



19th Century

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!

March, 2017



Ice Harvest at the Mill Pond,
Newfield, 2017



Ice Harvest at Fields Pond, 2017

Museum Director's Message:

One of the most important developments of Curran Homestead Village in recent months has been the board adoption of a new mission statement. With this we have departed from an exclusively agricultural scenario and entered the gates of rural New England village life in the 19th and early 20th century. In addition to farm life we will explore a variety of trades and occupations as well as the technological innovations available to New England villagers in the Victorian era. This begins with the considerable variety of the collections housed at Newfield but we also anticipate the unanticipated object or two with continued donations from those wishing to preserve the past and understanding that our mission is an effective means to doing that.

New Mission Statement

It is our collection consisting of both the handmade and the manufactured from the 1850s to the 1920s that will continue to inform and assist us in providing a variety of programming that doesn't stop with history but starts with it. We like to think of ourselves as an integral part of today's education for the whole family where lessons about science, technology, engineering and mathematics are revealed through objects from our American past. Our new mission best invokes these goals. Assist us in achieving them.

Robert Schmick
Museum Director

19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond and Newfield is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects, preserves and utilizes historic artifacts and buildings for the purpose of exhibition, living history, traditional arts programming and hands-on education. The villages serve as classrooms to not only raise awareness and appreciation of life in rural Maine and New England during the emerging Industrial Age of the 19th and early 20th centuries but to empower new generations through sharing the lessons of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from that time to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our goal is to help to nurture future inventors, scientists, mechanics and agriculturists through individual awareness and discovery.

Maple Syrup Event

Now that we have shared a little about what we hope to do, these are some of the things we are doing:

Sat., March 18, Maple Syrup Sugaring Off Event & Irish Celebration at FIELDS POND, 10-2.



Baked Enamel Sign in the Collection

Our traditional **Maple Syrup Sugaring Off and Irish Celebration** is for the whole family. A team of Belgian draft horses will be giving hay rides/sled rides. The sugarhouse will be going full tilt as we boil sap from the farm to syrup. We'll have some LIVE string picking and foot tapping banjo music friends in the farmhouse. The Curran kitchen will include an Irish stew made with grass-fed beef from Wee-Bit Farm in Orland, and maple flavored foods too. Irish soda bread, hot cocoa, coffee and more... will be served. No alcohol. Find sheep at the farm, visit the blacksmith shop, and see some new artifacts on display.

Admission, includes food samples and draft horse wagon/sled ride:
Members/Donors: \$8 Adult, \$5 Child (Under 12), Maximum: \$25 per family.
Non-Members: \$10 Adult, \$6 Child (Under 12) Maximum per family: \$30.



Tom Bragg and his Belgians

Sat., March 25 & 26, Maple Syrup Sugaring Off Event & Irish Celebration at NEWFIELD, 10-2.

In the heart of maple syrup country, we will be doing our own sugaring off with some sap tapped from trees around the property. An evaporator will be set up down by the smithy. Peak and see blacksmithing underway. Tom Bragg of Kennebunk will have a team of Belgians on hand to give rides with either carriage or sled depending on the snow conditions. In the Victorian Kitchen the newly restored Crawford wood stove will be cooking Irish stew, baking Irish soda bread, and many other maple flavored goodies and savories available.



The **Crawford Stove** was restored at Byrant Stove Works in Thorndike with a donation from board member Madge Nickerson. It will be the center piece of Victorian Kitchen at Newfield.

Victorian Clothing

A selection of mid to late 19th century dresses on period dress forms from our collection will be on exhibit in April, May, & June at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society at the 1899 Queen Anne style Edmund Goodwin House. In the Willowbrook gifting process the historical society received many of the toys from the Dr. Isaac Trafton nursery which are currently on exhibit among the period furnishing of the Goodwin House. Read on and learn about anticipated additions to the contents of the Trafton

House made possible by a donation.



The on loan exhibit of six dresses is only a portion of the Curran's larger collection of clothing, shoes, hats and undergarments. We will be organizing a new exhibit this season and seek volunteers for the purpose. Contact: Robert Schmick, museum director, at: rpschmick1@aol.com, or 207-205-4849.

Printing Shop



1894 Smith Premier No. 2 Typewriter

As a result of Willowbrook's gifting process the contents of the William Cram Printing Shop at Newfield were gifted to another museum. The printing shop is integral to our school field trip program. We have received some important donations to replicate the shop from Mark Matteau of the Dunstan Press in Scarborough, but we still seek donations of other appropriate equipment and furnishings. See our "Wish List" on our website.

