



connecting to place

nature . history . arts

Spring 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



“This house is old, it carries on Our lives pass on from door to door,
Like lyrics to an old time song, Dust upon the wooden floor,
Always changed but never gone, Feather rain and thunder roar
This house can stand the seasons. We need not know the reason . . .”

— *Lyrics, I Knew This Place* by Dave Mallet

Anniversary Wishes

*2019 Marks Significant Dates For Both Row House
& The Vaughan Homestead*

Congratulations to Row House, Inc., Hallowell’s Historic Society, on its 50th anniversary! In celebration of this important achievement, a series of special public programs has been planned to trace Hallowell’s history from its geologic creation to present day. We were honored to collaborate with Row House this winter for its kickoff event at Hallowell City Hall, in which a video of Vaughan Homestead’s very first public program was shown. The video featured former Hallowell Mayor, Barry Timson giving a presentation at the Homestead in 2004 entitled “Reading The [Geologic] Landscape.” The series continues

throughout the year, and we are looking forward to hosting this summer’s program in our Garden Pavilion. We hope you can join us on Saturday, August 3 to hear Hallowell’s historian, Sam Webber, present on the City’s history from 1797-1850. To learn more about Row House visit rowhouseinc.org.

2019 also marks the 225th anniversary of the Vaughan Homestead, which was built in 1794. A 200 year celebration was put on in 1994 by then residents George and Diana Vaughan Gibson. This year we will mark the anniversary at our annual Garden Party on June 22. We hope to see you there!



HISTORY MYSTERY

In an 1819 letter laying out his suggestions for the elements of the Maine state seal, Benjamin Vaughan argued that an arc representing the northern lights should appear at the top of the seal, writing “When the convention for forming the Constitution of Maine was sitting in Portland, in October last, the appearance of the Aurora were brilliant and frequent; and their visit was repeated in a splendid manner on April 3rd, when we chose our Governor and Legislators; being followed by a number of fair traces of light within the next ten nights. It has seemed things interesting to record what is significant as an emblem, and may to many seem encouraging as an event.”

Ultimately, the committee which decided on the seal incorporated all of Vaughan’s symbols *except* for this one. Which state *does* depict the aurora borealis on its seal?



In this 2014 photograph by Shane Borelli the aurora borealis appears over Portland, behind the Portland Breakwater Light



Answer: Alaska!

Welcome Summer Interns

Keep an eye out for our 2019 interns this summer at Homestead events or out in the Woods! You might see them working on the trails, collecting visitor data, exploring with the summer recreation program students, giving house tours or working in the archives!

Grace Davenport, who will arrive in May, is a graduate student studying historic preservation at the University of Maryland.



Grace Davenport

Kirsten Pelletier hails from Readfield, Maine and is an Environmental Studies major at Bates College. Kirsten will join us in June.



Kirsten Pelletier

Summer interns support Homestead programs and events and take on independent projects related to their area of study.

If you know someone who might be interested in interning in 2020, visit our website for a full description of the program.

Word On The Woods

The Hidden History Of The Corniche Loop

As the weather turns warm and more people visit the Woods, remember that there is ample parking available whenever school is not in session at the Hall-Dale High School Trailhead at 97 Maple Street in Farmingdale. This includes weekends, most evenings and summertime. Though farther from the popular stone bridge area, the pleasant Corniche Loop Trail, accessed here, offers some fascinating, though harder to see, sites.

Corniche Loop Highlights

Heading **Right On The Loop** From The School Trailhead:

- **The Quarry:** A fun picnic spot! Keep an eye out for the small side trail on your left soon after you've gone right onto the Loop. The use of the granite quarried from this hillside is unknown. Perhaps it was used to create the dam or for the Homestead's foundation!
- **The Stone Seat:** Watch for this on the right side of the trail. It marks the spot

where a ski run once began! Sit here and imagine that when it was built one could see out over the Kennebec River and all the way up to the State Capitol! Once upon a time the Vaughans also maintained a rustic "tea house" in this area, which would have afforded a similar view.

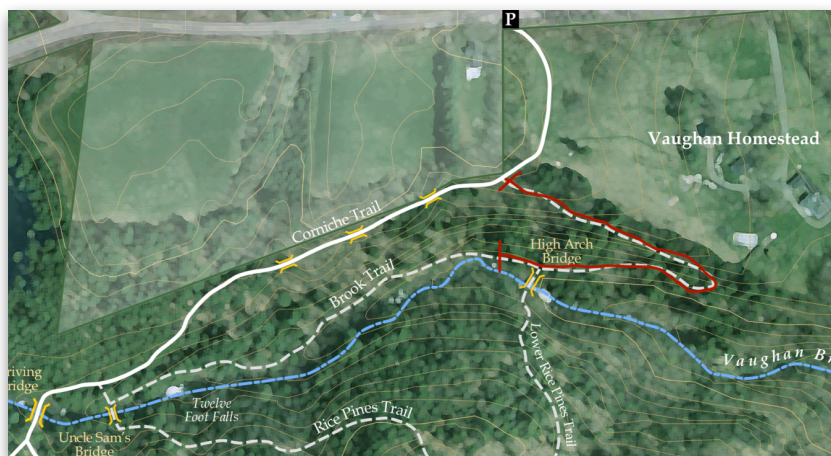
Heading **Left On The Loop** From The School Trailhead:

- **Courier's Spring:** Named for the farmer that once used this land, see if you can spy the starting point of the small stream that runs alongside the Corniche Loop and into Vaughan Brook. You should be able to see the stream from the trail on your right.
- **Cattle Tunnel:** For a real challenge, see if you can find evidence of the old cattle tunnel that allowed cows to pass under the trail into their grazing lands. Look for an unusual indentation in the land beside the trail as you near the dam.

So, fear not if the Hallowell Trailhead is full! There is much to see on the Corniche Loop starting from the High School. It may even take you a few visits to find everything!

Trail Closure

Reconstruction work on a portion of the Brook Trail was postponed last year and will begin in earnest this spring. For the safety of all, the section of the trail marked in red here will be closed to the public during the construction period, estimated to begin in late May and continue into the fall.





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS 2019

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Bee Hotel Workshop For Kids

10:00 a.m. - Noon

\$10/child (Ages 5-12)

Must be accompanied by an adult

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Neighborhood Event:

Maypole Dance

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Free

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Garden Party

Invitations to come

\$25/person

TUESDAYS, JULY - AUGUST

Tuesday Tours of

Vaughan Homestead (By Reservation)

10:00 a.m. *Call (207) 622-9831 to reserve space*

\$10/person

THURSDAYS, JULY - AUGUST

Guided History Hikes of

Vaughan Woods (By Reservation)

Call (207) 622-9831 to reserve space

\$5/person

JULY 19, AUGUST 2, AUGUST 16, &
SEPTEMBER 6

Folk Fridays:

An Informal, Multigenerational Gathering to Play Music

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Free. All players welcome!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Row House Presentation:

History of Hallowell 1797-1850

By Hallowell Historian Sam Webber

Gates open at 3:30

Talk at 4:00 p.m. in the Garden Pavilion

Free to the public, Parking is first-come-first served

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Family Movie On The Lawn

Gates open at 7:15

Movie at 7:30

Free

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Neighborhood Event:

Fall Celebration

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free



**Vaughan Woods &
Historic Homestead**

More information & reservations at
vaughanhomestead.org

2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell, ME | (207) 622-9831 | vaughanhomestead.org