



19th Century Curran Villages at Orrington & Newfield

372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME
207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426

The Curran Homestead, Inc., A Community Education program, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation includes 19th Century Curran Villages at Orrington & Newfield

Winter 2019/2020

Email: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com • Website: curranhomestead.org

Help Us Meet a \$5,500 Matching Gift Challenge *Our Annual Fund Drive is Underway*

A \$5,500 Matching Fund Challenge has been pledged by another anonymous donor for our ongoing **Annual Fund Drive**. If you recall, this is our third challenge this year from various donors with more than \$20,000 successfully raised through the generosity of contributors like you.

This **Matching Fund Challenge**, if met with your generous donation by February 2020, will result in \$11,000 towards our **Annual Fund**.

The **Annual Fund** will assist us in meeting the significant cost of consolidating our two museum villages in 2020 and completing an infrastructure capable of maintaining our collections, providing hands-on educational programming to school visitors, offering regular traditional arts and S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) learning objective workshops for children and adults, and celebrating the seasons with our special events at Orrington, Maine. It is our goal to ultimately fulfill our ongoing mission:

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.

SPECIAL EVENT

Family Ice Harvest on Fields Pond in Orrington

**Saturday, January 25
10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

A free public event re-enacting ice harvesting with traditional harvesting tools. Enjoy horse-drawn bobsled rides (\$5), food concession (\$), blacksmithing and more.



19th Century Curran Villages at Orrington & Newfield

Museum Director
Robert Schmick, PhD

CORPORATE OFFICERS

President
Irv Marsters

Vice President
Nathaniel Coe

Secretary
Richard A. Stockford

Treasurer
Ron Sucy

Board Members
Cheryl Gray
Richard B. Hanson
Fred Hartstone
William Wilkins

Honorary Board
James H. Leighton, Jr.
John Mugnai
Helen Tupper Southard
Stan White
Karen Marsters

Historian Emeritus
Brian Higgins

Clerk of the Corporation
Christopher B. Hatch, Esq.

Orrington

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

Newfield

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

207-205-2849 • 207-745-4426

thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
curranhomestead.org

Join Us for our Annual Member Recognition Dinner

This annual dinner that honors volunteers, members and donors each year is undergoing a change in 2020. It will not be held in late January as has been the case, due to frequent postponements because of inclement winter weather. Instead, our new Annual Fund Dinner will be scheduled for

Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. It is an opportunity for fundraising for our annual fund which assists us in meeting the costs of museum operations. Planned entertainment and a silent auction will accompany this formal dinner that will be priced for members and non-members.

