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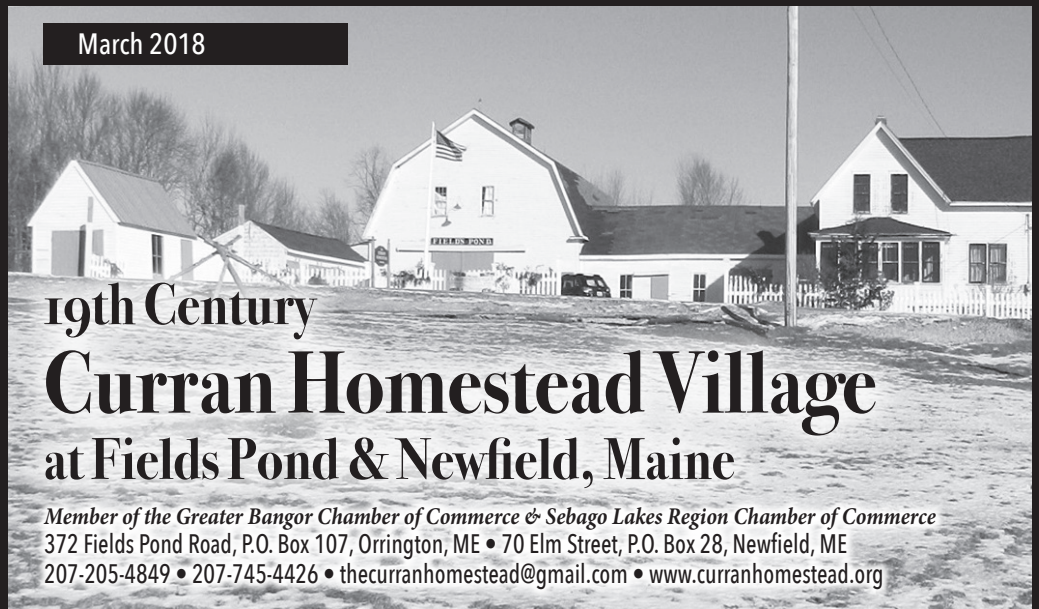
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March 2018



19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield, Maine

Member of the Greater Bangor Chamber of Commerce & Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce
372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME • 70 Elm Street, P.O. Box 28, Newfield, ME
207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426 • thecurranhomestead@gmail.com • www.curranhomestead.org

Our 2018 Schedule of Events

Museum openings at Newfield have an admission of \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors and veterans; children (up to 18) are free. A carousel ride is included with each admission.

FIELDS POND Orrington

Beginning Blacksmithing Classes
Ongoing six week course. See website for details.

Brewer Historical Society Presentation
Tuesday, March 13; 7:00 p.m.

Maple Syrup Event & Irish Celebration
Saturday, March 17; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Maine Science Fair Panel Discussion
Saturday, March 17
Bangor Public Library

Spring Cleaning
April/May volunteers needed. Contact us.

Orrington Old Home Week
Friday, July 13-Sunday, July 22
*Bean Supper and more. See website for details.

Exclusive Penobscot County Genealogical Society Picnic
Friday, July 20

Science, Technology Engineering, Art, & Mathematics (STEAM) Summer History Camp
August 13-17
For ages 12-18.

Harvest Festival
Saturday, September 29
Doodlebug Pull Challenge, Bluegrass Festival, Cider

NEWFIELD formerly Willowbrook

Maple Syrup Event
Saturday, March 24; 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



This Propane Forge is an inexpensive alternative to a coal fired forge for the budding blacksmith or blade-smith.

Make a Propane Forge Class
Saturday, March 31; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Spring Cleaning
April 21-May 11
ROTC/NHS Massabesic High School volunteers

**Fun with Domestic Arts:
Mother's Day Workshops**
Saturday, March 12 & Sunday, March 13
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m..

School Field Trips
May 14-June 22
Reservations required. Sign up now! Summer and Fall dates also available.

***Annual Gathering/Recognition Bean Supper**
Saturday, June 23, 4:30-7:00 pm.
Reserve your seat now!

Opening Weekend
Saturday, June 30- Monday, July 2
Brass Band, Colonial Encampment, Model Ts.

