



19th Century Curran Village

Spring 2020

372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME
 207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426
 Email: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
 Website: curranhomestead.org

A Carousel Comes to Town!

We have been bust this winter with building constructions at our Orrington and Holden museum village. With spring here, our efforts have gained renewed enthusiasm. The carousel building is currently being disassembled by the engineering firm **Nickerson & O'Day** who have generously donated \$35,000 towards the sizable cost of the building's relocation from Newfield and reconstruction, that includes a new roof and paint. The museum has made a considerable investment in excavating the new site for the Carousel Building, doing groundwork, and pouring concrete frost walls.

The three-story octagonal shaped structure was originally built in 1990 by Willowbrook Museum with the assistance of the **Maine National Guard in Saco/Sanford**. Initially, the 1894 wooden horse was designed as a portable unit by manufacturer Armitage-Herschell in Tonawanda, NY; it was transported to seasonal venues not only Maine but New Hampshire and



The historic Armitage-Herschell carousel is coming to the Curran Village.



A wedding at the Carousel Building in Willowbrook.

Massachusetts by horse drawn wagons and rail by owner Saco cabinet maker Ivory Fenderson from 1896-1922. The mail order amusement cost \$2000, and it took two years for delivery given its high demand at the time. Fenderson retired it to a hay barn in Saco in 1922 where it remained until its acquisition by Willowbrook Museum in the 1970s. Fenderson's eleven-year-old son never got to ride the amusement, as his father thought him too young at the time of its retirement to ride the fast-traveling machine.

The narrative non-fiction *The Galloping Horses of Willowbrook* (2011), written by

Judith Thyng and Jean Flahive, illustrated by Kerry Moody LaPointe, tells the story of Ivory Fenderson, V's sixty-nine year wait to ride the horse carousel, as he was the first to do so after a fourteen-year restoration and the completion of the Carousel Building in 1991. The book is out of print and will soon be republished.

Although the fully restored carousel was assembled by 1991, its recent organized disassembly is its first since 1922. Using Roman numerals carved into its parts as a guide, Fenderson's crew of three reputedly got the assemble and disassembly times each

continued on page 3



19th Century Curran Village

Museum Director
Robert Schmick, PhD

BOARD OFFICERS

President
Cheryl Gray

Vice President
Irv Marsters

Secretary
Richard A. Stockford

Treasurer
Ron Sucey

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

207-205-4849
207-745-4426

thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
curranhomestead.org

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

100 GALLONS of

#2 HOME HEATING OIL

Provided by and for delivery only within delivery areas of
R.H. FOSTER ENERGY



Single Ticket \$5 3 for \$10 10 for \$20

All proceeds benefit 19th Century Curran Village
Need not be present to win.

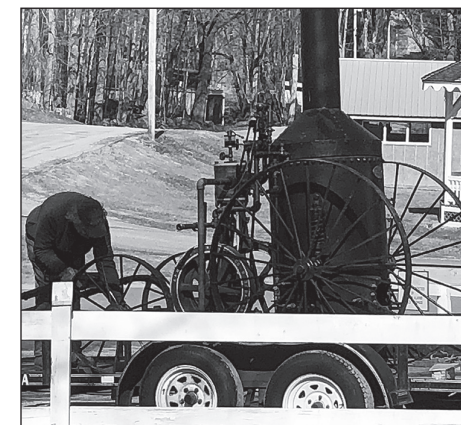
Tickets available at
BANGOR LETTER SHOP
99 Washington Street, Bangor, ME 04401
Or call 207-745-4426

We can give you the numbers of your tickets over the phone.
We will fill out the stub and place it in our bucket for drawing
and contact you if you are the winner.

Museum Director's Message

continued from page 1

down to a 24-hour shift between transports venue to venue. Last summer, our crew of three, with assistance from some additional volunteers, disassembled and labeled much of carousel, including its very heavy pipe organ and the very heavy air compressor and tanks situated in the basement of the adjacent Durgin House from which air was pumped. In recent weeks, the last of the carousel was moved and stored in preparation for the building's removal. The last part of the carousel removed was the 8



Moving the steam engine north.