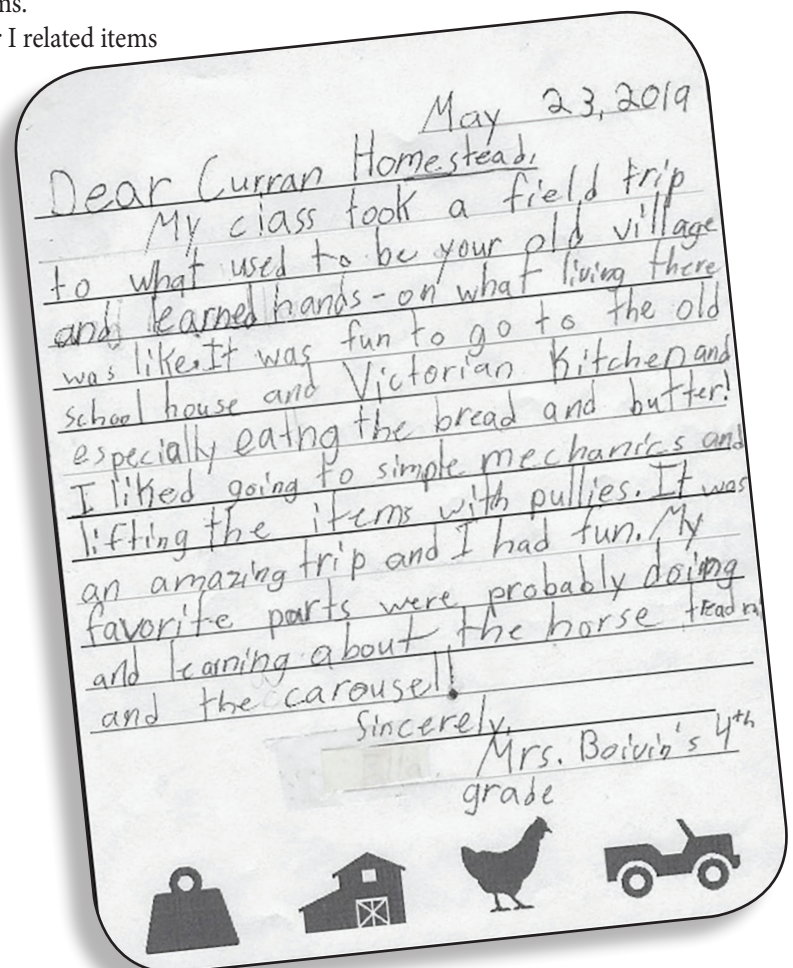
Updated Wish List

- Bookbinding, papermaking, letterpress printing ephemera and equipment
- Post Office advertising, stamp-related materials, antique government printed matter
- Antique candle molds
- Vintage photos of rural Maine life
- Silent auctions items for our Annual Fund Dinner in March.
- Antique (1890s-1920s) electric light fixtures, wiring, knife switches, liquid batteries, generators etc.
- Antique auto, engine and Petroliana-related items.
- World War I related items
- Building materials

❖

In Memory of Sylvester A. Geiser 1934-2019

Syl was a long-time volunteer contributor to our Orrington museum village. Contributions in his memory may be made to 19th Century Curran Villages at the request of his family.



Museum Director's Message

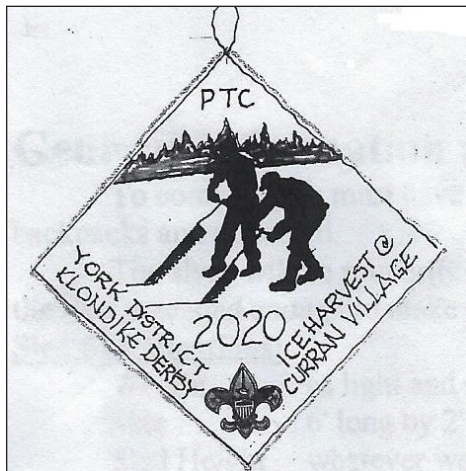
It has been a privilege to serve our mission alongside a dedicated board of directors, volunteers, and part-time staff. On their behalf, I thank you in advance for your support.

Support like your generous donations is needed more than ever for our evolving organization and its increased educational role. We will fulfill this objective through school visitor programming, year-round family workshop offerings and seasonal events at Orrington with the consolidation of our two campuses starting in 2020.

As you may know, the original motivation for the board of the former 19th Century Willowbrook Village of gifting the Newfield campus and its collections to The Curran Homestead was that an eventual sale of properties and consolidation of collections would greatly assist it in its efforts to become a greater educational resource in Orrington for the greater Bangor area and Maine as well as extend into the future the legacy of Willowbrook.

The Curran board was initially optimistic about maintaining Newfield as a second campus, and it did so for three years with immense and much appreciated donations, contributions from volunteers, staff and precious financial contributors. Together, we succeeded in providing a unique educational experience to thousands of school children from Maine and New Hampshire. Although school field trip programming continued to attract increasing numbers each season, in the final assessment, overall public visitation levels and increasing costs of maintenance make the museum in Newfield no longer sustainable.

The last event in Newfield will be a fitting send-off as the York County District of the Boy Scouts will have their Klondike Derby in conjunction with our Family Ice Harvest at Newfield on February 1, 2020 from 10 a.m.- 3 pm. The general public is invited free of charge. There will be a food concession (\$) and horse drawn bobsled rides (\$5). The boys will cut ice cakes from the Mill Pond and transport them with their dogsleds to the icehouse. They will compete in all types of activities for the reward of golden nuggets, that once accumulated, determine their standing amongst other patrols manning a dogsled in the competition. There will be ice harvesting,



blacksmithing, letterpress printing, simple machine activity, and Ford Model T assembly line tasks required of the scouts. Come join us!

In Orrington, work continues in the effort to consolidate our two museum villages into one. This involves refining our collections at both our sites, keeping in mind our current and future goals for educational offerings. We use a working collection of artifacts as a starting point for our hands-on learning objectives and much of the collection housed at Newfield has great value to us for the future. The popular and fully restored 1894 horse carousel and the building that houses it is destined for Orrington. We will begin the process of selling the properties at Newfield soon.