Museum Open
Saturday, July 7 & Sunday, July 8
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Silent Movies.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics History Camp
July 23-27
Newfield Campus

Museum Open
Saturday August 4 & Sunday, August 5
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

***Bean Supper**
Saturday, August 4; 4:30-7:00 p.m.
Reserve now!

Museum Open
Wednesday, August 8-Friday, August 10

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics (STEAM) Summer Camp
August 6-10
Ages 10-14. (Tentative)

Open Weekend
Saturday, September 1 & Sunday, September 2

***Painted Pony Party Fundraiser**
Saturday, September 1; 4:30-7:00 p.m.
Details on website.

Ash Sunday Event
Sunday, October 7; 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
End of season.

*Bean Suppers, Dinner Fundraisers, Recognition



19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield

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Robert Schmick, PhD

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Fields Pond Campus
P.O. Box 107
372 Fields Pond Road
Orrington, Maine 04474

Newfield Campus
P.O. Box 28
70 Elm Street
Newfield, Maine 04065

207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426

thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
www.curranhomestead.org

Our Knife Making Class has become Increasingly Popular

Our **third Knife Making Class in 2018** will be held on **March 24 and 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** After completing classes on February 3 and 4, and February 24 and 25, and filling the class scheduled for **March 24 and 25**, a fourth class is scheduled for **April 7 and 8**. **Pay to register by calling 207-205-4849.**



Frank Vivier at the bellows

Frank Vivier of West Newfield has been teaching the class since January, 2016. He was a student in one of the first knife making classes at Willowbrook and went on to take our propane forge making class. Having grown up around horses and metal forging in Brattleboro, Vermont, where his father worked as a farrier he wasn't what we might consider a novice when he came to the museum. Within a short time of taking the class, he was churning out high quality hunting knives in his spare time. He works full-time, when he can, building houses with a local contractor.

There are some that are born to teach, and certainly this organization has been blessed with people like **Frank Vivier and**



Our Feb. 24 & 25 Knife Making Class: (Left) Matt Day, Chad Nehrt, Eric Thoresen, Frank Vivier, Sydnie Edwards, Heidi Edwards, Harold Gillman and Nick Armentrout.

Dwight King, our blacksmithing instructor at Fields Pond, who are naturals. Frank takes students through the steps of forging a spring steel blade and tang on the first day of class after sharing tips on safety and hammer work.

Two propane burning forges serve the limited class number well, as originally coal forges were used. What resulted in those first classes was a lot of frustration. Many students burned up their metal projects because of limited experience with coal fired forging which is an art form in itself. The propane forge serves the beginner well for the purpose of knife making. It is not the end all but it does heat metal quickly at a constant temperature so burning up your knife project is less likely.

We hope that students eventually build on the foundational skills they learn in this class. Students are of varying abilities, and they are often interested in learning all the steps to complete a durable knife so they can venture out on their own. Some graduate to learning the specific skills necessitated for coal fired forging.



This wooden freezer door was donated by board member Bill Wilkins for our ice house, which Frank Vivier will be constructing at Newfield when the snow stops!

Metal Arts Classes Ignite Creativity

Some knife builders can start with our own **Six-Week Beginning Blacksmithing Class** offered in Orrington with Dwight King. We hope to have a similar offering in Newfield soon, as do we plan on offering classes in knife making at Fields Pond in the near future when we complete construction of the mortise and tenon timber frame Shop hopefully by mid-year.

In **Knife Making**, students file and grind their knives to perfection by day two, drill holes in the tang for a handle, and then heat them to a red hot temperature before quenching them in oil to harden the blade. The follow-up to that is tempering the blade which involves re-heating it in an oven or kiln to a temperature that ultimately makes the blade no longer hard and brittle but hard with some elasticity.



These knives in-progress were completed in our February 3 and 4 class.

Students then refine the blade and polish it. Brass pins and hard wood scales are fitted for a handle. These are put together with a 5-minute epoxy. After the epoxy dries, students will spend time belt sanding their handles. We usually run out of time at this point, and students finish their handles at home.

“It ain’t perfect but it’ll do the job better than most knives on the market, and it was given purpose and a name so it’s got soul.”