HP. steam engine and boiler mounted on a steel wheel carriage. Constructing a ramp and using a come along and ropes, Douglas Dolan, Calvin McGraw, and myself were able to remove the very heavy rig from the 10-inch-deep pit it has been parked in. We transported all to Orrington for temporary storage, but before doing so unveiled the 19th century mechanical marvel on Bangor's **WABI Channel 5 News**.

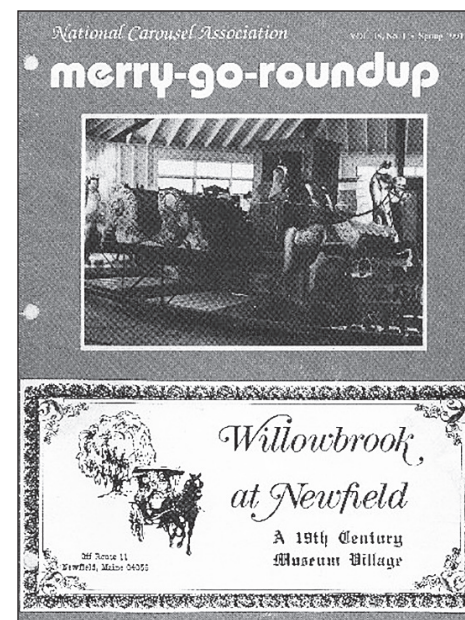
In recent months, we were contacted by **Barbara Fahs Charles**, who runs a private museum grant writing and consulting firm. Ms. Charles, who has been in contact with Curran since the Willowbrook transition, has long been interested in our carousel as a founding past board president of the **National Carousel Association (NCA)**. The NCA that has featured our carousel several

times throughout the years including a recent article in 2015 and an entire issue devoted to it in their quarterly magazine **Merry-Go-Roundup** in Spring 1991.

Ms. Charles has pledged to assist us with finding grant funding from the National Carousel Association as well as other sources. One idea discussed is to create a documentary about our rare carousel with its original power train, wooden horses, and barrel organ. The latter is of especial interest to the Association who may assist us in bringing it to total functionality. For the time being, we are focusing on the relocation, but hope to take up the offer of assistance in improving our exhibition of this important Maine heritage artifact soon.

We greatly appreciate the patience of new owners of the Durgin House property who allowed us to remove the building after they assumed ownership. They are currently transitioning the property as a Air B & B and wedding venue. The relocation of the Carousel Building includes re-assembly with an anticipated completion by the end of June. We plan to sheath the exposed interior wall framing with traditional bead board for the purpose of making this a changing exhibition space for photography and paintings as well as the extensive archival record of the carousel.

— Robert Schmick
Museum Director



Our carousel was featured in this magazine.

With this, our largest building project ever underway, we seek your assistance to ensure that the horse carousel rides again. Our Horse Carousel will be open to visitors like you and your family in 2022 with your support. Be the first to ride the carousel at its new location as at the following levels of giving. Each donor's gift will be memorized on a large donor recognition display in the form of a tree to be mounted in the entrée foyer of the carousel next to the original ticket booth. The "donor tree" will be in the shape of and fashioned from wood from the centuries old hornbeam tree that once stood in front of the Curran Farmhouse.



2021 Horse Carousel Fundraiser

Help Make the Horses Ride Again!

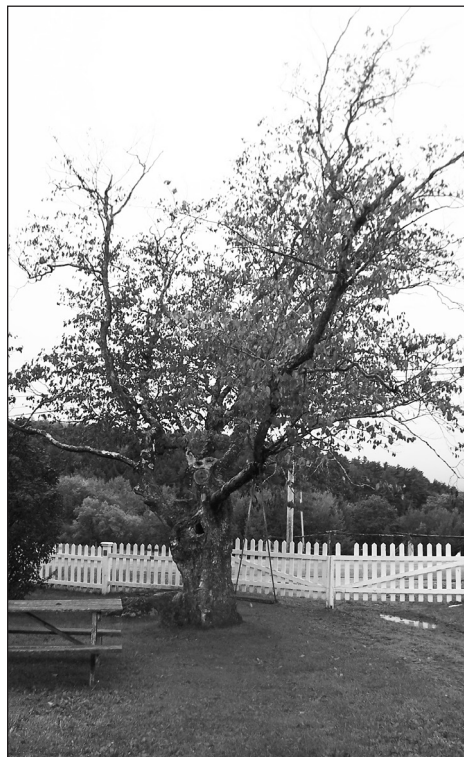
Donations will go towards the cost of re-assembly of the Carousel Building and the Armitage-Herschell Horse Carousel as well as updates and improvements to the structure and the permanent installation of the carousel inside. All contributions are charitable tax exemptions to the full extent of the tax laws.

