

Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield

372 Fields Pond Rd., P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 04474, (207) 205-4849
70 Elm Street P.O. Box 28, Newfield, ME, Director: (207) 205-4849

... Step back in time!

January, 2017

Museum Director's Message:

We certainly have hit the ground running this 2017 season as we have taken on a new name, a new campus in Newfield, Maine, a new director, a new collection gifted from 19th Century Willowbrook Village, new constructions and renovations and a series of new and exciting programming this winter. This past week we had our **Annual Gathering & Recognition Luncheon at Jeff's Catering in Brewer**; there was much enthusiasm in the air as honored guests affirmed their support for the development of a museum village underway at our Fields Pond campus.

We now anticipate our **8th Annual Ice Harvest on Fields Pond on Sat., Feb. 4, 10-2**. This free event embodies our hands on educational mission inviting the public to take up an ice saw or a pair of tongs and help us take in a crop of ice cakes. We will have \$5 horse drawn bobsled rides available with two teams of draft horses on the property. John Boyce of Lee will be pulling our **18 foot bobsled** for rides with his Belgians; the sled was re-wooded with the aid of the Women's Re-Entry Program at Maine State Corrections in Alfred under the supervision of Chuck Hayden. That program will re-wood our snow roller this winter down in Newfield in the coming months.

There is also the gifted **Marsh Hay Sled** which was repaired last winter and used at Willowbrook's ice harvest. We brought this up from Newfield to use with the aid of Sonny Richard of Windham's Belgians at the harvest. In addition to horse and sled rides you will see our Model 50 John Deere fitted with

Our 2017 Season

Post-WWII AARPS half tracks pulling an ice scoot (both tracks and scoot once used by Tom Flagg of Lincolnville); we will load up our harvest on this and pulling it up to farmhouse where we will put a cake in our gifted Eddy Ice Box that will be on permanent exhibit in the Curran kitchen. New board member Madge Nickerson will have a crew of volunteers in the Curran kitchen with hot chili, cornbread, cocoa, coffee and lots of goodies for sale.

We will have another **Ice Harvest on the Mill Pond (NEWFIELD) on Sat., Feb. 11, 10-3**. In addition to hands-on participation in taking in a crop of ice at this free event, we will also have two teams of Belgians giving rides on bobsleds, \$5. See a team of draft ponies too that will pull a sleigh around the grounds. Hot chili, cornbread and other food and drink for sale. Experience picturesque Maine.

During the school break, February 18 & 19, 9AM-3PM, Sessions A thru D, & February 25, 9AM-3PM, Session E & F, we will offer our first CABIN FEVER RELIEF CLASSES at the Red Barn Building at the NEWFIELD campus. Snack provided for morning and afternoon sessions. Bring your own lunch. \$40 per session. Two days for \$60. All three days a bargain at 90 per child. RSVP: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com or (207) 205-4849.

SESSION A: Sat., Feb. 18, 9-11:30, 11:30-12Noon (Lunch), 12Noon-3PM. **Foot Treadle Sewing Machine Sewing & Hand Sewing.** Learn to operate a foot treadle sewing machine, thread the

Cabin Fever Relief Classes

needle, do simple stitches and complete a project. In the afternoon, learn to sew by hand. Learn a number of stitches and complete a project. Instructor: Madge Nickerson & Ruth Durfee.

SESSION B: Sat., Feb. 18, 9AM-11:30AM, 11:30AM - 12Noon (Lunch), 12Noon-3PM. **Learn Mortise & Tenon Joinery: Make Wooden Handle Hack Saw.** Using hand tools students will create two mortise and tenon joints out of maple wood. Using metal hardware and a blade students will fashion a hacksaw in the style of an old school bucksaw (Bring it home). Instructor: Daniel Blekken

SESSION C: Sat., Feb. 18, 9-11:30, 11:30-12Noon (Lunch), 12Noon-3PM. **Make & Learn To Use A Log Scale Stick & Make A Wooden Tool Box.** Working with a retired US Forestry Service Forester create a log scale stick used to estimate the height of trees and the amount of lumber contained in them. In the afternoon, make a pre-cut tool box with a wooden dowel handle. Instructor: David Welsch & Bob Schmick.