Kasey Marsters, who took the February 3 and 4 class, writes, “I am really happy with the way it [the knife] came out. It ain’t perfect but it’ll do the job better than most knives on the market, and it was given purpose and a name so it’s got soul. I call it the Wasstaquoit knife, after the stream and lake in Baxter State Park that I visit annually and that the first Ktaadn explorers crossed to approach from the North.

I made the handle asymmetrical for specific right hand use. Sharpened it on Grampy’s stone and his belt as the strop. Frank [Vivier] was a great teacher, very patient, and that class would be great for even absolute beginners. The folks at Curran Homestead have a heart for old world skill and art. Everyone should come and see and taste and participate in how life was and probably should be again.”



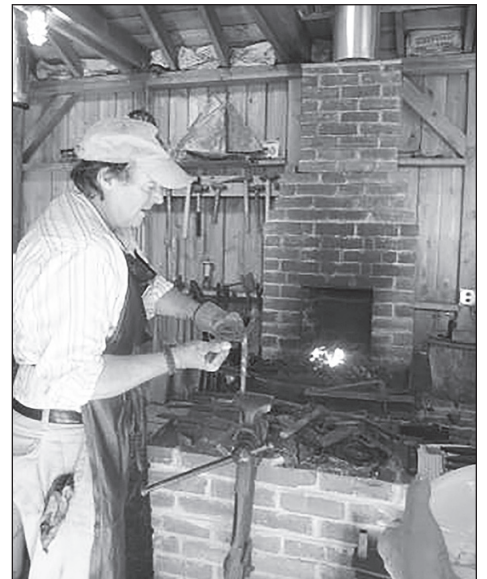
Kasey Marster’s knife

Kasey will be teaching a primitive skills class in fire making (See page 5).

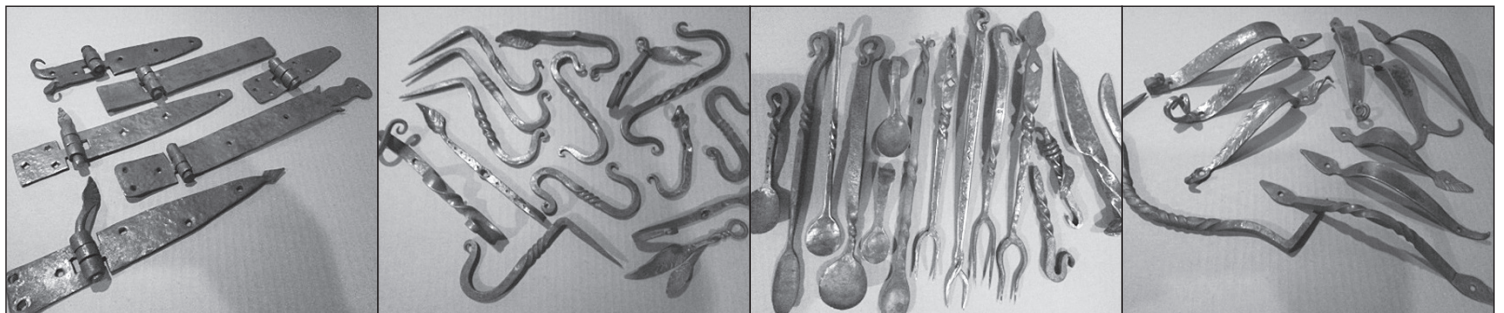


These were made in our class

Our **Six-Week Beginning Blacksmithing Class** with **Dwight King** will be starting on March 13. **We have another beginning blacksmithing class scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 1 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** If interested, call to register as soon as you can at 207-205 4849 or 207-745-4426.



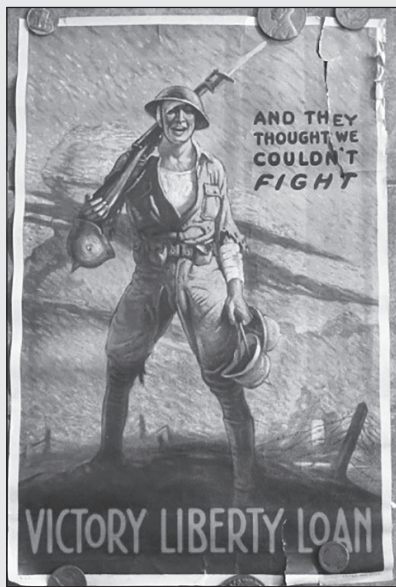
Dwight King, our blacksmith at Fields Pond



These are examples of student output from our last six-week class. Wow!

