



connecting to place

nature . history . arts

FALL 2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD

HE PUT IN A LITTLE GATE WITH THE EXPRESS INTENTION OF BEING
ABLE TO HOLD IT OPEN ONE DAY FOR SOME POTENTIAL VISITOR WHO
MIGHT COME CALLING . . .

– ROBERT SEETHALER, “A WHOLE NEW LIFE”



Symbol of Welcome Returns

The Pineapples Are Back!

If you’ve visited the Homestead recently, then you likely noticed the beautiful new pineapples gracing the entrance gate. The gate and posts were gifts to Mary Vaughan Marvin and her father William Vaughan in 1930 from Mary’s husband Langdon Marvin. The original pineapples were created by family friend and renowned woodcarver J. Gregory Wiggins whose work may be found at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Trinity College, St. Paul’s and Pomfret Schools, and in private collections. A traditional symbol of hospitality and welcome, the pineapples were greatly missed after they were taken down due to rot in 2015. . . . *cont’d: turn the page to learn more about the gate posts and the many people who were welcomed through them in 2022!*



Wood Carvers At Work: Left: J. Gregory Wiggins who carved the original pineapples in 1929 at work in his studio; then Massachusetts College of Art student August Rudy carving one of the new pineapples in 2017; Ellen Gibson, who carved the second new pineapple, installing the pieces in 2022.

Symbol Of Welcome cont'd

Ellen Gibson, then VWHH Executive Director and also the granddaughter of Langdon Marvin who gifted the gates to the Homestead, took on the project of replicating the pineapples. A talented woodworker and sculptor,

Ellen is a self-taught carver who got her start as a child with her pocket knife! Her largest project to date is four carved wreaths for a Virginia church. To create the new pineapples, Ellen first enlisted Rebecca Peterson from Roslindale, Massachusetts to “turn” the blocks from Western Red Cedar. Woodturning is the craft of using a wood lathe to cut a shape that is symmetrical around an axis of rotation. Ellen then enlisted August Rudy, who was at the time a student at Massachusetts College of Art where Ellen taught for many years. Together they carved the intricate leaves and pineapple design into the turned blocks. The pineapples were painted and installed in the spring of 2022 and stand tall waiting to welcome you to the Homestead!



Original architectural drawing for the gate c. 1929



Original pineapple with new one

Sneak Peak - Favorite Nooks & Hidden Places

Staff Pick by Amy Wilmot

This corner of Liberty Hall is one of my favorite spaces at the Vaughan Homestead.

The old chair invites you to sit in the sunlight and drink a cup of tea with a coworker, volunteer or visitor. This corner is a blend of the old and the new with the old china and the glasses in the cabinet purchased from Reny's (a favorite shopping place of Diana Vaughan Gibson), the copper colored modern electric tea kettle... all with the purpose of welcoming a guest. In the window, you see the magical wooden ladder and a sculpture by Ellen Gibson. The door with the window leads through a secret passageway of sorts to the dining room that entertained seven generations of families and guests. This corner of Liberty Hall is a very peaceful space where you can imagine each generation enjoying time looking out the window at wildlife and birds. As I write this, two deer are just beyond the view of the main window, chewing on the grass near the garden beds. This peaceful corner symbolizes the British meaning of “Liberty Hall” - a room inviting freedom to do as you wish, inviting guests to come as they are.



Annual Report - 2022

Programs & Exhibits

- Simple Machines Field Trip, Hall-Dale 3rd Grade
- Ice Cutting Field Trip on Cascade Pond, Hall-Dale 4th Grade
- Waterville ESL (English as a Second Language) Student Field Trip
- Summer House Tours
- Hall-Dale Summer Recreation Program
- Weekly Outdoor Education K-8 Field Trips
- Summer College Internship Program
- Senior College Historic Architecture Class House Visit
- Fall Community Gathering



Hosted Events & Community Service Groups

- Hall-Dale Prom
- Gaslight Theatre
- Garden Yoga
- UMaine Augusta Freshmen Orientation Service Project
- Summit Utilities Staff Service Day
- Hall-Dale 7th Grade Day of Caring Trail and Grounds Work

Continued . . .

Garden yoga, Summit Utilities day of service crew, summer interns Chris Loos and Lily Stowe-Alekman, Hall-Dale Summer Recreation Program students make twig boats for racing in the stream, Hall-Dale 3rd Graders learn how to work VVWHF's c. 1900 granite derrick during their 2022 Simple Machines field trip (the derrick was used in the building of the smaller Vaughan Woods' bridges between 1900 and 1915 and likely aided in the creation of other early trail structures like stone retaining walls), and finally, Hall-Dale Prom!





Before & After: left: Black mold, water stains, fading, insect damage, deteriorating paper and over a century of dirt were present on the wallpaper throughout the Music Room prior to the paper's removal last year. right: Professional museum wallpaper hanger Kate Shattuck applies newly reproduced wallpaper in August. The 1889 block-printed paper was re-created using traditional methods by Adelphi Paper Hangings. We're looking forward to a grand re-opening of the room in 2023!

Lands & Buildings Improvements

- Window Restoration (7 in 2022)
- Records Room Shelving
- Archives Storage Closet Shelving
- Kitchen Chimney Repair
- Music Room Restoration
- Landscape Drainage Project
- Basement Bulkhead Rebuild
- Chicken Coop Improvements
- Trail maintenance - water bars and wood chips

Collections Projects & Restoration

- Seven Generations of Music Project
- Art Restoration - Sarah Vaughan watercolors and American Philosophical Society membership papers reframed.



Kitchen chimney repairs!

“How Farmerish We Have Become”

In 1852 Anne Warren Vaughan wrote to her son Ben, “How farmerish we have become. The cows are producing milk and Hannah is taking some to town. They are making butter and



soap . . .” Today, some of that spirit is returning to the Homestead. Four new additions to our chicken flock have added a lovely mix to our daily egg collection. Local beekeeper Larry Davis yielded enough honey from the hives he keeps at the Homestead to sell bottles at the Maine Market

downtown. And VWHH property manager Dan Mitchell added pear and grape fermenting to his cider making efforts!



Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead

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