\$2500 PATRON Level

- With your contribution, you will name one of the carousel horses or ponies of the Horse Carousel. This name will be preserved for a five-year period. Make this a tradition in your family through the opportunity to renaming a horse or pony by successive generations--children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren...
- Your name will be ascribed to the trunk of our **Donor Recognition Tree** with a photo of the horse or pony in the entrance foyer of the **Carousel Building**. Horses are slightly larger, as they are positioned on the outside of the carousel ring whereas the smaller ponies are on the inside.
- The benefits of our new **Adopt a Horse, or Pony** fundraiser includes a certificate, free rides on the carousel for the five-year period (The horses were named in 2011 as part of a Willowbrook fundraising campaign, so the names you might remember associated with horses were of recent and limited designation and not sacrosanct).
- You or a family member, as an honored guest, can ride your horse or pony at our carousel opening gala.
- Receive a framed reproduction circa 1890s chromolithograph of the carousel.
- Free Admission for a family of four to Museum Events and Open Days in 2022.
- Four guests to an Event or Open Day at the Museum.

\$1,000 BENEFACTOR Level

- Your name or someone you wish to honor will be memorialized on our **Donor Recognition Tree** in association with one of our six carousel chariots. A seating place in that chariot (one of four) will



Curran's Old Hornbeam Tree.

- be designated in your name for a five-year period.
- Receive a framed reproduction circa 1890s chromolithograph of the carousel.
- You or a family member can ride in the chariot as an honored guest at our carousel opening gala.
- Receive a framed reproduction circa 1890s chromolithograph of the carousel.
- Free admission for a couple (2) to Museum Events in 2022.

\$500 CONTRIBUTOR Level

- Your name will be ascribed to a leaf on our **Donor Recognition Tree**.
- Receive a framed reproduction circa 1890s chromolithograph of the carousel.

- Free admission for one to Museum Events in 2022.
- Two guests for an Event or Open Day

\$250 DONATION Level

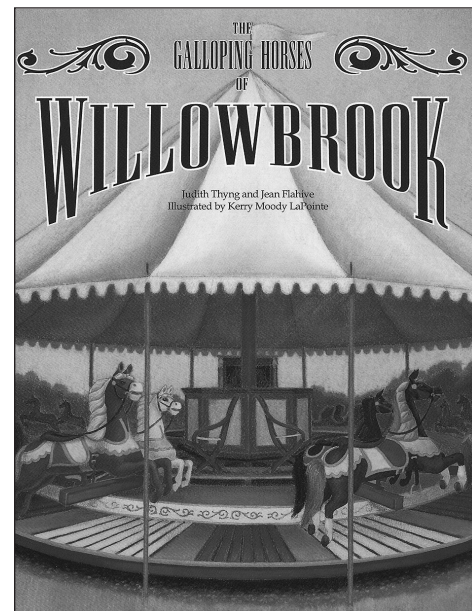
- Your contribution will be ascribed to a temporary, one year leaf on our **Donor Recognition Tree**.
- Receive a framed reproduction circa 1890s chromolithograph of the carousel.
- Free admission for one to Museum Events in 2022.
- One guest for an Event or Open Day.

A DONATION

(An amount of your choice)

- Show your support of our mission and our efforts to create an educational resource for families with a donation.

Thank you!



The Galloping Horses of Willowbrook book.

19th Century Curran Village Takes Shape

Our effort to create a greater educational resource for you and your family have continued this past winter, as we seek to meet an opening date of 2022 for our new museum village. We greatly appreciate the generosity of **Home Depot of Bangor** in working with us on materials and tools on all our present projects.