Wish List

- Anything related to Ford Model Ts & early automobiles
- New old stock bead board, wainscoting
- Antique (1890s-1920s) electric: light bulbs, fixtures, wiring, knife switches, batteries, generators, etc.
- WWI ephemera posters, documents, letters home & objects, Maine and New England-related
- Antique candle molds, candle stick holders
- A vintage oil burning furnace igniting transformer (to make electric current, plasma coil for exhibition)
- Early medical/dentistry ephemera and objects, quack medicine items, early scientific devices & equipment. Also veterinarian ephemera & objects.
- Bookbinding, papermaking, letterpress printing ephemera and equipment.
- Pottery kiln, potter's wheel and related equipment.



WWI Poster, Victory Liberty Loan, 1918. Private Collection. On loan this season at Newfield in commemoration of the service of many Mainers and New Englanders from 1917-1918.

Our Bookbinding Class in Newfield

The classes we offer usually begin with finding a person with a skill or knowledge that connects with our mission. I met **Anastasia Weigle at a Maine Archives and Museums (MAM) mixer** in Saco last year, and I shared information about our museum, its potential, and some of the programs we were offering. As an archivist, book conservator, and librarian at Caribou Public Library she was interested in particularly our planned letterpress printing class. As a professional bookbinder, I understood that this was a rare opportunity to complement letterpress printing with a future bookbinding class, and we both agreed putting together the details over the next few months.

On **February 3 and 4**, we had a full

roster for our first **Beginning Bookbinding Class** in the **Red Barn Building** at Newfield. The two day workshop included creating a classic German Case Bradel Binding with signature stitches and a drum-leaf binding for a second takeaway project. Among the students was **Sanford-Springvale Historical Society** president **Harland Eastman**, a lifetime book collector and dealer. The group enjoyed the experience thoroughly, so much that many of them, including Anastasia, registered for our **Letterpress Printing Class** on February 24 and 25

We will offer a **Bookbinding Cass** at Fields Pond in April. Call us, if interested at 207-205-4849.

Our Letterpress Printing Class in Newfield

The Our recent **Letterpress Printing Class** in the **William Cram Printing Office** at Newfield was really our first full-blown class in this graphic art form. We did a one day class for a group of homeschoolers a few years back but the class didn't have the content of this recent class. Students created a number of personalized stationary pieces and a business card.

Mark Matteau, who owns and continues to operate the **Dunstan Press** in West Scarborough since he was a teenager is really a blessing for the museum. There are few doing letterpress printing commercially these days especially individuals who have devoted their lives to it. So Mark is a wealth of knowledge, and he can teach too.

We will be offering this class again of

Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Anastasia Weigle created a whole series of stationary for an imaginary character named Dr. Cycloid, a purveyor of 19th century medical quackery, which relates to a theme we have been developing further for our school field trip program this season. Dr. Cycloid will make an appearance on opening weekend in Newfield.

Our Shibuichi Water Casting Workshop

At our recent ice harvest in Newfield there was much going on besides ice harvesting. A Portland group was on site in the workshop beyond the Trafton House practicing the Japanese metal casting technique of water casting which involved heating quantities of silver and copper that was subsequently poured into a bucket of water. The forms achieved through happenstance are worked into jewelry.

Local artist **Ann Thompson** organized the workshop, the first of more to come. We are especially keen on a **mokume gane** class, as this complements our other metal arts programming. **Mokume** is a forging process that produces a patterning of ferrous and non-ferrous metals producing striking contrasts suitable for jewelry and other ornamentation.

Newfield Workshops & Classes

For additional information, or to register, for any of our classes, call 207-205-4849 or 207-745-4426. Registration is first come, first serve by cash, check payable to "The Curran Homestead", or credit card (MasterCard & Visa only). Check our website for other classes.

KNIFE MAKING

Saturday, March 24-Sunday, March 25
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$225. Discount to returning students.

All materials and tools provided. Instructor: Frank Vivier

This is our third class this season. Make your first knife or a better one. This is both an opportunity for beginners and intermediate level knife makers. Using propane or coal fired forges (your preference), you will cut and shape a blade and tang from spring steel. You will use a combination of hand and power tools. You will oil quench and oven temper your knife. Create hardwood handle scales and brass pins. You will epoxy your handle scales on and set pins into your tang by the end of the class. Class limited to 5.

