



Found: 4 layers deep front bedroom

connecting to place

nature . history . arts

Spring/Summer 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



I THINK HOUSES LIVE THEIR OWN LIVES ALONG A TIME-STREAM THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES UPON WHICH THEIR OWNERS FLOAT, ONE THAT'S SLOWER. IN A HOUSE, ESPECIALLY AN OLD ONE, THE PAST IS CLOSER.

- STEPHEN KING, BAG OF BONES

reach the plaster, wallpaper must come down, and quite literally, the past is just behind it.

What Lies Beneath

Peeling Back Time

Like so many homeowners during the long quiet days of the pandemic, here at Vaughan Homestead we turned our attentions to "home improvement projects," or more accurately, for an historic house museum, to

interior restoration and preservation projects.



Found: hall closet

In an old place like the Homestead, which was built in 1794 and inhabited by one family over seven generations, a person almost always feels close to the past. But recently, as we work on plaster repairs throughout the house, we have found this feeling to be especially true. To



Found: back bedroom



Found: upstairs den



Found: upstairs hall

There is something

incredibly tangible about the passing of time as one peels back layer after layer. What we find is much more than just pretty old designs, rather, we see eras of style representative of cultural change over time - the victorian era, the arts and crafts movement, colonial revivalism. It is miraculous that the papers have survived at all, which is why we are meticulously documenting our process, photographing our finds and saving samples when possible, thus preserving bits and pieces of the past!

We look forward to welcoming people back to the Homestead next year to share the results of this rewarding work.

Many Hands Make Light Work

As Music Room Restoration Begins!

The Music Room, part of a two-story octagonal addition, has remained much the same as when it was built in 1889. Unlike older sections of the house, the original wallpaper hung in this room until May of this year. After over a century of use and natural aging, as well as water damage to the plaster walls, wallpaper, ceiling and wood floors (caused by various factors, all now remedied), this special room is in need of restoration.

VWHH staff members pitched in to get the room ready this spring. First, the portraits had to be packed in special boxes and put away for safe keeping. Business Manager Amy Wilmot worked with local frame restorer Johanna Moore, to make this happen. Then, Director Kate Tremblay and Gardener Cindy Gilbert painstakingly cleaned mold and dust from the disassembled grand piano. Many thanks to Peter Cary and the Pro Moving crew who packed it up and took it away to a storage facility! Curator Jeff Wainoris spent two days wrapping and boxing the ceramics from the corner shelves. And finally, Property Manager Dan Mitchell headed up the removal of the block-printed floral wallpaper which will be professionally reproduced this fall using traditional methods by Adelphi Paper Hangings.

Extensive ceiling repairs are underway through May, at which time the floors and woodworking will receive our attention. The couch present in the picture below

was found in storage and will be returned to the room after being re-upholstered.

Stay tuned for photos when all of the work is complete!



The Music Room c. 1890



Johanna Moore packs up the 1754 Vaughan family portrait in a custom-built box that she made at her studio.



Cindy and Kate de-mold the piano.



The Pro Moving Crew hauls the piano away to a storage facility.



Property Manager Dan Mitchell removes wallpaper.

Staff & Board Update

Welcome to our newest Board Member Nona Thompson who has served on our volunteer team as a docent and researcher for over five years. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board! Nona lives in Hallowell with her husband, Steve.



Nona Thompson

Welcome also to Property Manager Dan Mitchell who comes to us from nine years of owning and operating his own company, River Road Restoration. He is also on the board for University of Maine Augusta Senior College where he teaches classes in historic architecture. Dan resides in Sidney with his wife, Nancy.



Dan Mitchell

Many thanks to outgoing Board Member Chris Myers-Asch and former Property Manager Pete Coffin. In addition to lending his wisdom and thoughtfulness to the board, Chris, pictured at left below, served as the chairperson of the Woods Committee, was active in programs with his family, and pitched in out on the trails! Pete, pictured below at right, contributed not only to the buildings and grounds, but also lent a hand during educational programs, like our first ice-cutting demonstration for Hall-Dale fourth graders!



Chris Myers Asch: Maypole Dance, Hall-Dale Day of Caring, Sledding Party | Pete Coffin: Ice Cutting Demo, Community Work Day



A glimpse inside: Liberty Hall Pantry, Grandma's Bedroom, and the upstairs Study/Reading Room

Programs & Events

- **Self-Guided Garden Tours:**
Limited hours in August TBD.
Visit vaughanhomestead.org for updates.
- **Bicentennial Exhibits:**
 - VWHH State Seal Contest winning design on exhibit at the Hubbard Library through June 1.
 - VWHH History Through Women's Fashion Exhibit at the Hubbard library beginning June 1.
 - For more of Hallowell's Maine Bicentennial programming visit hallowellhistory.org.

DONATE

Over the past year we have been more grateful than ever before for community support.

Please consider giving in 2021 to fund the ongoing care of the trails and bridges of Vaughan Woods as well as the restoration of the Homestead house museum. Donations may be made online or via the enclosed envelope.

We appreciate your yearly support!



For more information about the state seal contest visit: <https://sites.google.com/vaughanhomestead.org/state-seal-contest/home> or head to the Hubbard Library in May to see the original piece by Maine artist Lauren Olson!



**Vaughan Woods &
Historic Homestead**

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