We have acquired some early typewriters which will be a new feature of our hands on offerings. We have acquired a 1918 Golding Pearl press, a 1902 Golding Jobber press, and a 3 x 5 format Kelsey press (which was repaired through the efforts of Doug Kimball of Kennebunk). The latter is a smaller version of the Kelsey used for

Willowbrook's program. We would like to acquire the larger 5 x 8 Kelsey Excelsior press model, as it will stand up better to third graders, if one can be donated or purchased for a reasonable sum.



1920s 3 x 5 Kelsey Printing Press

Edison Phonograph

Although we will have LIVE music at our upcoming Maple Syrup Event at Fields Pond and have traditionally offered events and programs focused on musical performances, we see an opportunity to share the variety of music from the past, in this case, 1900-1910, with the recent acquisition of a collection of nearly sixty wax phonograph cylinders of the era and a collection of Edison and other early phonographs to play them on. We currently are working on replacing the belting of this Edison machine. This particular one has an elaborate "Japanned", hand painted floral design, on its large speaker horn that is held by a crane. It will be a regularly operated feature of the museum. If you are interested in **adopting this project**, or other projects, by sponsoring it, please let us know.



Edison Phonograph

School Field Trips at Newfield

At this point we have 1180 school kid registered to come to our Newfield campus for their 2017 school field trip. These include most of the third graders in the Gorham school system. Many of

these schools came to the Newfield site when it was Willowbrook. We have some new schools joining the fold though, and these include a group of sixty 1st graders from the Longfellow School in Portland. Willowbrook had between 2014-2016 groups coming to the museum from as far away as the Farmington area, Jay, and West Paris, Maine. We hope to continue to grow our program in Newfield and eventually use it as a model for developing similar programming at Fields Pond once we have the infrastructure to do so. For the time being, we do need volunteers to provide a great experience for the school kids that come; this could be as a costumed interpreter inhabiting the village. If you are interested, contact us: (207) 205-4849, rpschmick1@aol.com.



Volunteer interpreters needed for our school field trips; here we see board member Madge Nickerson interpreting our 1900s Laundry.

We have a booth at the HOME Homeschooler Convention, March 16-18, Samoset Hotel, Rockport, Visit Us.



We have an 1870s *Ordinary*, a.k.a. **Penny Farthing**, bicycle in our collection along with many other iconic bicycles. For **Olde Home Week** in Orrington this July 15-22, we will be organizing a **Vintage and Special Needs Bicycle Rally Race**. Bikes twenty five years old or more qualify as "vintage." Riders will complete a circuit that includes Orrington, Holden and Brewer from Fields Pond Road. Contestants will seek sponsorship for each mile completed. There will be check points

along the way where contestants complete a task. The above **Ordinary** and a circa 1936 bicycle in the collection will be the museum board and/or staff's entries, care to race? Proceeds will benefit the museum. For updates visit our website or Facebook.

Bean Supper Fundraisers

Our Fields Pond campus will be hosting a bean supper during Olde Home Week this July; the date to be announced. The former Willowbrook had many successful bean suppers including variations on the theme like an Oktoberfest which also offered beer and wine with not only a variety of bean dishes but pork loin, hot dogs, bratwurst and kielbasa. The museum can't ignore this fundraising opportunity with the restaurant at the Newfield campus and the recent pledge by Hannaford Market in Waterboro to donate food and supplies this season for at least two dinners! We anticipate doing another bean supper at Fields Pond with music and drink before the 2017 season ends.



Our **1894 Herschell Armitage horse carousel** that was used in southern and western Maine from 1896-1922 will be available for rides beginning with school field trips in May. We will announce on our website/Facebook a schedule of house tours with a carousel ride planned for this season in addition to our special events. Integral to this will be a large gifted collection from the Maine Maritime Museum. Selections from the **1910 Clark House Collection**, which includes some 1500 household furnishing and domestic items from circa 1910, is planned to be on exhibit in the Trafton and Durgin Houses this season.



Fordson with Caterpillar Tracks

Volunteer Antique Tractor Project

New board member and longtime contributor to the museum, **Bill Wilkins** will be sharing some of his unmatched knowledge and skills in repairing and restoring antique engines and tractors this season with several projects. Bill was at the beginning stages of our interest in a collection of doodlebugs---homemade tractors some eight years ago; that evolved not only into a collection but an annual event in which doodlebugs compete in pulling weights. The museum was gifted an outstanding collection of early gas engines, including a Fordson and a Worthington Model T tractor, a homemade rig recently but, in addition, there are a number of tractors and engines at Fields Pond that need to be brought back to life.