MAKE A PROPANE FORGE/FURNACE

Saturday, March 31; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Cost: \$325 All materials provided.

This is an inexpensive alternative to a coal fired forge for the budding blacksmith or blade-smith. It is perfect for knife-making because you don't burn up your project. Also, this can be adapted to use for metal casting. You will be provided with a kit of our making that includes a metal tank with legs welded on it. You will create a mold, mix refractory cement, and line your tank and its top with this high temp, commercial grade refractory rated for 2700-3000 degrees Fahrenheit. It will set quickly in our heated workshop. You will attach other elements to the tank, complete the flame wand assembly with a 10 PSI regulator. We will demonstrate the forge at the beginning of the class. Class limited to 5.

MAKE A CATAPULT

Saturday, March 31; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost: \$50 Materials provided. Pay to register.

Using a design created by Leonardo Da Vinci you will create this projectile thrower approximately 12" x 12" x 24". This is of wood construction and wooden peg fasteners and glue will be used for assembly. This is our custom-made kit which might require some occasional drilling with hand tools. A good introduction to post and beam construction. Class limited to 8. For ages 11 and up.

MAKE A CRYSTAL RADIO SET Saturday, April 7; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost: \$50

Build a working radio using a crystal diode and other components on a wooden base. Ear phones and all materials are included. You will learn to solder wire. You will also be introduced to a razor blade trench radio that was used during WWII by POWs. This is a foundational class for an understanding of communications technology dating back to the 1920s. Class limited to 8. For ages 10 and up.

FIRE MAKER CLASS

Saturday, April 14 -Sunday, April 15
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$150. All materials and tools provided for making your walkaway kit.

This 19th Century Primitive Skills workshop includes a beginning blacksmithing component. Craft components to a fire making survival kit that includes making a strike-a-light from a steel file using blacksmithing techniques. Create a coal fire and heat metal for the forging your strike-a-light to use with flint. Create char cloth, waterproof matches, and mini infernos as well as build fires, gather tinder, and make kindling in different conditions. The class will end with cooking a meal over an open-air fire. Class limited to 8. For ages 13 and up.

New School Field Trip Offerings

It is necessary that we continue to develop new offerings to our field trip visitors in order to maintain interest in our programming. In addition, we are working on providing more workshops within proximity to each other so that groups of 20 or more can be divided temporarily to circulate between two interpreter led activities rather than one. Smaller groups allow each student to get more out of the offering.

This year we will unveil a new hands-on exhibit **Lighting in Our Past**. Students will have an opportunity to explore early DC battery power, AC power via early fixtures, "knob and tube" wiring, and magneto generated power in a space in the Trafton House. In addition, students will make wax dip candles as a takeaway from the exhibit.

Job Corps Lends a Hand to Our Fields Pond Building Projects

Our current building projects in Orrington will have some assistance from the **Penobscot Region Job Corps** headquartered on Union Street in Bangor in the coming weeks. The federal program offers residential education and job training to young adults. The program provides basic education and knowledge, career preparation, fundamental employment skills as well a training and real work experience for a future career.

We have requested assistance with framing, sheet rocking, flooring electrical, plumbing, and siding, among other necessities in the **Peter Field Education Center** and **The Workshop**, our new timber frame structure. Deputy Director **Michael Camire** is very enthusiastic about our collaboration as are we to not only complete these projects with volunteer assistance but to have the campus itself serve a classroom Job Corps own hands-on learning opportunities.

Curran Homestead Village is enlisting the help of friends, neighbors, and members to compile a **cookbook**. We would like recipe submissions that bring back your memories of farm, village, and family life. Remember those sweet pickles of grandma's or father's huntin' camp stew?

Or the fresh, fabulous dishes that came out of the garden behind the barn? We're looking for any food recipe that embodies, Maine and New England rural life. Send your recipes to Dick Stockford at dickret@gmail.com, or 375 Forest Avenue, Bangor, ME 04401. Or drop them off at the Bangor Letter Shop, 99 Washington Street, Bangor. The cookbook featuring a selection of those submitted will be published and proceeds from sales will benefit the museum.



A Big Thank You!