SESSION D: Sun., Feb. 19, 9-11:30, 11:30-12Noon (Lunch), 12Noon-3PM. **Wool Felting & Penny Rugging.** Working with a Waterboro based fiber artist you will create a several projects using the old school methods of forming objects from wool felt. Penny rugging involves creating a sewn composition from penny-size pieces of felt. The afternoon session may run a little long depending on student ability. Instructors: Rosemary Whittaker & Camille Welsch

SESSION E: Sun., Feb. 19, 9-11:30, 11:30-12Noon (Lunch), 12Noon-3PM. **Erector Set Fun & Make An "Old School" Electric Lamp.** Students will create compositions using sheet metal,

screws and nuts with this precursor to LEGOS. The compositions made will be powered by an electric motor. These are vintage sets donated for continued use, so bring your camera and take photos/videos of your completed project. In the afternoon, you will create a functioning lamp using wire, porcelain fixtures, a switch, and a wooden base (Bring it home). Instructors: Bob Schmick & Ben Buzzell

SESSION F: Sat., Feb. 25, 9-11:30, 11:30-12Noon (Lunch) 12Noon-4PM.

Make a Dowel Handled Tool Box.

Make a Birdhouse. Using hand tools students will construct this traditional tool box from pre-cut pieces prepared. They will drill holes using a bit & brace. They will cut with a handsaw the dowel for the handle. They will assemble with wood glue and wood screws. They will use a traditional stencil to create a design on their tool box and, finally, put a clear coat of shellac on it. Students will complete a similar box construction, a bird house, in the afternoon. Instructors: Bob Schmick & Dick Stockford.

SIGN UP NOW. RSVP (207) 205-4849, thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

Good things are happening at the Curran Homestead Village. Looking forward to seeing you at Fields Pond and/or Newfield in 2017.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Robert Schmick
Museum Director

**2017 Spring School Field Trips
at Newfield**

One of the goals of creating a museum village at Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond will be to not only develop a site able to accommodate large school groups but offer continued and engaging **hands-on programming drawn from the lessons of 19th century and early 20th century history and connected with STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, related learning objectives.**

To assist us in this development we are rekindling the school field trip programming at Newfield, at the former

Willowbrook Museum, this year and for as long as we can. This program, that was largely revamped in recent years, has been the inspiration for our newest construction project, the Hands-On History Building at Fields Pond. A building of the same name at the Newfield campus has been a main attraction in recent years and has initiated 12 schools to already book 600 students from area schools for a field trip between **May 15-June 16, 2017**; we are hoping that this number reaches the 2000 that Willowbrook saw in Spring, 2016.

We also anticipate offering three weeks in the Fall with apple cidering and other autumn programming available. Willowbrook attracted 3200 school field trip visitors in total in 2015 with both Spring and Fall offerings..

The Curran Homestead Village is busy right now getting the word out about the programs we offer in Newfield. For those not in the know, this is what we offer, and how you can either get your local school to get on our schedule or remind teachers who have come in the past that we are still open to them and their students.



We offer a three-four hour schedule of 15-20 minute learning stations. The visit also includes a ride on our **1894 Herschell Armitage horse carousel** that was used in the area from 1896-1922. The other stops on the visit include:

H.M. S. Titanic and Carpathia Marconi Radio Rooms: 10 working telegraph keys and sounders that students experience this early mass communication, Morse Code, and its connections to the present.

Victorian Kitchen: Follow a recipe, measure ingredients and mix batter. Make butter and experience wood stove

cooking /baking. Other household wisdom shared. A working ice box and cast iron sink.

Furber Pump, Chain Falls, Block and Tackle and Ramp: Experience simple machines like the lever, screw, and ramp.

Pinhole Camera; a life size box camera that you get into and understand the natural phenomenon whereby light travels through a hole into a dark space projecting a distant image upside down.

Letterpress Printing: Experience quill & fountain pens, a typewriter, type setting, and printing presses.



Early Gas Engines: Experience a flywheel start on an early combustion engine.

19th Century Schoolhouse: Our costumed interpreter assumes the role of a school marm and takes you into the classroom and back into time.

1890s Basketball: The game has changed much since its rules and strategy were conceived by James Naismith. No dribbling, much passing and no backboard to bank your shot into a, yes, peach basket!