We will be offering an **Antique Engine & Tractor Class** and a **Volunteer Project**. The engine class will involve disassembly, cleaning and repair of a 7HP Hercules/Economy style engine. We anticipate replacing rings, magneto work, and the unforeseen. The class will run multiple weeks, and there will be tuition which will assist us with parts and supplies. The volunteer project will take on the task of restoring the Fordson with caterpillar tracks over the course of several months. This is a perfect opportunity for the budding collector and hobbyist or even the accomplished mechanic. Contact us, if you are interested one or both of these offerings, as details will be available with the Spring.

Maine Poultry Connection

We are excited to announce that we are now partnering with the Maine Poultry Connection Junior Grant Program. The

MPC Junior Grant Program was created last year by Scott DeMoranville. If you have been to a Curran Homestead event, you may have met Scott and some of his delightful chickens at the farm.

This wonderful group has been created to establish funding for at least two lucky Maine children, 12 and under, to receive an entire Chicken coop set up, along with chickens, equipment and feed. Our goal is to ensure the future of fowl fanciers by donating this set up to a youth that would otherwise not be able to experience the joy of keeping chickens and all the benefits, life lessons and responsibility that go with it. To be considered, the child will write a short essay describing why he/she would like to raise chickens. As the the leading essays are narrowed down to a handful, those children and their families will be interviewed and 2 winners will be selected.

We are thrilled to be able to work with the people at the MPC Junior Grant Program, to help spread the word about this wonderful program that brings children and agriculture, in this case poultry, together. We will continue to update you about the fundraising efforts for this program, as well as when it is time for the essay portion of this program, as well as who the winners are. If you would like to support this program, or are interested in helping in any way, please let us know. Thanks!

Marian Jerome, Curran Homestead Village's Volunteer Coordinator for the MPC Junior Grant Program

Blacksmithing



Dwight King and Sam Smith

FIELDS POND:

Instructor Dwight King has been busy this winter teaching several beginning blacksmithing classes. The next class is: **Six Weeks of Beginning Blacksmithing**

on Tues. & Thurs. Evenings, 6-9PM. Class starts March 14 at Fields Pond. Tuition: \$395, includes all materials, plus a copy of Lorelei Sims' *The Backyard Blacksmith.*

Date To Be Announced For April (Fields Pond & Newfield Offerings), Saturday, 9AM-4PM, Beginning Metal Casting Class: Learn about safety, tools, equipment, materials, and methodology of brass and aluminum metal casting. Limited to Six. First Served basis with payment. Tuition: \$125



Date To Be Announced For April (Fields Pond & Newfield Offerings), Sunday, 9AM-4PM. **Make Your Own Propane Burning Blacksmithing Forge or Metal Casting Furnace.** The museum will provide a pre-prepared kit that has completed the welding necessitated. Students will finish the metal work, create a mold for fire resistant refractory cement as well as wire reinforcement. The cement will be poured and set. Students will fit their propane delivery system. This includes 10 PSI plus propane burning wand prepared by us. You walk away with the project complete; a few days of curing recommended. Tuition: **\$300.**

Both classes: \$400, for a savings of \$25.

NEWFIELD:

Blacksmith Sam Smith has begun a similar evening beginning blacksmithing class with six students. The coal fired forge program at Newfield uses our two blacksmithing facilities, the **Newfield Smithy** and the **Tom Flagg Smithy**. The latter structure dates from the 1930s and was moved to the site from Lincolnville, ME in 2014 with tools and equipment

original to it.

Two other classes are scheduled for Newfield to begin in March, although check our website for a listing of intermediate coal fired forge classes soon to be offered:



Frank Vivier

Sat. & Sun., March 11 & 12, 9-4PM. Blacksmithing/Bladesmithing: Make a Knife with Instructor Frank Vivier. You will use propane burning forges to shape a blade and tang from spring steel. Annealing and tempering is part of the instruction. Students will finish their blades and fit brass rivets and hardwood handle to the tang. Tuition; \$195, includes all materials.

Start Sat., March 25, 9-4. Three Weekends of Beginning Blacksmithing, Sat. & Sun., 9-4PM, 36 Hours of Instruction, plus catch-up studio hours during the week available. Instructor: Sam Smith. Tuition: \$395, includes all materials.

Full details about all our blacksmithing programs at Fields Pond and Newfield, including what to bring, can be found at:

www.curranhomestead.org/blacksmithing/classes/

Call Robert Schmick, museum director at (207) 205-4849, for information, and Irv Marsters, Board Treasurer, at (207) 745-4426 to register.



