



connecting to place

nature . history . arts

Spring 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



“Our landscapes connect us to our history;
they are the source of our character as a people, as
well as our health, our safety, and our prosperity...”

- *Robert Kennedy, Jr.*

Grant Honors Long-Ago Victory

When a stray bit of ash from the factories along the brook below the Homestead blew into William Warren Vaughan's cup while he was having tea on the porch in the late 1800s, he became determined to buy back the family lands adjacent to the house that had become industrialized - so goes one version of oral history. Whether or not it was the ash in his tea that inspired him, William was successful in his endeavors to restore the area to its former beauty. The reacquisition of the various parcels of land that today comprise Vaughan Woods was a process he described as “slow and tedious and in one case litigious.” A boundary dispute in 1900 was settled in a

dramatic court case that, in William's words to his descendants “saved the Great Falls for you.” He deconstructed the Wire Mill Dam obtained in the case and then built the High Arch Bridge, which still stands today and provides a stunning view of the Falls below.

More than a century later, a \$117,000 Recreational Trails Program grant through the Maine Department of Agriculture & Forestry and the Bureau of Public Parks & Lands will restore this same area. The project is set to begin this summer and will reconstruct 580 feet of steep trail, repair the southern abutment of the bridge, and build a stone staircase for access to the brook. Another victory for the Great Falls!



HISTORY MYSTERY

Which historical figure portrayed in the musical *Hamilton* was a relation of the Vaughans?



Answer: Close friend to Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens is a major character in the play and was the real life brother-in-law to the Homestead's first residents, Benjamin and Sarah Vaughan. Laurens was married to Sarah's sister, Martha Manning. This portrait of John Laurens' father Henry, with whom Benjamin worked closely during the negotiations for the Treaty of Paris, hangs in the Homestead study.

Acquisition of Historic Schoolhouse

Both history and location make the property at 1 Bridge Street in Hallowell the perfect addition to the historic educational campus of Vaughan Homestead. Built in 1878 by the City of Hallowell to serve as the Vaughan School, the house sits on property that was part of the original Homestead grounds and has been home to several generations of school houses beginning as early as 1842. A private residence for more than a century, the Bridge Street house sits just north of the Homestead entrance gates on Litchfield Road in Hallowell.

With a vision of making the Homestead and its collection more accessible to the public, creating appropriate winter work space for staff and volunteers (only a very small portion of the Homestead is heated!), increasing the capacity of the organization's internship program through housing, welcoming visiting scholars and bringing its plan for an artist-in-residence program to fruition, the VWHH Board of Directors voted in March to acquire the Bridge Street house by transferring some of the organization's assets into real estate. The purchase was finalized in early April. A portion of the document collection will be moved to Bridge Street this spring to make space for necessary restoration work in the upstairs rooms of the 1794 Homestead, and a Kennebec Land Trust intern will be housed there beginning in June.

The rich history of the Vaughan School site on Bridge Street blends seamlessly with the interpretive story of the Homestead. The acquisition will greatly support the organization's programming mission and allow for more efficient restoration and care of the Homestead and its collection.



Students pictured in front of the Vaughan School c. 1880

Applied Learning at Vaughan Homestead

What do chickens and the Makers Movement have in common? They're both part of applied learning projects taking place at Vaughan Homestead this spring in partnership with Hall-Dale High School.

Applied learning is the process of putting academic principals into practice in a real-life setting.

Junior Grace Moulton will begin her senior Capstone Project to raise chickens when baby chicks (yeah) arrive at the Homestead this spring. Grace has researched breeds that will winter well, fit in with the historic character of the grounds and lay blue eggs. A chicken coop will be placed on the south side of the barn, where an animal pen may be seen in this c. 1860 photograph.



The barn pictured here is the same one that stands at the Homestead today, though it was significantly renovated in the late 1800s.

In June, VWHH will welcome eight students in their freshman through junior years who are participating in a 3-day Makers Movement workshop offered by teacher Jennifer Paisley and Emily ___ for Hall-Dale's Applied Learning program. Students and teachers will be work with Homestead staff to make candles using antique forms, build

step stools in the shop, bake bread in the beehive oven in the kitchen and much more.



Kate, Amy, Ellen, Pete, Cindy, Bruce, Jeff, Ron, Jane

2018 Staff Team

Kate Tremblay
Executive Director

Amy Wilmot
Business Manager

Ellen Gibson & Pete Coffin
Property Managers

Cindy Gilbert & Bruce Wheeler
Groundskeepers

Jeff Wainoris
Curator & Docent

Ron Kley & Jane Radcliffe
Curators, Museum Research Associates



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS 2018

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Neighborhood Maypole Dance

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

No fee

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Volunteer Work Day

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Please Sign-Up In Advance

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Garden Party

Invitations to Come

\$25/person

TUESDAYS, JULY - AUGUST

Tuesday House Tours

Please Call For Reservations

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Outdoor Family Movie

Gates open at 7:15 p.m., Movie at 7:30

No fee

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

OCTOBER 13-14

Cigar Box Guitar Making for Kids

Must Pre-Register

Details To Come

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Community Fall Celebration

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

No fee

Information & Reservations:

vaughanhomestead.org

(207) 622-9831



Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead

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