We need your continued support as work proceeds in developing the Orrington village's infrastructure. This is necessitated not only to be worthy of the Orrington collection developed over thirty years, but the important collections of Maine heritage at Newfield.

Recently, we built a replica of a 1920s post office that operated on a farm in Penobscot, Maine. The structure will serve in the presentation of communications in history including early radio, telegraphs, telephones and postal services. Some artifacts anticipated for this exhibit come from Newfield collections, including a postmaster's desk and telegraph sets. We have several other structures in the works, including a hands-on history building that we have arranged with Penobscot Job Corps to construct this spring. Lumber for these constructions was harvested from museum property by students from Brewer High School's Forestry Program. These structures are integral to our unique programming that will soon come up from Newfield and be shared at Orrington for decades to come with your support.

The best of holidays for you and your family. Happy New Year!

— Robert Schmick



Post Office building under construction.

Winter Workshops in Orrington

3 Knife Making Workshops

January 4 & 5, 2020; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or
February 15 & 16, 2020; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or
March 21 & 22, 2020; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: \$225 each session. Pay to Register. The class fills quickly. Call 207-205-4849.

This is our popular knife making class now offered at the Orrington site with instructor Dwight King. You will use blacksmithing techniques to forge a blade, and handle tang with a propane burning forge. Filing, grinding and sanding are part of the process. Students will learn oil quench hardening, oven tempering, and fit rivets and hardwood scale with fast-drying epoxy to create a handle. Walk away with your first knife. A 2.5 lb. hammer, leather shoes, natural fiber clothing and safety eyewear are required with registration.

Post and Beam Construction Workshop

Dates in January, February & March 2020 by

arrangement (30 hours of instruction).
Cost: \$200. Call 207-205-4849 for details.

Using rough cut hemlock and pine lumber you will assist in the creation of an 18' by 20' structure under the tutelage of our experienced staff. The class will familiarize you with essential hand and power tools. Measuring and construction strategies will be shared. Highlights include scarfing and joining sill work, window and door framing, bird's mouth roof rafters, and metal roofing installation. The essential hands-on beginners' workshop in wood building construction.

Make a Propane Burning Forge or Furnace Workshop

Saturday, January 11, 2020; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cost: \$300, includes all materials and tools.

Do forging at low cost and with less equipment than tradition coal fired forging. We weld legs and cinching lugs to this re-purposed helium tank fabrication.

Commercial grade refractory cement is set inside the tank. You make cuts to the tank, assemble lugs, a project rest, a black pipe gas delivery system, construct cement mold, and assemble a 10 PSI gas regulator customized by us to heat metal to 1400 plus degrees Fahrenheit. You can alter the design for metal casting purposes.

Blacksmithing: Beginning Coal Fired Forging

February 22, 23, 29, March 1, 2020
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: \$325. Call 207-205-4849.

In 28 hours of instruction, you will learn fire making, safety, forging, heat treatment, and create a number of metal projects. Highlights include creating botanical forms as well as introduction to forge welding. Limited to 6. Don't wait to register. Pay to register, call: (207) 205-4849. Safety eye wear, natural fiber clothing, leather shoes, and gloves required. Bring a 2.5 lb. hammer.



Cabin Fever Relief Workshops

February 15-18, 2020 (School Break) Cabin Fever Workshop Series for Kids, ages 8-12. Register Now; first come, first serve. Class limit: 6. Register by January 30. All seven classes for \$125 or stated individual costs. Take the class with your siblings and your friends! Parents welcome to attend with their children.

Music: Make a Flute & Learn to Play a Ditty on it

Saturday, February 15, 2020; 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$15 each or \$25 for both.

These workshops involve use of hand tools and various natural and re-purposed materials to achieve a long-lasting functioning museum instrument.

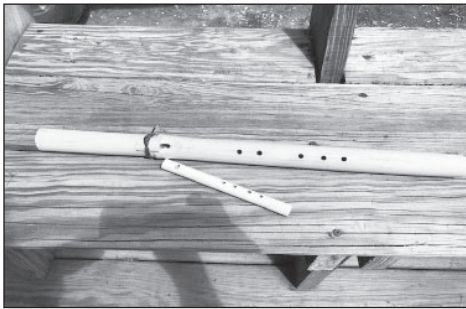
Make a Flute: 9-10:30 a.m.

