



# connecting to place

nature . history . arts

Spring/Summer 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



CHANGE DOES NOT CHANGE TRADITION, IT STRENGTHENS IT . . .

- PRINCE ALBERT

## Honoring Tradition, Celebrating Change

*The State Seal Contest Winner*

So much of what Benjamin Vaughan proposed for the state seal in 1820 still rings true in terms of our identity as modern Mainers - our proud agricultural and maritime industries, our connection to Maine's unique and vast natural world, our "northernness." Yet even those of us charged with honoring Vaughan's legacy recognize that a seal to represent *today's* Mainers could be more inclusive. At VWHH we welcome the growing racial diversity of our state, we value Maine's rich Native American history, and we take pride in Maine having one of the country's largest percentages of female farmers.

In honor of Maine's bicentennial, VWHH, in partnership with the Harlow Gallery, invited Maine artists to submit a proposal for a modern interpretation of the state seal that would honor Vaughan's original emblems

but also show how Maine has grown and changed in 200 years. The intent of the contest was not to replace the original seal, but instead to spark healthy conversation.

Congratulations to the winning artist, Lauren Olson, whose final piece, a woodcut, includes the original emblems but also removes gender from the imagery and seeks to represent Maine's Native American and immigrant populations. Note the Penobscot paddle crossing the scythe and the molokhia leaves, a spinach-like crop grown by Samali farmers in Maine, on the upper left. This summer, VWHH interns will work on a virtual exhibit to further examine this topic.



Stay tuned for a link when the exhibit goes live!

*Wood cut by Lauren Olson*

## Welcome (Remotely!) To Our 2020 Summer Interns

We are excited to welcome three students to our annual summer internship program this year! The team is working remotely from their home states for the bulk of the summer to help create virtual experiences for visitors, transcribe historical documents and contribute to research efforts for our Maine Bicentennial projects.

Katie Concannon hails from North Carolina and is an environmental studies major at Middlebury College.



*Katie Concannon*

Emma Damm is from West Virginia and attends College of the Atlantic.



*Emma Damm*

Hannah Marino hails from Massachusetts and studies history at Colby College.



*Hannah Marino*

We are learning so much on this remote adventure from these motivated and creative students!

If you know someone who might be interested in interning in 2021, visit our website for a full description of the program.

## Diana Gibson Memorial Scholarship

*Supporting Student Experiences In Nature,  
History & The Arts*

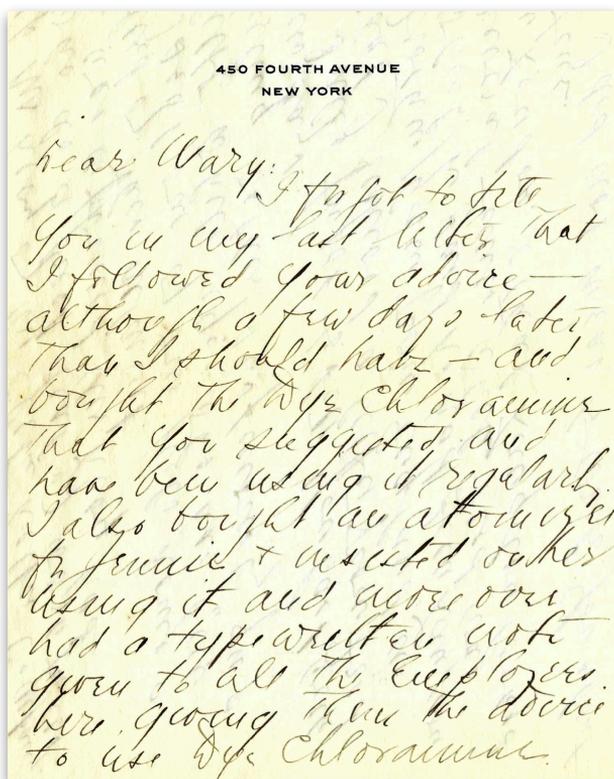
In 2020, the Diana Gibson Memorial scholarship supported the applied learning projects of four seniors from Hall-Dale High School. Any senior at Hall-Dale whose project relates to nature, history or the arts is eligible to apply for funds to purchase necessary materials. Pictured here is Elvin Muradov, an exchange student from Azerbaijan, presenting VWHH with a handmade book in appreciation for his scholarship. Elvin's project was in book making.