Thank you,
Home Depot of Bangor

The relocated William Cram Letterpress Office from Willowbrook is in the process of being expanded into a new Country Store, but before that happened there were many repairs to address on the building. The weather, especially the wind, was often not on our side this past fall and winter as we worked at re-assembling our relocated buildings. The newly designated Country Store roof, which consists of 50-year-old aluminum panels with an out of production design profile, posed an added challenge when putting it back together. The building's clapboard has been especially hard to repair. We had just enough new old stock of its rare tongue and groove clapboard, found stored in the rafters of one of the Willowbrook buildings, to complete the task.

We have enclosed the former porch area to give us more than 900 square feet in total interior space. A new porch will be added on to the front of the remodeled structure. In the end, we will have a larger store space than the Amos Straw Country Store in Newfield to house our expanding collection and serve as a retail space for gifts, books, and souvenirs. The museum's late Victorian era glass top counters and cabinets some might remember from the Willowbrook store have all been transported to put into this new space once it is completed. The interior walls of the structure will be sheathed with center bead tongue and groove pine boards to give a more authentic circa 1890s look. We will replicate wood shelving with its characteristic dentil moldings from the former store.



The former William Cram Letterpress Office has been relocated and reassembled as the new Country Store.

With our old Letterpress Office transformed into a Country Store you might ask where is the popular letterpress activity happening?

The former Agricultural Equipment Shed at Willowbrook was on the wane with a sag in its roof line and rotting vertical support posts. When we cut it up and relocated it to Orrington there was some doubt about ever getting it back together again. The project started with removing nails from much of the structure and erecting it on floating concrete pads. We added a series of central post and beam "bents" to correct the roof sag. A raised double layer 1" x 6" pine board floor was added with heavy rough cut floor joists and metal hangers. The building was sheathed with pine boards and cedar shingles. Antique

doors and windows have been installed and are being restored to give the building a late 19th century look. Our new **Trades Building**, which will include a Letterpress Office as well as a woodworking area.

Our letterpress collection has expanded in recent years with a pair of tabletop Chandler & Price letterpresses that we have used regularly with school groups. We have a collection of presses and other equipment from the former letterpress office **Burr Printing in Bangor** as well as several other donated collections to complement our core collection associated with William Cram's letterpress office from Amesbury, Massachusetts. Recently, someone called about whether we will offer letterpress workshops again as we did in Newfield in recent years. The answer: "We can't wait."



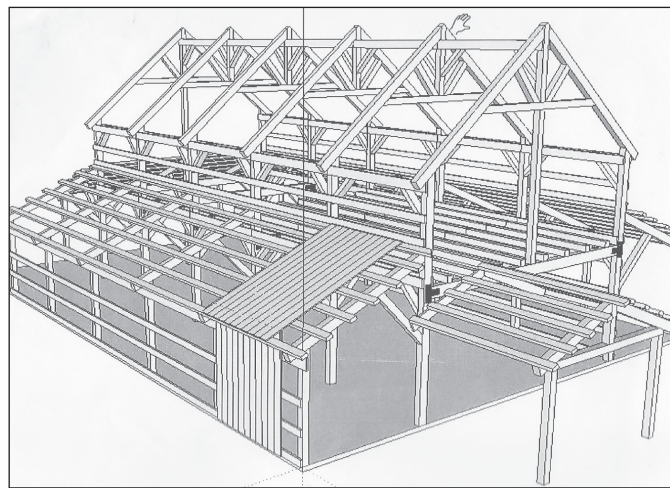
An Ambitious Season of Building

In addition to a Country Store, Trades Building, and Post Office, an ambitious schedule of building projects is planned for this season, as we will forego any type of regular calendar of events. There are plans for contributions to **Old Home Week in Orrington** and the re-scheduled **Maine Bicentennial Celebration** this summer.

We will be working at the Village site for the next few months getting more re-located buildings back together again. We still have three structures in Newfield to move. These include the Apple Orchard Equipment Shed, Haying Shed and Cooperage. We have prepared concrete slabs at the Village site for their re-assembly.