Blacksmith Shop: we now have a blacksmith-in-residence who shares the tradition of the one-time most important person in the village.

Magnetos, Telephones and Radios: Learn a little about electromagnetism and how it changed the world. Hand crank electrical generation is part of the fun.

1900s Laundry/Foot Treadle Sewing/ and Sad Iron Ironing: Experience one-time drudgery as a fun activity involving hand cranking a washing machine, using a dolly stick and a mangle. Hand your laundry up by wooden pins on a clothesline; it might be a unique experience for some.

Dr. Trafton's Office: Assemble a skeleton from x-rays, diagnose, get electroshock treatment for hysteria, learn about reading bumps on your head (phrenology) and quack medicine.

Amos Straw Country Store: This year the regular country store becomes the student store. This opened in 1859, and some of the counters date from the store's early days. We count back your change in your hand making this an important experience. Low cost souvenirs, candy and gifts.

Granary/ Dog and Horse Treadmills/Hand Crank Tools: Process some cracked corn for our campus chickens using hand crank equipment. Power various types of 1880s/1890s treadmills.

Cider Mill: A 10 foot 1870s commercial horse treadmill powered apple crusher and twin screw press is the backdrop for actually making fresh cider.

Two Period Furnished Houses on the National Registry of Historical Places. Tour the Durgin and Trafton House with an interpreter, if you like. We will have many new objects as a result of another large gift of a collection on exhibit in this building in 2017.

Dancing: Traditional folk dance and music in our period ball room. Square dancing.

Teachers, You're your class now!
Contact: Robert Schmick, Museum director, (207) 205-4849, or Email: curranhomestead@gmail.com

THE BULLOCK CHALLENGE – We continue to be humbled by the ongoing support of Dede and Bill Bullock Family Foundation. We hope their generosity to help us grow will inspire others to give a new or increased gift this season!



We are accepting donations in memory of the late Carroll Adams, a beloved board member and volunteer contributor for many years to the Curran Homestead. With permission of Carroll's family, Curran Homestead Village is accepting contributions to its' endowment fund "In Memory of Carroll Adams" for the purpose of our current development of a museum village, a plan that Carroll was thoroughly enthused about in recent weeks. Like all donations to our endowment, donors contributions may be in the form of cash, check, credit card or Pay Pal via our website: curranhomestead.org. Contact: Irv Marsters, Treasurer, if you have questions or need help.

Blacksmithing

Tuesday & Thursday Evenings, Starting Tues., March 14-Apr.21, 6-9PM, Six Week Beginner's Blacksmithing at Fields Pond. Saturday, 2 Hour Studio Time Available Each Week. A beginner's class that includes safety, materials and tools, coal fire starting and maintenance, heating, hammer control, measuring and marking, tapering to a square point, drawing out metal, forging square to octagonal and round, bending, twisting, forging a basic S-hook, a drive hook, screw-in/nail-in hooks, making a chisel, a punch, a drift, punching holes, and flattening and spreading. Introduced to forge welding. Personal projects possible. **Instructor: Dwight King.**

Tuition, \$395, including materials and supplies. Pre-registration first-come, first-served by cash, check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa only). Contact: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com or (207) 205-4849.

Tuesday & Thursday Evenings, Starting Tues., Feb. 21-March 30, 6-9PM, Six Week Beginner's Blacksmithing at Newfield. Saturday, 2 Hour Studio time available each week. Instructor: Sam Smith. Tuition: \$395. Contact: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com or (207) 205-4849

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 18 & 19, Make a Knife. In this class we use both coal and propane forges. Students forge a blade and tang out of spring steel, file, harden, polish and temper. You create rivets and a hard wood handle applying it with epoxy. Materials and tools provided. Bring or purchase a hammer for class after consulting us. **Instructor: Frank Vivier. Tuition, \$195,** including materials and supplies. Pre-registration first-come, first-served by cash, check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa only). Contact: Robert Schmick: (207) 205-4849, thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

New Construction: Woodworkers' Shop



The woodworker's shop will receive some new clapboard in the Spring after a relatively speedy construction by paid and volunteer labor. The project began back in August at Willowbrook with a timber framing class for six students and a 2016 Davis Family Foundation Grant received by Curran to partially fund the build of this structure, do it through the means of classes, and do work on the Peter Field House, which is currently under renovation. Some of the materials for the construction of the building came from the former Carpenter's Shop at Willowbrook that was dismantled a little less than a decade ago. The structure will

be used for hands-on woodworking classes and exhibiting some of the incredible collection of 19th century woodworking tools and equipment from the Willowbrook collection. Our thanks to all that contributed to this project including board member Brian Ames, Chris Samaroo, Ed Somers, Scott Bates, Doug Dolan, Steve Frasier, Alan Stehle and others.

