuse Program, and was a member of the Moot Court Board. After a judicial clerkship, Cecilia worked at a handful of small law firms before becoming an entrepreneur and starting her own law firm. Her partner, Fred Bopp, joined her in 2018, and the firm moved to its new and present location, 121 Main Street in Yarmouth, in 2020.

Continued on next page

New Board Members

Continued from Page 2

In her free time, Cecilia can be found hiking the woods of New Hampshire with her husband Phillip, kickboxing, cooking, baking, reading everything, most particularly history and non-fiction outdoor adventure stories, or hanging out with her daughters, Blythe and Aurora, both of whom attend Wesleyan University!

Kendall Harnett

Born in the Midwest, Kendall Harnett earned his bachelor's degree in Film Studies and Psychology while attending Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. Moving to Chicago he graduated with an M.F.A. in Film Production from Columbia College. Primarily working as a cinematographer in Chicago, he built his professional reputation lensing shows ranging from the sublime (PBS) to the ridiculous (Jerry Springer, COPS) as well as many commercials, documentaries and independent productions. During this time Kendall also taught a variety of film production courses both at Columbia and DePaul University.

In 2004 Kendall and his partner Deanna moved from Chicago with their two young children to Yarmouth, Maine. With the move Kendall's work shifted to focus more on non-for-profit documentaries, affordable marketing design solutions, and professional photography while continuing to serve as a mentor for students both at the high school and collegiate level. As a fulltime faculty member in the New Media Department at Southern Maine Community College he recognizes the challenges students have faced over the last few years and considers it an honor and obligation to try and help them find joy in their education and art production.

Deeply invested in the community Kendall has served on boards, coached a variety of youth sports, and has been involved with both local and national theater production. During his free time Kendall enjoys travel, college basketball, swimming and watching re-runs of Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

Jim Highland

Jim has lived in Yarmouth with his wife Mary for 22 years, and raised their three children here. He was born and raised in Illinois, west of Chicago, and attended Northwestern University, just north of the city. Pursuing his lifelong interest in healthcare, he earned a masters degree in hospital administration, and later a PhD in economics, with a focus on the healthcare field. He is a consultant and Principal at BerryDunn in Portland, and will be retiring from there summer of 2023. Prior to moving to Maine, the family lived in a suburb outside Boston for 6 years. After discovering Maine on weekends, then vacations, it became clear that they had relocated to the wrong state, and rectified that as soon as they could. Jim

has had a lifelong love of history, which was his minor in college, and has a great interest in Yarmouth and Maine history, which his impending retirement will allow more time to indulge. Outside of work, Jim and Mary are members of First Parish Congregational Church in Yarmouth, and enjoy hiking, skiing, and boating in the outdoors. In addition, Jim loves to exercise his research skills and really dig in, and is looking forward to doing so more in the future, particularly on behalf of the Historical Society.

Ted Jordan

Haven "Ted" Jordan lived in Yarmouth from birth until he was 8 years old. Ted's father, Ted Sr, was a Yarmouth Police Officer. His family lived at the intersection of Hillside and Cumberland Streets. It was then just a short driveway with a trail behind their home that went to West Main Street; today Bates Street goes all the way through. Ted graduated from Greely HS in 1978 and attended UMO, starting out in forestry before changing to international relations. During a job at Casco Bank's trust department, Ted's boss "volunteered" him for Junior Achievement. He discovered his love of teaching young people. The following year, Ted enrolled in USM's TSSP program (now ETEP) and earned his teaching certification. He taught for 7 years at Brunswick HS, and among the students he taught there was our History Society's Executive Director, Katie. For the past 25 years, he has taught at Cape Elizabeth HS. Ted and his wife Ellen have six children and two grandchildren. They moved into Ted's paternal grandparents' home on East Main Street in 2015. When Ted and his family moved in, there were two tall willow trees that Ted's grandfather planted in 1968; the tropical storm of October 2016 took down one of them. Among his earliest memories is collecting the horse chestnuts from the tree that is still in the front yard.