Recently, we decided to forego moving the 14 x 74-foot Hands-On History Building (HOH) in Newfield. Given our need for more space for a newly planned **Victorian dining room and parlor** to complement our Laundry, Kitchen and Sewing Exhibits in the former HOH Building a larger structure is necessitated. The new additions will include artifacts from the former Durgin House dining room and Dr. Isaac Trafton's sitting parlor characterizing 19th century domestic life, a theme always popular with teachers and visiting school groups. The planned **Hands-On History Building** will be adjacent to the Carousel Building at the Village. We have prepared the gravel to receive a concrete pad. The new structure will imitate the open porch of the original HOH Building, have bathroom facilities for school groups, and have a shed space at its back for exhibition.

Our 1870s Cider Press needs its shelter re-erected. A concrete slab has been completed for what will be our new Grain and Cider Mill. Using an open shed structure from the former Willowbrook campus we will create an enclosed structure after a rebuild of the post and beam framing. The Mill will have one bay devoted to cider making, and this will necessitate the concrete floor for cleaning the press and making cider, but three quarters of the structure of



The planned new Hands-On History Building

40 feet length will be a raised wooden floor.

We have many artifacts originating from the Orrington site as well as from Newfield that combined will tell the story of processing grain, apples, and fruit. One of the highlights of this collection are a comprehensive collection of stoneware cider jugs originating from Maine and New England. The Cider Mill includes a pair of metal pressing screws produced by Weber and Haviland in Waterboro in the 1870s. In 2014 Willowbrook restored this press and a commercial apple grinder creating the current arrangement of a platform for

turning the eight-foot pole handles to the press and grinding apples at a higher elevation by horse treadmill power. The one component missing from this scenario is a conveyor belt system to bring apples to the grinder to make the pomace, crushed apples, necessary for the squeezing process. We hope to create this. **We are looking for a donation of an antique conveyor belt system for moving apples at a sharp incline.**

The **Car Culture Building** is next on our agenda. We have an 80-foot-long concrete slab ready for the re-assembly of what was

once the Saw Shed, Engine Shed and Tractor Shed at Newfield as well as a new 20-foot-long addition. This building will house our collection of gas-powered vehicles including the fully restored Ford Model Ts donated by Isaac Hughes as well as our collection of hit and miss engines. The centerpiece of this exhibit will be the **Model T Assembly Line**, a hands-on learning activity. Temporarily we will use this structure to house our collection of sleighs, wagons, and carriages that we will be re-locating from Newfield in the coming months.

Around the Forge Fire

We have had three **Knife Making** workshops and a **Make a Propane Blacksmith Forge** workshop in recent months. Our resident blacksmith **Dwight King** has been pleased with the results of our knife making offering that begins with students forging from a piece of high carbon steel a knife blade profile using traditional hammering techniques. Propane is used rather than coal as it burns at a constant temperature lessening the chance of compromising one's project with overheats. The museum has acquired new equipment as we have gone forward with this relatively new offering. Two new bench belt sanders allow everyone the opportunity to work continuously on the task at hand. Each student attaches hardwood handle scales with brass rivets, and often has time to not only finish their blade but thoroughly sand and form their handles before the two-day weekend class ends.

Blacksmithing: Knife Making Workshop
Saturday & Sunday, May 1 & 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tuition: \$275 Pay to register by phone: (207) 205-4849. Class limit: 6 students. Bring safety eyewear, natural fiber clothing, leather shoes, leather gloves, and mask.

We will practice social distancing to the best of our ability.

Completing Our Post Office

During a couple of weekends in November 2019 we completed much of the construction on a replica **North Castine Post Office**. We completed the metal roof, and our efforts were directed elsewhere until in recent weeks. The push is on to get the exterior completed with cedar shingles, antique moldings and windows, and some wooden doors we plan to create that imitate the doors used on our new Trades Buildings and that meet ADA requirements.

As some may remember this Post Office began with moving the original North Castine Post Office from the Russell Devereaux Farm in what is now Penobscot, Maine. With that donation we received the original sign, a money drawer, and cabinets which we will incorporate in the new structure. We have within the collection a large standing desk with etched glass and a metal fence barrier for the purpose of post office business that will incorporate into the interior space.