Snack provided: 10:35 a.m.

Learn to play a ditty on your flute:

10:45 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch: 12-12:30 p.m.



Music: Make a Xylophone

Saturday, February 15, 2020; 12:30-3 p.m.
Cost: \$15 each or \$25 for both.

Make a Dowel Handle Toolbox

Sunday, February 16, 2020; 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$25

Use basic hand tools and work with wood. Bring bag lunch if taking the catapult making workshop that follows.



Make a Catapult

Sunday, February 16, 2020; 12:30-3 p.m.
Cost: \$25; Take both wood workshops for \$40.

Using Leonardo Da Vinci's design of this war machine, you will construct a working scale model of a catapult that can propel cheerios, paper clips and the like. This is a kit that we have made for the purpose of this class requiring wood glue and wooden pegs.



Make Pickles & Sauerkraut, and Irish Soda Bread

Monday, February 17, 2020; 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$15

A beginner's class in which you prepare a dill brine and prepare vegetables for pickling. You will walk away with two old fashioned canning jars of pickles and sauerkraut, make some homemade butter, mix ingredients, and bake a loaf of Irish soda bread in our wood-burning 1930 Crawford kitchen stove.



Fiber Arts Workshop

Monday, February 17, 2020; 12:30-3 p.m.
Cost: \$20

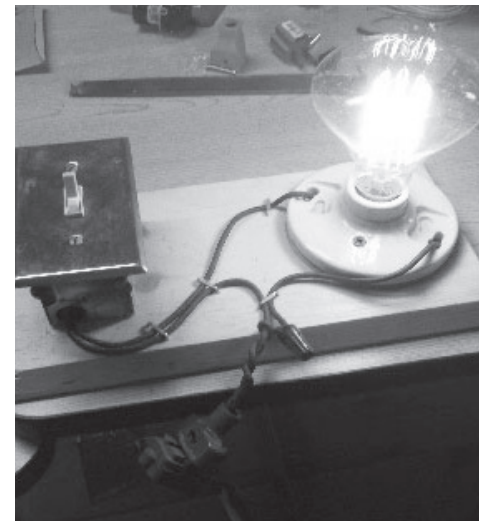
Learn to card and raw wool. Learn to dye wool with natural pigments. Learn to weave wool on a lap loom. Students will complete their own lap loom that they may bring home with them to finish their weaving project that they will begin in class.



Make an Electric Lamp

Tuesday, February 18, 2020; 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Cost: \$25

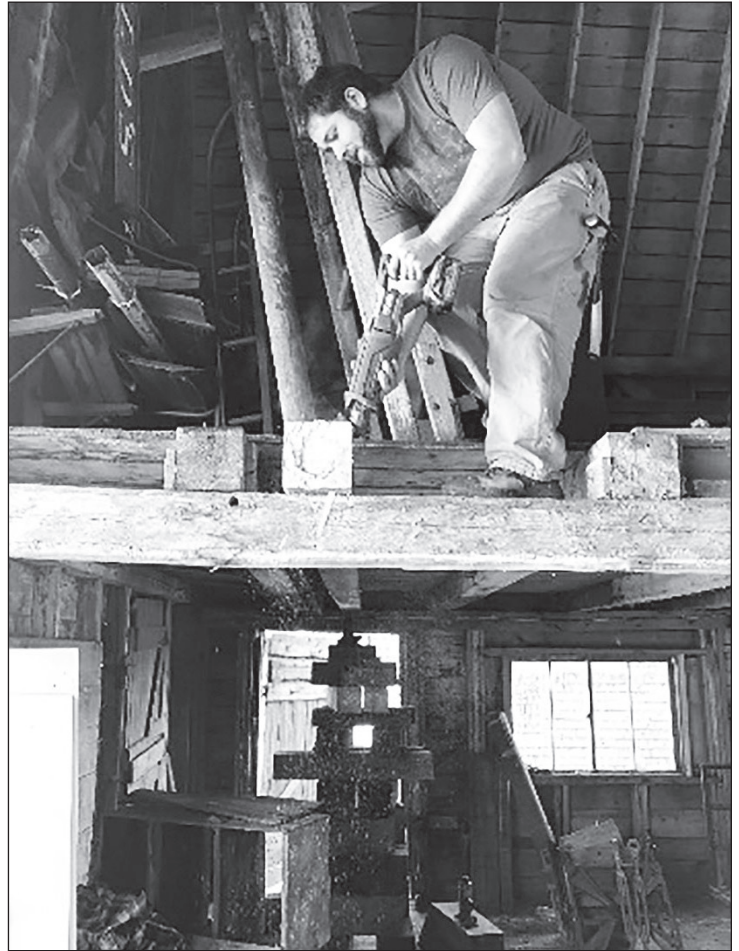
Using a variety of materials including steel, wood and glass, students will construct an old school electric light fixture on a base.