We have been greatly moved by the recent response to our 2018 support plea in our December newsletter. We have made significant progress towards our \$200, 000 goal through the generosity of new and old acquaintances, friends, visitors, and those who firmly believe in this organization's mission. Over and over again this year, people have voiced appreciation for the ongoing programming Curran Homestead Village has been providing to the communities of Penobscot and York counties in Maine and beyond. Your support alone makes our year round programming and events at both of our campuses possible securing an integral educational resource for our communities for now and for the future.

Major Endowment Donor Support

Brian Ames
Karen & Irv Marsters
Madge & Richard Nickerson
Ronald W. Sucky

Enhanced Membership Donation

Lois E. Simpson
Karen & Irv Marsters

Business/Organizational

Donation/Membership

Loiselle, Goodwin, & Hinds, CPAs
Willowbrook at Newfield
Bangor Letter Shop
Peoples United Bank
Maine Community
Foundation/Chase Family Fund
Roch LeBlanc, Architect Snowman Group
Ames Engineering
Burnum Land & Tree Company
Home Depot-Bangor
Anne & Andy Britt
Dick Campbell, LLC
Awards, Signage & Trophies
Trott Real Estate
Hannaford-Brewer
Wee Bit Farm

Rural Maine Heritage Endowment

Fund Donation

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Audrey J. Higgins

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Harland H. Eastman
Lois S. Simpson
Doug & Dorothee King
Ronald W. Sucky

Thank You Volunteers!

A big group (more than those listed, I believe, so apologies if we missed your name; we greatly appreciated your contribution!) from Massabesic High School, Waterboro who helped to prepare for the Newfield Ice Harvest and the event itself. See them on our Facebook page: Emily Stinson, Emily Davison, Hallie Benton, Dorothy Pierce, Sophie Irons, Zoe Petit, Teneyce Nadeau, Sycira New, Sarah Desvergnés and Abigail Theobald.

Also from Massabesic High School in Waterboro: Joel, Josh, Marcus, Hallie, Alyvia, and Abigail Cloutier, our volunteer videographer.

Thanks to Jen Wilcox and her eager crew of homeschoolers from the TEACH group in Waterboro for their contributions to the Newfield Ice Harvest.

Tom Bragg, Ann Thompson, Frank Vivier, Mark Matteau, Anastasia Weigle, Mary Ritchie, Ken Ritchie, for their recent contributions to the Newfield program. Thanks to The Waterboro Reporter for their continued interest and coverage of our events and programs.

Also, Beth Felipe, Jeanne Loughan, and Ruth Durfee. These ladies, and board member Madge Nickerson, are also volunteer collections associates who have started inventorying many new additions to our collection.

Fields Pond Ice Harvest: much thanks to Cal McGraw, Neily Raymond of Hampden High School, Katie Coe, Nate Coe, Charlotte Thompson, Barney Thompson, John Mugnai, and Herb Crosby.

And our volunteer Board of Directors. I apologize if I missed anyone. We greatly appreciate your contribution.

Yes! I want to help the Curran Homestead Village!

Mission Statement

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 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.

2018 Membership Levels & Benefits

All members get free admission on open days and some events, and receive a membership card before opening weekend. Some members will receive free guest passes. For memberships \$100 or more, you get free admittance to our annual gathering and recognition dinner.

- **Children** (Ages 18 and under): **Free**
- **Individual: \$50**- 10% discount on workshops
- **Family** (2 Adults): **\$75**- 1 guest pass, 10% discount on workshops
- **Historian** (2 Adults): **\$100**- 2 guest passes, 10% discount on workshops, & special exclusive about our collections: curranhomesteadvillagehistorians.blogspot.com
- **Business: \$200**- Free admission for any employee's family of four on open days and some events with pass provided; business advertisement on website) 2 free guest passes
- **Business Plus: \$350**- All the benefits of Business membership plus get a business advertisement in our frequent inprint newsletter.
- **Sustaining: \$300**- One additional membership, 4 free guest passes; 20% discount on workshops
- **Benefactor: \$500**- Two additional Individual memberships, 6 free guest passes, 20% discount on workshops
- **Homesteader: \$1000**; Four additional Individual memberships, annual contribution recognized as a co-sponsor of an event of your choice, 8 free guest passes, 20% discount on workshops.