Our Winter & Spring Calendar
FP= Fields Pond
N=Newfield

Sat., Feb. 4, 10-2: Ice Harvest (FP)

Tues., Feb. 9-Thurs., March 16, 6-9PM: Tues. & Thurs., Six Weeks of Beginning Blacksmithing. Instructor: Sam Smith (N)

Sat., Feb. 11, 10-3: Ice Harvest (N)

Sat. & Sun. Feb. 18 & 19; Feb. 25 & 26: Cabin Fever Relief Classes

Tues., March 14-Apr. 20, 6-9PM: Tues. & Thurs., Six Weeks of Beginning Blacksmithing. Instructor: Dwight King (FP)

Sat., March 18, 10-2: Maple Syrup Event * Irish Celebration (FP)

Sat., March 25, 10-2: Maple syrup Event & Irish Celebration (N)

May 15-June 16 Weekdays. Available for Registration Now. SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS (N) Make your reservation now! (207) 205-4849, (207) 793-2784, Email: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

Information about workshops is posted on our website: www.curranhomestead.org Call the Director at (207) 205-4849

Curran Homestead Village Membership

Please Join or Renew Today

Membership helps us to preserve our Maine and New England rural heritage as well as perpetuate an invaluable community educational resource for families. Membership also comes with the benefits of free admission to all events at both campuses and carousel rides for the season down in Newfield, free admittance to our annual gathering & recognition dinner, discounts on programs and workshops, and frequent newsletters. Treat yourself or someone else to a step back in time! See our frequently updated website, blog and Facebook page. Visit our website for more complete details of the benefits of each membership level. Join or renew today by selecting a level and completing this form.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 Adults, 2 Children) \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Homesteader \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Gift

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email (for Curran Homestead Village use only) _____

Please make all checks payable to The Curran Homestead, Inc., and P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 0447

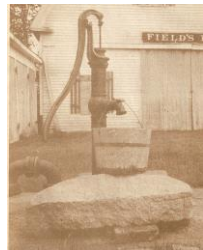
Thank You!

Membership donations result in the issuance of a one year, non-transferable pass in the donor's name which grants membership discounts at all Curran Homestead Village programs and events. Additional Guest membership passes may be purchased for \$40 which are transferable and grant the bearer all membership rights.

In addition to their own membership, Sustaining Members will receive one guest membership. Benefactors will receive two; Patrons will receive three; and Homesteader memberships will receive four guest memberships and will be listed as co-sponsors of a Curran Homestead Village public event of their choice.

The Curran Homestead Inc., which includes Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond and Curran homestead village at Newfield is a public education program and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations of cash, stock, mutual funds and property are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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US Postage
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Museum Director

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Corporate Officers

Ron Sucusy – President
Karen L. Marsters – Vice
President
Richard Stockford - Secretary
Irv Marsters – Treasurer

Board Members

Brian Ames, PE
Richard B. Hanson
Fred Hartstone
Madge Nickerson
Stan White
William Wilkins

Facebook

Curran Homestead Village at
Fields Pond & Newfield

Physical Location(s)

372 Fields Pond Rd., Orrington,
Maine & 70 Elm Street
Newfield, Maine

Please call or email us
about volunteer
opportunities at our villages

Website

www.curranhomestead.org

Honorary Board

Robert Croce
James H. Leighton, Jr.
John Mugnai
Helen Tupper Southard

Historian Emeritus

Brian Higgins

Clerk of the Corporation

Nathan Dane III, Esq.

Carousel Rides at Newfield are
free with membership
and adult admission; it runs at
our special events between May
and November.

