



Hall-Dale Summer Recreation Program students racing twigs with Homestead staff

bits & pieces

stories of nature, history & community

FALL 2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



A BRIDGE IS A MEETING PLACE, A POSSIBILITY, A METAPHOR . . .

- Jeanette Winterson

Update on Bridges Restoration Project

Focus shifts to Corniche Trail Bridges

"I remember our triumph in [the Corniche Road's] completion, for the wiseacres assured us a road could not be built on a steep clay slope. But we did build it there, and there it stayed for twenty odd years."

- William Warren Vaughan, 1931

In the Homestead "house diary" of 1911, William Warren Vaughan recorded the construction of the Corniche Road (today the main trail from the Hallowell trailhead to the dam), and its three stone bridges—700 feet of roadway in all—completed for just \$1,590, including materials and labor. By 1931, he

proudly noted their durability: "twenty odd years." Imagine his satisfaction knowing that more than a century later, those same bridges still stand strong without major repairs. Before the Corniche Road's construction, the family had to travel up Litchfield Road to cross the
cont'd . . .



William W. Vaughan (far right) and Corniche Road crew, 1911.

... cont'd *Update On Bridges*

1909 Driving Bridge on their way to Tea House Hill (behind Perkins Lane). Though the Corniche bridges have served



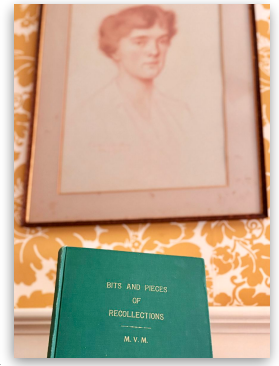
Lower Corniche Bridge

faithfully since their completion, time and weather have begun to take their toll. After enduring over a hundred years of Maine's freeze-thaw cycles, the stonework is showing signs of wear. This fall, VWHH launched the next phase of its long-term Bridges Restoration Project, turning its attention to the Corniche bridges. Calderwood Engineering has completed detailed surveys in preparation for a repair plan to be developed over the winter. VWHH is now seeking grant funding and individual donations to support restoration work, anticipated for 2026.

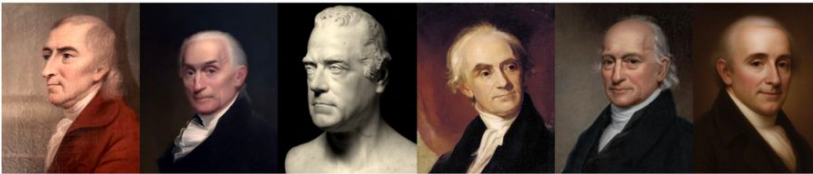
Bits & Pieces

A New Name for Our Newsletter

Our newsletter takes its new name from *Bits & Pieces of Recollections* (1960), Mary Vaughan Marvin's memoir that continues the story begun by her father, William Warren Vaughan, in his 1932 memoir. Together, their writings capture the life and legacy of the Homestead across generations. In one story, Mary reflects on the early grass tennis court below the flower garden, recalling the spot as "the scene of uncontrollable laughter." Today, that laughter lives on as children continue to play in the same spot—linking past and present in the same joyful spirit. It is in honor of that spirit and her reflections that we chose to name our newsletter after her memoir.



New Online Exhibit — Now Live



SCAN ME!

A Legacy In Conflict

Samuel Vaughan & Sons—Men of Enlightenment, Agents of Enslavement

We invite you to explore this interactive **ArcGIS StoryMap** of Samuel Vaughan's family business in trade and shipping, all dependent on the Atlantic slave economy. This digital narrative presents a new way to examine the Vaughan family's legacy spanning transatlantic commerce, plantation slavery, revolutionary politics, and philanthropic ideals. Weaving together the Vaughan Homestead's primary source collection of archival documents, maps, correspondence, and more, the StoryMap provides a compelling and interactive storytelling experience that encourages a deeper engagement with the Vaughans' family history. By recognizing that the Vaughans' wealth and influence were built on the exploitation of enslaved labor, we aim to challenge and confront these historical contradictions while honoring the lives of those whose labor made the Vaughans' contributions possible.



