

FALL 2022

372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107,
Orrington, ME 04474
207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426
thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
curranhomestead.org

Celebrate Harvest Season!

Don't miss this event!

Come out and support us on our **October 8 and 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**, Harvest Festival Event. The center piece of this two-day event will be our Cider & Grain Mill where we will unleash for the first time our commercial cider press capable of pressing more than 25 bushels of apples at one time.

Using the press involves inserting a heavy and long forged metal and wood pole into two large screw nuts repeatedly to make quarter turns on the two threaded shafts. The



Doors completed. The press and grinder inside await use this fall.

cast and machined shafts were produced by Webber & Havilland of Waterville, Maine in the 1870s. Before pressing begins, we create layers of ground apples between cloth. Apples are crushed on high by our belt driven grinder powered by a hit and miss engine. This requires a team of **volunteer** workers, and we are looking for a group to form our first **cider making co-op**.

The cider making co-op consists of individuals who collect apples to press on their own, participate in the pressing during the event, and share in the yield of cider.

We will have a workshop in how to make hard cider over the course of the weekend, as time will be spent making the cider and then preparing it in a carboy to return home with. It usually takes 6 half bushel baskets to make 5 gallons. Contact us if you're interested.

Our event visitors witness the cider making. Homemade cider can be frozen—a modern response, or, as many of us will do, make hard cider as was done for hundreds of years, as hard cider was a food staple.



Our restored press and grinder.

Last fall, staff member Nate Coe and I, with a little help from our friends, collected wild apples, pressed them, and made 15 gallons of hard cider; it wasn't as sweet and tasty as the commercial apples we used in previous years, so our goal this fall will be to go near and far to get a quantity and variety of apples.

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Our Mission

19th Century Curran Village, located in the townships of Orrington and Holden, 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 Village serves as a classroom 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, arts, and mathematics from that time to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Our goal is to help to nurture future inventors, scientists, mechanics, artists and agriculturists through individual awareness and discovery.



19th Century Curran Village

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Robert Schmick, PhD

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Orrington/Holden Village
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So, if you have some apple trees filled with fruit that you're willing to donate, please give a call 207-205-4849.

We will also be doing several pickling workshops during the two days. Our **refrigerator pickles** were a great success with kids at our Summer History Camp in July.

Let us know if you want to help at our events or open days. We need volunteers!

The **Harvest Festival** pickling workshops include vintage Mason jars to carry your pickles home in. We'll also do a jar of **sauerkraut** exploring the wonders of fermentation and good mold. Lastly, as a homage to Mainers preparing for the winter who put up gallons of pickled cabbage, we'll explore the Korean equivalent of **kimchi** in a workshop; this version has a spicy bite to it. We'll be serving up some **baked beans** and hotdogs and have some sweet apple preparations like **fritters** and **strudel** to taste.

A few years ago, we hosted a tree grafting workshop, and several saplings were grafted. Last fall a visit to the scion exchange in Thorndike, ME allowed for some more grafts to occur on these saplings, and these were far



The "Holland" steam traction engine.

more successful. Practice does make perfect. These saplings will be transplanted to our newly evolved village this fall along with some more purchased or donated saplings to begin our long-term goal of having an orchard that we can harvest each fall for the sake of this event.

We will demonstrate firewood processing circa 1880s as well as demonstrate examples from our ever-increasing collection of Ford Model Ts, early Chevrolet, and Buick, and hit an' miss/make an' brake gas engines. We'll be stoking up the boiler of the "Holland" steam traction engine and demonstrating live steam as well.

Additionally, this event will be an opportunity for those interested in being involved with our ongoing work with our collection of antique steam and gas engines. We see these engines as a working collection for those interested in learning about mechanical restorations and maintenance. We need **volunteers** to assist with demonstrations, restorations, and maintenance of the collection. Join our **Engine Club**.



Join us for the first meeting of our new Engine Club on Saturday, October 8, at 9 a.m.. Assist us in demonstrations of several gas engines from our collection during this event. Future workshops and projects will be discussed.

PICKLING WORKSHOPS

Saturday or Sunday
October 8 & 9
For ages 8-100

11 AM-12 PM
Make Refrigerator Pickles
1 Mason jar quart for \$10

12 PM-1 PM
Make Pickled Cabbage
(Sauerkraut)
1 Mason jar quart for \$10

12:30 PM-1:30 PM
Kimchi Pickle
(Korean pickled cabbage)
1 Mason jar pint for \$10

Summer S.T.E.A.M. History Camp Highlights

Science + Technology + Engineering + Arts + Mathematics = STEAM. Thirteen campers partook in a week of hands-on learning activities that included using a drop spindle to spin wool and weaving on a lap loom that they completed the construction of this past July.

Campers between ages 8-12 made coat racks using a draw knife, shaving horse and bit and brace (drill). They also made a dowel handle toolbox with lumber from the property. There was letterpress printing with **Mark Matteau** of the **Dunstan Press** in Scarborough; this was the first occasion we used the Letterpress Office. It was used for several different themed workshops for the camp, and we will be using it regularly going forward as a year-round learning space. It is insulated from insulation donated by **Cotton, Inc.'s Blue Jeans Go Green** program.