Brittany Strout

Brittany Strout is a long time resident of Yarmouth and graduate of the Class of 2007. She is the mother to a current Yarmouth Elementary School student and Clipper athlete. A former Board member of the Yarmouth PTO, Yarmouth Football Association, and Royal River Community Players, she is also a recent addition to the Yarmouth Alumni Association Board. Between chauffeuring her son between events, she can be found with her nose in a true crime book or about town at a sporting event.

Yarmouth Historical Society would like to thank former board members **Tamson Bickford Hamrock**, **Ben Soule**, and **David Ray** for sharing their time and talent with the Society. Thank you for your years of service!

Windows *Continued from Page 1*

Through online searches, we were able to find another church with windows quite similar to ours - the United Church of Penacook, also a very old congregation. However, they didn't know the makers of their windows, either. Eventually, we found out that the congregation of First Baptist Church of Yarmouth essentially were inspired by the design of the First Baptist Church of Westbrook, another of the six Stevens & Cobb churches. It was in the dedication article of the Westbrook church that we first encountered the glaziers Redding, Baird & Co. of Boston. Browsing examples of their work, it seemed to be a match. Now we had a hypothesis but no documentation.

Now, other members of the church had gone through the old church ledgers housed at the Yarmouth Historical Society, looking for the maker of the windows, to no avail. But we contacted Katie Worthing again, on the off-chance that there might be an entry for payment to "Redding, Baird & Co." without any indication that it was for the windows. And success! She found a payment, written in blue ink in a tiny, ruled memo book, maybe 3 inches by 4 inches: "Redding, Baird & Co. \$34.60". It was very satisfying to finally know who had made these works of art that we are working so hard to preserve!

In the west room is another stained glass window that we knew virtually nothing about, other than its dedication to Edith L. Cook, inscribed in the design itself. Looking through the Parish records housed and maintained by the Historical Society, we found that Edith Lucinda Cook died July 16, 1900 at nearly 19 years old and that her parents, Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Cook, who owned the Apothecary across the street, dedicated not just the window, but the entire west room! They did so "at the opening of Sunday School" on June 16, 1901. Indeed, the church, as designed by Stevens & Cook, had two porches - the west-side porch being enclosed by the Cook family to create a new, much needed classroom. In the early days of the new church, Sunday school brought in over hundred children, such that some classes even met in a small room in the belfry. A classroom in Miss Cook's memory pays tribute to her reputation as a very bright student at Yarmouth High School and an active participant in Sunday school, the Young People's Union, and Farther Lights before she died of diabetes.

But as to the maker of the Cook window, we still don't know. Looking through the documents at the YHS reveals that L. R. Cook was heavily involved in the church, often lending money to the church. Thus, it seems likely that the Cook family took care of all the arrangements on their own and that any document trail for the windows would be found in family records, not church records. With the unusual juxtaposition of dark, opalescent glasses and the feathering of the ivy that wreaths the harp, it

Date	Description	Amount
June 16	John T. Griffin bal	18 86
	C. H. Jordan's bill	28 75
23	Removing Shid	1 50
25	Bal on Stone Kelly	7 61
July 2	Muehlen Reflector	178 20
"	F. E. Stuart (settled)	75 00
"	Redding Baird & Co.	34 60
"	Bailey on acct. Carpets	200 00
	Express charge	26
11	Freight on Window	50
		9971 11
16	Y. D. Boardman Loan by Mr.	10 00
23	Stevens & Cobb	73 72
Aug 1	Freight bill	1 06
Sept	One Ladder	2 10
6	Programs	3 27
	Card bricks	9 75
	Circulars	2 00
	Extra Circulars	1 25
		10 074 26

Receipt from the records of the First Baptist Church.

looks to me like the style of Charles F. Hogeman of NYC. On the other hand, Katie Worthing has uncovered receipts for window repair from C. H. Farley of Portland and an entry in the ledger for "train fare" for "Farely's man." Farley was an expert in working with iron and glass, getting his start in nautical instruments before moving on to lenses and stained windows. One would think that repairs would be requested from the original makers of the stained glass, but not necessarily. Indeed, sometimes congregants themselves replaced the glass.