Scalloped and diamond shape slate shingles

Local master slate roofer and brick

mason Walter Musson will be sharing the **craft of shaping slate roof shingles** in a demonstration and talk when the weather “softens”. Such age-old artisan skills are mastered by few in this age of box stores and manufactured building supplies, so it is the responsibilities of museums like the Curran to take up the challenge of preserving some of this knowledge and sharing it with the public. This is a follow up to our recent mortise and tenon timber framing venture albeit this demonstration will be a two hour affair. The work will be on an 1884 Mansard porch roof on a Bangor home and include the presentation of some unique slate roofing tools from the Curran collection. Contact us, if you are interested in this, or would like to share your own knowledge and skill related to some 19th century or earlier building practice to our ongoing program.

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.

Horse Drawn Snow Roller



As many have come to know through our newsletters, the Women's Re-Entry Program has a Trades Program led by CTI Instructor Chuck Hayden that was responsible for some collaboration between the Curran and Willowbrook in 2015 and 2016. This group would show up regularly during the winter and spring season to undertake projects. The projects completed at Newfield include the re-wooding of the 18 foot horse drawn bobsled recently pulled by John Boyce of Lee's Belgian draft horses at the Fields Pond Ice Harvest and the restoration of the front end of the Marsh Hay Sled which was also used at the harvest by Sonny Richards of Windham and his Belgians. The women's group also tackled, with the assistance of volunteer Tom Bragg, the Model T cord saw re-wooding it in white oak. Tom actually restored the engine completely. The women scraped and painted the Durgin House ell as well last Fall. Recently, the latest group of women and Hayden assisted us with the ice harvest in Newfield. We are now working on the re-wooding of the snow roller above with white oak cut by Tom Bragg, and we will likely use it in conjunction with the bobsleds next winter. Thank you!

YOUR GENEROSITY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU!

All of us at Curran Homestead Villages at Newfield and Fields Pond are grateful to you, our members and donors, for your financial support, participation and commitment!

It's an exciting time in the life of Curran Homestead Villages as every day we are finding your interests and enthusiasm and it's pushing us to keep working harder and smarter at “using history's lessons for today's challenges”!

It's never too late for you to make a donation or get a membership!

“Our Legacy in life we cannot retrieve-

Our Mark is surely made...by the footprints that we leave”.

You can create a legacy in your will...it's easy.

Please consider including The Curran Homestead, Inc in your estate plan to help improve the world for future generations.

To include the work of the Curran Homestead Villages in your will, just take the following wording to your attorney:

I give _____ (specific \$ amount or property, percentage or residue) to The Curran Homestead Rural Maine Heritage Endowment (P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 04474), a tax-exempt organization, for the purpose of supporting its Hands-On and Living History programs. (Tax ID 22-3236711)

“There is something I can leave that means something to me in my heart and will pass on the great love I have for living history! What the Curran Homestead Villages at Newfield and Fields Pond are doing is remarkable and I want to further their work for future generations by including their Rural Maine Heritage Endowment in my will.”
–Irv Marsters, Treasurer and a Founding Director of The Curran Homestead, Inc.



Our Spring and Summer Calendar

Sat., March 18, 10-2: Maple Syrup Event & Irish Celebration (FIELDS POND)

Sat., March 25 & 26, 10-2: Maple Syrup Event & Irish Celebration (NEWFIELD)

May 13: Mother's Day Special Program (NEWFIELD) Lunch included. CAROUSEL RIDE.

May 14: Mother's Day Open House & SILENT MOVIES (FIELDS POND)

May 15-June 16: SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS (NEWFIELD)

Sat., June 17, 10-3. Father's Day Silent Movie Festival & Workshop Experience (FIELDS POND).

Sun., JUNE 18, 10-3, Father's Day Tour (NEWFIELD), Silent Movie Festival & Carousel Ride.

Sat., July 15-23 Olde Home Week (FIELDS POND – ORRINGTON)

- Giant Yard Sale
- Charity Bluegrass
- Vintage & Special Needs Bicycle Rally Race
- Open Farm Day
- Bean Supper

JULY 10-14 Summer History Camp for Kids, 8-12 (FIELDS POND)

July 24-28 Summer History Camp for Kids, 8-12 (NEWFIELD)

Sat. & Sun., July 29 & 30, 10-3, COUNTRY FAIR DAY & CIVIL WAR WEEKEND, 6th of Maine Battery (NEWFIELD).

Sat., July 29, 4-6:30PM SUMMERFEST BEAN SUPPER: Bluegrass Music, Beer \$&Wine (NEWFIELD); CAROUSEL RIDE.

Aug. 7-11, Fiber Arts Camp for Kids, 8-12 (NEWFIELD)

Sat., Aug. 12, 10-3, Civil War Event (FIELDS POND)

***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., 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 Hometeader 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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**Curran Homestead Village
at Fields Pond & Newfield**

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Karen L. Marsters – Vice
President

Richard Stockford - Secretary

Irv Marsters– Treasurer

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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

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Brian Higgins

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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.