



# connecting to place

nature . history . arts

SPRING 2022

## THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



“WITHOUT COMMON CARE AND COMMON PRACTICE [PATHS] DISAPPEAR: OVERGROWN BY VEGETATION, PLOWED UP OR BUILT OVER ... LIKE SEA CHANNELS THAT REQUIRE REGULAR DREDGING TO STAY OPEN, PATHS **NEED** WALKING.”

- ROBERT MACFARLANE, *THE OLD WAYS*

### Paths *NEED* Walking . . .

If walking on paths keeps them open, then surely utilizing and visiting historic sites keeps them alive and relevant. House museums like Vaughan Homestead are important as both repositories of community history and as places to create new community stories. So just as “paths **NEED** walking,” house museums **NEED** visiting. In this way, we are all connected as caretakers, collectively carrying on our special places and stories while also making new memories together. This is why we here at VWHH are especially looking forward to a broad swath of programs and hosted events in 2022. To name a few, in June we’ll welcome the Hall-Dale third graders for a simple machines themed field trip in and around the

Homestead and the juniors and seniors for Prom. This summer participants from the Hall-Dale Summer Recreation program will visit each week for outdoor education, the house and gardens will be open to the public for tours, and the Gaslight Theatre will perform shows throughout Old Hallowell Day Weekend in the Garden Pavilion.

We hope *your* path will head in our direction this season!



*Monmouth area friends and hiking group on the Driving Bridge in May. They have been hiking together for 40+ years, with a motto of “Slow, but moving!”*



*VWHH staff members Dan Mitchell and Cindy Gilbert demonstrate traditional ice cutting tools for Hall-Dale Elementary School 4th graders*



*22 inches of ice on Cascade Pond 3/1/2022*

## Pure Cascade Ice!

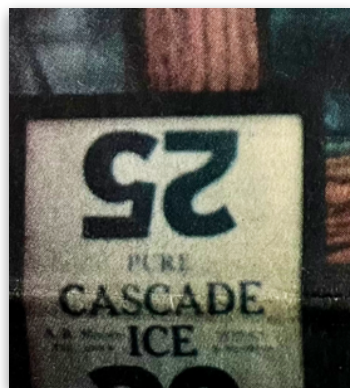
When Arthur Moore Senior was harvesting ice on Cascade Pond for the citizens of Hallowell back in the early to mid 1900s, his rule was as follows: two inches thick for people to walk on (please don't use this rule for yourself!), four inches thick for horses, and 24 inches thick for harvesting. He wanted the ice to be as thick as possible so it would last through the summer and into the fall in his ice house on Summer Street. In some years he still had ice left over from the previous year when he began his harvest!

When Hall-Dale fourth graders visited with us this March to learn about the Moore Ice Company and see a demonstration cut on Cascade Pond, the ice measured at 22 inches deep! Arthur Moore might have wanted a couple more inches, but, as VWHH staff

members will attest, it is no small task to cut and haul a 22-inch thick block of ice out of the pond!

This marked the second year of the program, and it continues to evolve as we learn more about the process. This year, VWHH's property team was able to haul several blocks back to the Homestead where they packed it in sawdust in an insulated box that they had built weeks before. The ice box is now stored in the basement of the barn where the air stays cool throughout the summer. Letters from the VWHH archive indicate that the Homestead once had its own ice shed for use by the household.

In a few weeks the Hall-Dale fourth graders will come back to the Homestead, and we will attempt to make ice cream using our Cascade Ice!



*Moore Ice Company sign used by Hallowell customers in their windows to indicate how many pounds of ice they wanted delivered - 25 or 30*



*Cascade ice harvested in March 2022 and still going strong mid-May!*



# Many Hands Make Light Work

## Welcome Summer Interns

In June we will welcome summer interns Lily Stowe-Alekman and Christopher Loos. Lily recently graduated from Smith College with a degree in history, including an archives concentration. Chris is a graduate student at the University of Delaware pursuing a Master of Arts in History and a graduate certificate in museum studies. We can hardly wait until they arrive!



*Lily Stowe-Alekman*



*Christopher Loos*

## Volunteers Interpreters Are Back At It!

After an almost two-year Covid hiatus, we have invited our trusty team of volunteer interpreters to begin meeting regularly again. Each Wednesday afternoon they may be found here at the Homestead transcribing historic documents, gathering information for future presentations and tours, organizing objects in the collection, and preparing for upcoming programs and school visits.



## Appreciation

Thank you to the Blue Marble Geographics staff members who volunteered for a day this spring doing landscaping around the Homestead. Thanks also to Hall-Dale High School students Bethany Ives and Guara Mehta for their hours of service this spring digitizing documents and helping out the property team.

*Anne Young, Sylvie Charron, Diane Maillet, Jeff Wainoris, Nona Thompson, Karen Simpson*

## Sneak Peak

*Staff Pick, by Kate*

This upstairs closet is one of my favorite places in the Homestead to spend a minute or two gazing. I love the hodgepodge of oddly shaped baskets, empty boxes, fans, lampshades . . . Though the collections catalogue tags indicate that the closet is highly organized, it is the *disorganized* look of it that I like. Nothing quite fits or stacks neatly together, each object on its own perhaps not very interesting, but all together, surprisingly lovely. I feel I am simultaneously gazing at a piece of art while also poking around at a yard sale - both equally enjoyable!





*Trout Lily on Vaughan Woods' Corniche Trail*

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### House and Garden Tours

Come see what's new at Vaughan Homestead! The house will be open for guided tours and the grounds for self-guided tours between 10 a.m. and noon on Thursdays throughout the summer, July 14 - September 1. Please check [vaughanhomestead.org](http://vaughanhomestead.org) for details. The gardens will also be included in the Hallowell Area Summer Gardens Tour offered by the Hallowell Citizens Initiative on July 23 - tickets to go on sale through HCI at the end of June, location TBA.

### Gaslight Theater

Gaslight theater is at it again this summer! The Vaughan Homestead Garden Pavilion will be hosting Gaslight's production of "I Hate Shakespeare" by Steph DeFerie, on July 15, 16 and 17. Friday and Saturday will be early evening performances and Sunday will be a matinee. The show is a comedy presenting many Shakespearean vignettes from a modern (and sometimes silly) point of view. Come and bring a chair, blanket or maybe even a snack and make it an event! For more information visit [gaslighttheater.org](http://gaslighttheater.org) or call 207-626-3698 starting in mid-June.

## Please Support VWHH

Donations to VWHH this spring will support community programming and maintenance of the trails and grounds. Your help makes access to these resources continue to be available to the people of Hallowell and beyond!



**Vaughan Woods &  
Historic Homestead**

**2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell, ME | [vaughanhomestead.org](http://vaughanhomestead.org)**