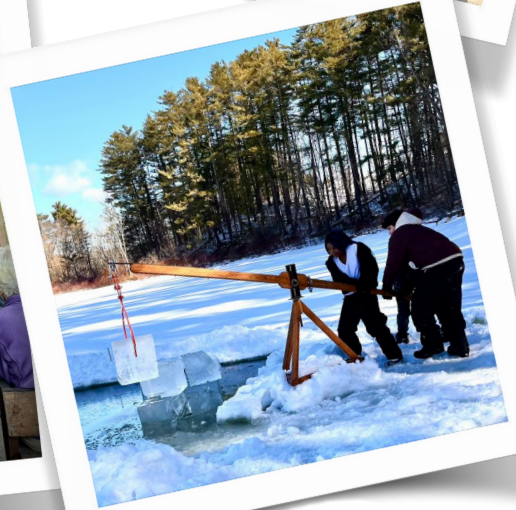
Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead | Hallowell, ME | vaughanhomestead.org

Scan the QR code to view exhibit — not sure how to do this? No problem. Just visit our website, vaughanhomestead.org, and scroll down to "Spotlight" where you will find a direct link to the interactive ArcGIS StoryMap site.

Annual Report - 2025

Programs & Exhibits

- Ice Cutting Field Trip, Hall-Dale 4th Grade
- Historians Love Maps Field Trip, Hall-Dale 3rd Grade
- Community Maypole Dance
- Night Out At The Museum: Rural Socrates Talks by Andrew Lawler, Seth Goldstein and John Leeke
- Annual Spring Garden Party
- Old Hallowell Day Parade Float
- Summer House Tours for the Public
- Summer Recreation Program week of outdoor education programming
- Summer College Internship Program
- Fall Community Gathering
- “Tiny Farm” program (providing eggs and produce, as available, for those in need)
- Empty Bowl Supper



Garden party guests await their turn to see the “Magic Lantern Show,” Property Crew member Stephen Castner paints bridge for VWHH’s Old Hallowell Day Parade float (it won 1st prize!), Seth Goldstein Talk on Maine & The Atlantic Slave Economy, Hall-Dale 4th graders haul ice from Cascade Pond during annual field trip to learn about Hallowell’s historic ice harvest.

Hosted Events & Community Service Groups

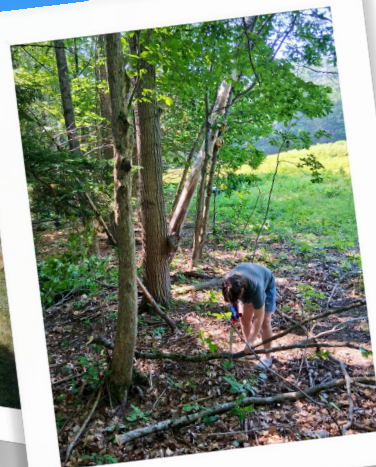
- Gaslight Theater Summer Performances
- Maine Preservation's Jane's Walk Host Site 2025
- Hall-Dale 7th Grade Day of Caring

Lands & Buildings Improvements of Note

- Tree Planting around grounds
- Invasive Species Management Project (now ongoing)
- New basement windows (but more to go!)

Collections

- Dedication of new Radcliffe Kley Reference Collection
- Two paintings restored



Gaslight Theater sign at Homestead gates for summer performances, Hall-Dale 7th Grade Day of Caring community service project, VWHH Property crew building new stairs in flower garden and planting new elm trees, summer high school volunteer Pax Horn cutting invasive in the Woods



Thank You 2025 Business
Partners - Making our
Community Programs
Possible!

Pro Moving Services
Gosline's Hardware
Kramer's
Longfellow's Greenhouses
Quality Copy
Sarah Dunkel and Associates

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