Of course, to us in the church family, more important than the makers of the glass are the inscriptions, many appearing in gold-on-black calligraphy centered within the windows, memorializing the people and missions of the parish. This congregation is historic, having played a critical part of the Baptist awakening that had swept Maine in the 1790s, the spread of Christianity to the Karen people of Burma (now Myanmar), the abolitionist movement and Civil War, and the Sunday school movement. These defining moments are memorialized through the stained glass windows in the 346 Main Street building. As long as the Old Meetinghouse is being preserved, so should 346 Main Street, since much of the history of the former is told in the windows and walls of the latter.

In and Around the History Center

New Role as Caretaker

The Village Improvement Society was one of the last groups of its kind in Maine until it officially disbanded in January. Founded in 1911, the VIS organized restoration and preservation projects in Yarmouth which included creating the Village Green Park, Yarmouth's first public park, establishing a history museum in the Merrill Memorial Library, which eventually became the Yarmouth Historical Society, managing several restoration projects at the Old Meetinghouse, and funding the restoration of the Cousins Island Chapel and Russell Hall at NYA.

As VIS membership declined, the tasks and projects originated by the VIS were taken on by other organizations. The Society will join this group of organizations by accepting the responsibility for the ongoing administration of the Old Baptist Meetinghouse on Hillside Street. Constructed in 1796, the Meetinghouse was commissioned as a Baptist church and used for more than one hundred years. In 1910, the Meetinghouse was donated to the Town and used for town meetings until 1946, and for the following 77 years the VIS, in partnership with the Town of Yarmouth, became the caretakers

of the Meetinghouse. This past fall, the board and staff of the History Center stepped in as the new caretakers and, with the Town of Yarmouth, worked out an agreement for the management of the building. The Society intends to honor the work done by the VIS and ensure that the Meetinghouse continues to be preserved and enjoyed by the community.



Katie Worthing and Nat Tupper formalize new agreement.

We have also taken on the VIS's Historic House Marker Program, which recognizes Yarmouth's older homes with a marker and provides the homeowner with a history of their home. In addition, the VIS has donated their organization's records to the Historical Society so they may be preserved, shared, and used as a resource for the future.

For more information about the Meetinghouse and the Marker Program, please visit our website.

Digital Notes Expanded

The History Center is excited to announce the expansion of *The Shopping Notes* digital archive with issues from 1953-1988 now available online. Viewers can search by keyword or browse by year. Enjoy the look back at Yarmouth's most recent past!

We plan to continue digitizing this collection and welcome any support. To donate visit yarmouthmehistory.org, or mail a check, designated for *The Shopping Notes* project, to PO Box 107, Yarmouth ME 04096, or call the History Center at 207-846-6259.

Thank you for supporting *The Shopping Notes* Project

Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
Rines/Thompson Fund - Maine Community Foundation
Elizabeth and Mark Marin
Catherine M. Morrow
Amy Holway Self
Scott Logan and Carrie McGilvery Logan
Sherry Robinson Anderson
Heidi and Andrew LaBrie
Elizabeth Milton Fortin
Katherine Worthing and Sam Heck

Right: *The Shopping Notes* cover May 1980. Recently, Society member Robert Billings contacted us to say how delighted he was to find a photo of his father, Richard Billings, tilling his garden on this May cover. Consider sharing the memories you find while browsing this digital archive. We would love to hear from you!



Thank You For Supporting the Annual Fund!

Gifts from February 1, 2022 to February 1, 2023

These donations help cover the operations of the History Center, which means that every dollar donated goes toward preserving and sharing the history of Yarmouth. We are grateful for your support.