*Elvin Muradov*

Since 2002, the Diana Gibson Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Hall-Dale Middle School students for summer experiences and has recently been expanded to include applied learning projects at the high school level.

## From The Archives



Between 1918 and 1920, the Spanish Flu pandemic infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide, and people's experiences are being compared to what we are going through now during the coronavirus pandemic. In this excerpt from a 1918 letter, Mary Vaughan Marvin's brother-in-law writes to her in Hallowell from his home in New York City.

*Dear Mary:*

*I forgot to tell you in my last letter that I followed your advice - although a few days later than I should have - and bought the dye chloramine that you suggested and have been using it regularly. I also bought an atomizer for Jennie and insisted on her using it ...*

*The terrible disease has hit very close homes and amongst my friends and business acquaintances. Will P came down with it on Saturday - a mild case so far I am thankful to say. Ralph Williams' wife telephoned us this morning that Ralph is quite sick with it and a few*

*minutes later Harry H telephoned us his wife is very ill with Spanish Influenza with a temperature of 104. I did not mean to write you about the ailments of so many people. It seemed rather a coincidence to hear of so many people I know all being struck ill in such a short time.*

*With much love to you and the baby. Your affectionate brother in law,*

*E Marvin*

*Monday October 7 1918*

It is easy to imagine Mary sitting on the Homestead porch with her young baby reading this letter and worrying, much as we are today, about friends and family living in areas hit hardest by the epidemic.

There are at least three other letters in the Homestead archives that mention Spanish influenza. From cleaning supplies to closures to fear of the unknown, they feel strikingly similar to a 2020 Facebook feed.

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## Word On The Woods

In late March, VWHH made the difficult decision to close Vaughan Woods due to crowding at the Hallowell Trailhead and on the Corniche Trail, which had caused both a pedestrian safety issue on Litchfield Road and a public health concern due to COVID-19. This followed the closing of other popular outdoor places across the State of Maine for similar reasons.

The trails will reopen on July 15 on a trial basis. Please help us to keep Vaughan Woods open by maintaining appropriate social distancing and parking only in designated spaces. Follow CDC recommendations and have a backup plan, with an alternate destination in mind, in case the lot is full or the trail is busy.



## We Carry On!

A year ago we gathered together as a community (pictured above) to celebrate the 225th anniversary of Vaughan Homestead. Though we will dearly miss gathering with you like this in 2020, our work to support the community and care for the historical resources of VWHH carries on!

In April, while working remotely, VWHH staff collectively sewed upwards of 150 cloth masks which were donated to local a nursing home, a soup kitchen, and even to City Hall.

In May, we created a virtual field trip for Hall-Dale third graders who were unable to attend their annual Simple Machines-themed visit to Vaughan Homestead. The field trip is now available to everyone! Check it out by searching for Vaughan Homestead at [vamonde.com](http://vamonde.com).

In June VWHH volunteers got creative by meeting outdoors on the Homestead porch to continue their research work for our Maine Bicentennial project. Also in June we welcomed three new chickens to our flock - many thanks to sixth grader Liam Wilmot and family for raising the chicks at their home in Hallowell before introducing them to our grown chickens! Finally, in late June, the crew from Off The Beaten Path Trailworks arrived on site to complete the

final stretch of trail repairs on the approach to the High Arch Bridge!

In July, our efforts will be focused on the safe reopening of Vaughan Woods, and we look forward to seeing you, from a distance, out on the trail!



*When Circo, age 6, daughter of Executive Director Kate Tremblay, helps mom by cutting pieces for cloth masks. VWHH Gardener Cindy Gilbert, models a cloth mask she made while working remotely from home.*



*Liam Wilmot, age 12, son of VWHH Business Manager Amy Wilmot, poses with a chick he raised for the Homestead flock. Volunteers Anne Young and Sylvie Charron work six feet apart on the Homestead porch.*