Help Fund the Future

By contributing to the Endowment and/or Capital Funds, you will help prepare a new generation for the challenges of the 21st century with lessons from the past. The funds to insure Curran Homestead Villages immediate needs and long-term sustainability.

CUT OUT, FILL OUT & MAIL OUT

Please print legibly:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Your contact information is used only to inform you of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and membership offers. It is not released to others.

Please make checks payable to **"The Curran Homestead"**

VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

*Please fill out forms and return with payment to:
Curran Homestead, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 04474*

MY MEMBERSHIP CHOICE IS:

- ___ Individual: \$50
- ___ Family: \$75
- ___ Historian: \$100
- ___ Business: \$200
- ___ Business Plus: \$350
- ___ Sustaining: \$300
- ___ Benefactor: \$500
- ___ Homesteader: \$1000

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ADD'L FUNDS:

- ___ Endowment Fund
- ___ Capital Fund
- ___ Endowment & Capital Funds

IN THE AMOUNT OF:

- ___ \$1000 ___ \$100
- ___ \$500 ___ \$50
- ___ \$250 ___ Other \$ _____

19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield, Maine



P.O. Box 107
372 Fields Pond Road
Orrington, Maine 04474

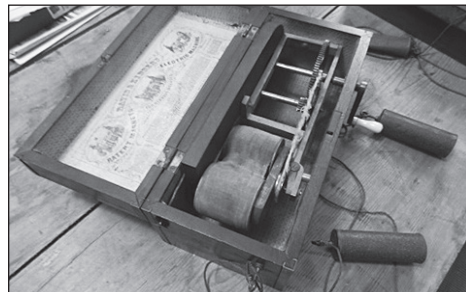


P.O. Box 28
70 Elm Street
Newfield, Maine 04065

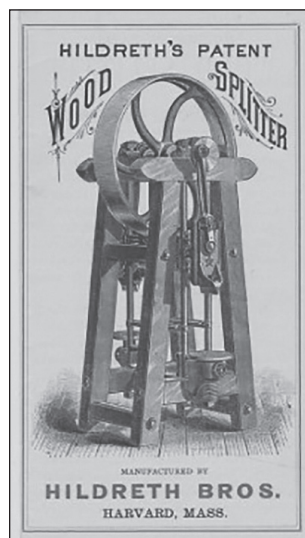
More Quakery!

In Dr. Trafton's office, we have some new things to share related to quack medicine, or "quakery." Students learn about such 19th century phenomena as phrenology, mass-produced homeopathic medicines, and other packaged cure-alls from the 19th century. For decades, part of a students' hands-on experience in the doctor's office [this is contrived, as **Dr. Trafton**, who practiced respectable medicine as a 1850s graduate of the **Maine School of Medicine at Bowdoin College** after two years of formal study, never maintained an office for patients; he visited them] has been cranking the magneto of a circa 1850s Davis & Kidder's Patent Magneto Electric Machine for Nervous Diseases and delivering a low level shock.

Given the mass production of these electromagnetic shock machines for a period from the mid-19th century into the 20th century, it is clear that many Americans were convinced of electricity's healing powers. We will share an 1883 model as well as another 1850s Kidder & Davis this season that have been brought back to working condition!



◀ An 1850s model of the magneto powered electric machine used to shock away "nervous diseases." Curran Collection



▶ An ad for a Hildreth wood splitter; one was recently donated to the collection by Vernon Shaw of Eddington.

New Donations Added To Our Collections

Some new additions to the collection include a Hildreth wood splitter. Some may remember that one of these is exhibited with our collection in Newfield. Unlike the Newfield splitter, this second machine is complete and functional on both sides. We have a plan to eventually run this with an early gas engine utilizing it to both demonstrate and secure firewood for our sugar shack each year.

The second item is a six horsepower one cylinder Fairbanks & Morse gas engine mounted on a period cast iron wheel cart.

The third and last item is a **commercial cider press** that was powered by a **steam engine** that remains attached although there is no boiler. This piece originally belonged to Lloyd Holland coming from his family farm and orchard in Connecticut. Vernon Shaw, the donor of the piece, later purchased the piece from Holland. Certainly, we have a plan to eventually use the press to churn out some tasty cider! Thank you to Vernon Shaw for these much appreciated donations.