Beverle M. Aceto
Pamelia B. Adams
and Family
Edward E.
and Rayle R. Ainsworth
Chase Family Fund – Maine
Community Foundation
Nancy Allyn
Sherry Robinson Anderson
Karen Asherman
Hannah and Edward Ashley
Kyo Bannai
and Craig Schneider
Philip O. Bean
Roger Beaulieu
and Jane Gagne
Frederick and Linda Beck
Arthur Bell
and Robin Hodgskin
Julie M. Benavides
David and Judith Berghuis
Marilyn Bickford
Judith Bishop
Dorothy Bradford
Kathleen Brooks
Burt PC Consulting, Inc
Bruce and Eileen Butler
Robert Chamberlain
Phoebe Chandler
Jacqueline Christensen
Dean and Susan Cilley
Gail and Gordon Clark
Carole and Daniel Clark
Madeleine G. Corson
Charitable Foundation
David Cox
James and Anne Cram
Hazel Currier
Sarah and Avery Day
Lila B. Dealaman
Celestine K. Devine
Lyn Donahue
Thomas Downing
and Margaret R. Downing
Douglas and Ina Dressel
William Dunn
Loretta Dyer
Martin Eisenstein
and Gunilla Qvarfordt
Judy Elfring
Paul Engel and
Mary Lynn Engel
Susan Feiner
and Bruce Roberts
Linda Ferreira
Gro Flatebo
and Kent Wommack
Eugenie Francine
and Brian Noyes
Linda Fulda
Lynne and Michael Gawtry
Ted and Candy Gibbons
Sandra Goolden
and Jim Walker
Lisa and Leon
Gorman Fund
Maureen Gorman
and James W. Gorman Sr.
Schuyler and Linda Grant
Richard and Janice Greene
H. William
and Nancy Gregory
Michael Griffin
and Janet Lohmann
Bette Grondin
Nan Haavik
Philip & Christie Harriman
Family Charitable
Foundation
William Harwood
and Ellen Alderman
Robert and Beth Hassett
Peter Haynes
Erik and Ann Hellstedt
Doug and Linda Hermann
James and Mary Highland
John Hodgkins
and Rachel Green
Cheryl Honer-Hickey
Linda Horstmann
and Charles Horstmann
Stephen and Sally Hunt
Alice Wheatland Ingraham
James and Julie Jackson
Patrick and Christina Jackson
James and Julie Jackson
J. Spencer and Emily Jones
Ted Jordan
Bud and Wendy Kellett
John Kelly
Gerard King
and Grace DeGennaro
Caroline and Robert Knott
Jon and Cindy Knowles
Tina Kuhn
Betsy Lane
Paul and Annmarie Lattanzi
Mary and Andre LeMaistre
Edward Libby
and Amy Panagakos
Debra Lindsey
Richard and Lois Lippincott
Carrie McGilvery Logan
and Scott Logan
Dean and Michelle Lunt
Carson Lutes
Rosemary MacKay
William A. Macleod
Elizabeth and Mark Marin
Marstine Family Foundation
Dorothy Reed McAloney
and Ed McAloney
John and Leigh McCarthy
William A. McCue
Jessica and Kevin McGrath
Gayl McNally
Kent and Ann Mohnkern
Frederick and Deborah Molander
Kenneth Moller
Trish Monk
Michael and Heidi Morrill
Catherine M. Morrow
Kenneth Murphy
Chuck and Lisa Murray
Munira and Ali Naqui
Edward D. and Ann Noyes
William and Rita G. Nugent
North Yarmouth Academy
Class of 1961
Barbara Oberg-Higgins
John and Denise Palmer
Esther Pappas
Stephen and Jane A. Parker
Richard and Barbara Parkhurst