Snapshots in Time



Curran farmhouse. A new roof was recently installed on the farmhouse thanks to a generous donation from Irv & Karen Marsters. Further repairs will proceed in the spring including a new coat of paint for the structure destined for greater activity in 2020 starting with our **Cabin Fever Workshop series** (see details).



Board member Nate Coe cuts off a new 8 x 8 x 15 floor joist replacement in the Curran barn.



Knowlton School from North Berwick, ME pose with their newly assembled Model T during our October field trips in Newfield. There were more than 2100 school visitors in our last season at Newfield.

The last class to ride the carousel in Newfield. Plans are being made for its relocation to Orrington in 2020.



The restoration of our own 1919 Novice ice saw is ending thanks to the work of board member Bill Wilkins and volunteer Cal Mc-Graw. It still needs its blade sharpened while the pouring of a set of new babbit bearings is underway.

CUT OUT, FILL OUT & MAIL OUT

Please Join or Renew Your Annual Membership Today!

Membership helps us preserve our Maine and New England rural heritage as well as perpetuate an invaluable community educational resource. Membership comes with free general admissions on Open Days at Orrington in 2020, discounts on programs and workshops, and our frequent newsletter.

Treat yourself or someone else to a step back into time!
Visit us on Facebook or our website.

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- Dual: \$50**
- Family: \$75**
- Historian: \$100**
- Historical Society,
Museum or Library: \$150**
- Business: \$300**
- Business Plus: \$350**
- Sustaining: \$300**
- Benefactor: \$500**
- Homesteader: \$1000**
- Other Amount** _____

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"

Be aware that credit card charges for 19th Century Curran Villages are processed by the **Bangor Letter Shop** as a savings to the museum.

VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

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

Please print legibly:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

2020 Membership Levels & Benefits

- All members get free general admissions to 19th Century Curran Village at Orrington in 2020
- Consult our calendar for Open Days at Orrington. Some memberships receive guest privileges
- Membership includes reduced priced tickets for our Annual Fund Dinner in March
- **CHILDREN:** (ages 0-17) Free general admissions
- **DUAL: \$50** (2 adults) 10% discount on workshops
- **FAMILY: \$75** (up to 3 adults) 1 guest pass, 10% discount on workshops
- **HISTORIAN: \$100** (up to 3 adults) 2 guest passes, 10% discount on workshops
- **BUSINESS: \$300** Free admission for any employee's family of four each day event or opening, business advert in each newsletter and website, 2 free guest passes. For **\$350**, get a business advertisement in each of our newsletters in 2020.
- **NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MUSEUM, OR LIBRARY: \$150.** We will issue a pass for a family of four. You can reproduce two of these passes and share with your members (and their family) for each day we are open at the Orrington campus. Our normal admission is \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, free for children 18 and under and active military with ID.
- **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, your annual contribution recognized as a co-sponsor of a 19th Century Curran Villages event of your choice, 8 free guest passes, 20% discount on workshops.

19th Century
Curran Villages
 at Orrington & Newfield, Maine



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



The Curran Homestead, Inc., a Community Education program, 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation includes 19th Century Curran Villages at Orrington & Newfield

Charitable Donation Form

By contributing to the **Annual Fund** or the **Rural Heritage Endowment Fund**, you will help prepare a new generation for the challenges of the 21st century with lessons from the past.

These funds insure 19th Century Curran Villages' immediate needs and long-term sustainability.

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 be aware that credit card charges for 19th Century Curran Villages are processed by the **Bangor Letter Shop** as a savings to the museum.*

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

VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO:

(Please indicates choices)

**RURAL HERITAGE
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

THE ANNUAL FUND

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

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