An **1880s safe** will also be on exhibit allowing visitors to try the posted



LEFT: North Castine P.O. replica
BELOW: The "cracked" safe



combination to unlock it. The combination to this safe stored at Willowbrook for a half century was long lost until recently thanks to the efforts of **Tom Bernadini and Lawson's Locksmiths in Brewer** who "cracked" it. Much thanks to Tom and Lawson's for services and items donated in the past.

Additionally, Ellsworth's Telephone Museum has offered a donation of circa 1920s key access mailboxes for our exhibit. The Post Office will serve temporarily for collections storage as we relocate the last of the collection from Newfield by the end of June.

Charitable Donation Form

By contributing to the **Rural Heritage Endowment Fund** or our **ANNUAL 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 Village's 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 Curran Homestead Village are processed by the **Bangor Letter Shop** as a savings to the museum and their name will appear on your credit card statement.*

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**

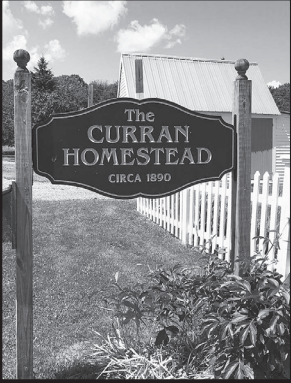
\$1000 \$100
 \$500 \$50
 \$250 Other amount
\$ _____

THE 2020 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

19th Century Curran Village at Orrington & Holden



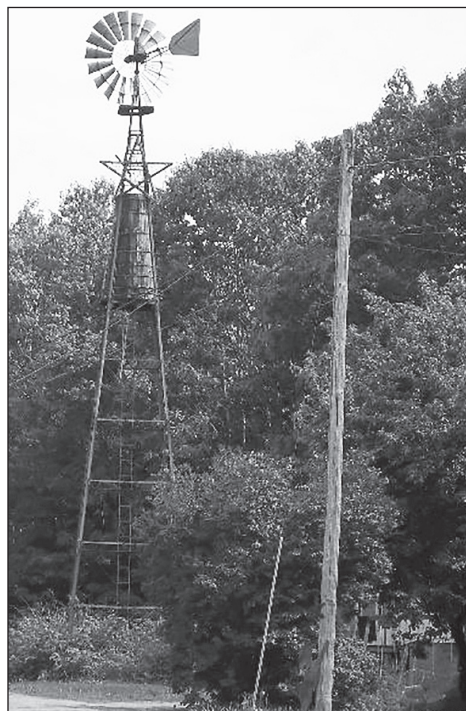
372 Fields Pond Road
P.O. Box 107
Orrington, Maine 04474

Empowering Youth with Wind

Curran Village is a windy site given its location perched above Fields Pond. With almost daily building going on this winter and now this spring we realize that the wind could be something that adds to our educational repertoire. In Newfield, we offered a programming focused on waterpower in recent years. A school field trip activity drew inspiration from the past and the historical phenomena of a neighboring mill that once drew power from flume directed water and a tub wheel. This tub wheel powered a line shaft of pulleys that ran machines to make chicken crates, cedar shingles, and horse carriage parts.

In recent years, a homemade windmill located near Charleston, Maine was called to our attention; this ran a sharpening stone, grist mill, and water pump as early as the 1920s. This mill is unique, as there were not many like this in Maine running such a variety of machines. Windmills that pumped well water for cattle troughs were more commonplace and can sometimes be seen

in various states of deterioration around rural Maine. **We seek a representation of such a windmill for our developing**



museum village site through donation, if possible.

In a recent discussion about plans for developing some new educational outreach programming and onsite children's workshops, our attentions are drawn to our antique bicycle collection and a hands-on learning activity that connects it with small electric powering windmills. The windmills would be crafted from discarded bicycle wheels, sheet metal and fasteners, and a headlight dynamo. Kids would create the assembly that would power lighting or a radio. This workshop complements our past electric light, crystal radio, and electronic telegraph signaler workshops with their focus on developing a foundational understanding of technology and connection to our mission to realize experiences relevant to S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) learning objectives. **We seek donations of old bicycle parts and telephone dynamos for this enterprise.**