Todd Patstone
Chris Paulu
and Lisa Almeder
Julie Pew
Richard Piotrowicz
and Patricia Merrill
Jane E. and Perley E. Plante
Charlie and Liz Poole
F. E. Prinn
Patricia Rabidoux
Leora Rabin
and David Inger
Carl Rapp
David Ray
and Kay Loftus Ray
William Richards
and Sue Ellen Bordwell
Josephine A. Ristich
Robert Robson
Joan Russell
John and Karen Saucier
Wilmington and Arlene Schwind
Curtis and Cornelia Scribner
Lynne Seeley and Peter Lee
David Selleck

Nick and Joan Semenuk
Jean Semonite
Louisa Severance
Amy Sinclair
and Tux Turkel
Thomas G. Sitzmann
Mark and Kimberly Snow
Ben and Betsy McElvein Soule
Carole L. Spruce
Claire Stager
Susie and Gary Starbuck
Sandra Steffeny-Stark
Ann and Glen Stowell
Richard Stower
and Nancy Richards-Stower
Mary and Paul Stuart
Robert and Claire Studley
Robert M. and Jean Swan
Jeffrey Thaler
and Karen Massey
Ann Thayer
Frances Thayer
Kelly and Guy Tillinghast
Peter and Marge Titcomb
Marjorie J. Traub

Nat and Judy Tupper
James Van Fleet
and Sarah Swann Van Fleet
David. Van Slyke
and Susan Granai
Valerie and Henry Vaughan
Guy J. and Eleanor Vigue
Charles and Caroline Vining
Sandra Wachholz
and Richard McWilliams
Cynthia and Joseph Walden
Monte J. Wallace
Leslie Webber
Tracy and Eric Weinrich
Tim and Barbara Wheaton
Judith White
Linda Disston White
Richard Wile
Tim and Elizabeth Williams
Allan Wilson
Richard Woodbury
and Deborah Woodbury

In Remembrance

Gift In Memory of Theresa Charron

Hazel Currier

Gift in Memory of Raymond McLellan

Hazel Currier

In Recognition

Maura Goessling and the History Center for their work and partnership with Stroll Haunted Yarmouth.
Royal River Community Players

Spring Lecture Series

The Lecture Series is sponsored by the Leon and Lisa Gorman Fund

All lectures will be offered in person at the Yarmouth History Center, 118 East Elm Street, Yarmouth

March 15, 7:00, *Coming Home to Cousins Island:* Nancy Hauswald, writer and KISMET Foundation artist in residence, joins us to speak about her current project incorporating her late husband's rich recollections of life on Cousins Island into her own writing and local history research.

April 19, 7:00, *A Glorious Work: The 1791 Religious Revival at First Parish Church:* Historian Holly Hurd shares with us her research into this fascinating episode of local religious history.

May 17, 7:00, *Navigating Our Personal History:* Local author Rick Wile speaks about his newest book "The Geriatric Pilgrim: Tales From the Journey," which describes how making physical pilgrimages helped him see that his life itself has been a pilgrimage, one that began right here in Yarmouth.

June 14, 7:00, *Elizabeth Oakes Smith: Emergence and Fame:* Professor Timothy Scherman shares insight from his new book about Elizabeth Oakes Smith, a poet, novelist, feminist lecturer, essayist, playwright, and mother, who was born in North Yarmouth in 1806.

June 28, 7:00, *Making Maine: Statehood and the War of 1812:* Joshua M. Smith, Director of the American Merchant Marine Museum, speaks about his recent book, which covers important episodes that occurred in North Yarmouth, including a tax revolt in 1814.



For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's



Kennebec Savings Bank



CASCON

tjd&a

MTS MAINE TECHNICAL SOURCE



Brentwood
Center for Health & Rehabilitation



nema NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION



NORTH YARMOUTH ACADEMY

Thank you Business Members!

Museum and Shop Hours Tuesday - Friday 10am to 4pm

Non-Profit
Postage PAID
Permit No. 46

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