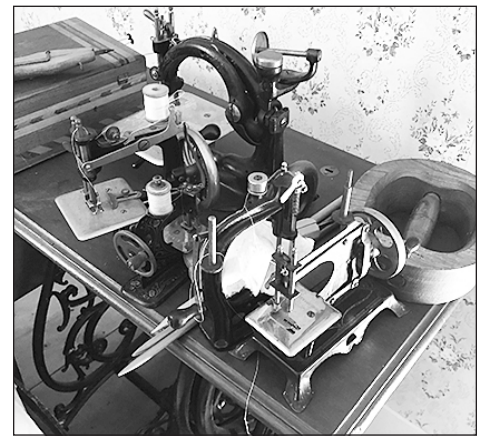
Susan Howard of Orrington spent weeks resurrecting sewing machines in our collection so that all our campers could learn to sew with a foot treadle machine. There were Singers, Whites and Franklins used by campers to sew a cinch bag made from "fat quarters". We hope to develop more workshop opportunities using this collection as well as our considerable collection of quilts and clothing from the Victorian era. Make a connection with our sewing demonstrator at the Harvest Festival if you're interested either learning or volunteering some time towards getting



LEFT: Doug Dolan and Ken Hamilton assist campers in loom making.

BELOW LEFT: Zoe shares her finished product

BELOW RIGHT: We have a comprehensive collection of sewing machines dating back to Elias Howe's 1846 Patent Model. Get involved with our sewing program! We need both the experienced and the inexperienced.



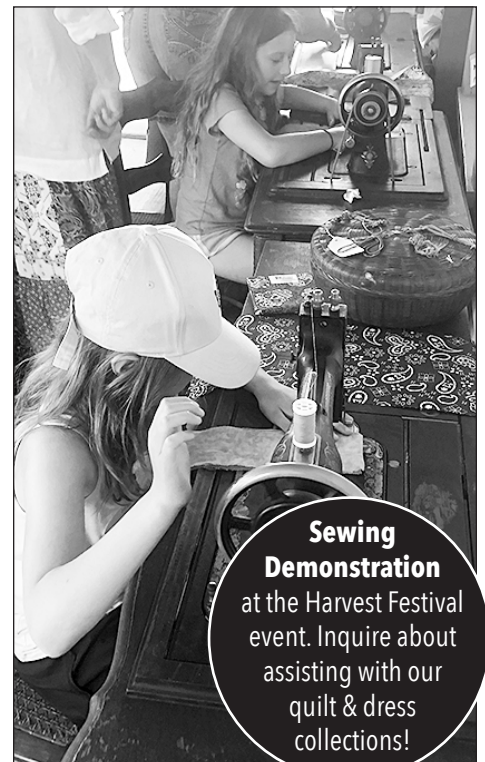
these collections into the public view. We need people with skills like weaving, knitting, crocheting, sewing, dress and clothing making to bring a new generation in the know.

Ann Thompson, an artist from Biddeford led the group in wire sculpture construction and jewelry

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Printer Mark Matteau with young printing apprentices.



Sewing Demonstration
at the Harvest Festival event. Inquire about assisting with our quilt & dress collections!

Campers Ainsley and Caroline sew with treadle sewing machines.

Fall Workshops

Saturday & Sunday

September 24 & 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**BLACKSMITHING: KNIFE MAKING
WORKSHOP with Dwight King**

Ages 15 & above

Register Now!

This is our popular two-day class that begins with forging a blade and tang from high carbon steel in a propane burning forge. File, grind, and sand before annealing your blade with an oil quench. The blade will be oven tempered overnight. Prepare your tang for a handle. Fit brass rivets and hardwood scales. Glue your handle before sanding. Bring

a 2.5 lb. peen or drilling hammer, safety eyewear with side shields, gloves, natural fiber clothing and footwear, and ear plugs (optional). Cost: \$295

By Arrangement

**1-DAY MAKE A RAILROAD SPIKE
KNIFE WORKSHOP with Dwight King**
Available to Ages 11-14 with an adult

This is a good introduction to forging that we have recently had a group of ten friends take together. You will form both blade and handle, and then have an opportunity to refine it with file, grinder, and belt sander.

We will provide a BBQ lunch with this workshop for you as an individual or as a group. Contact us to arrange a weekend date. Cost: \$150. Call to register: 207-205-4849.

Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
**PROPANE FORGE MAKING
WORKSHOP with Robert Schmick**
Ages 11-14 can take with an adult

Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
**PROPANE FORGE MAKING
WORKSHOP with Robert Schmick**
*at Raymond-Casco Historical Society,
1 Shadow Lane, South Casco*

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making. Some of this was in homage to artist Alexander Calder whose early work included a bent wire miniature circus. Remember that the museum not only has a working carousel in its' collection but an archives of Maine circus ephemera and material culture, including posters, tickets, books, souvenirs, model trains, among other things, from the late **Richard Bronson**. Circuses and carnivals were once the entertainment of rural Americans. In conjunction with the jewelry making, an impromptu archaeological dig evolved with campers using found pottery and dishware shards in their jewelry constructions; the site was likely the Curran's kitchen dump and most everything discovered dated from the 1920s-1930s.

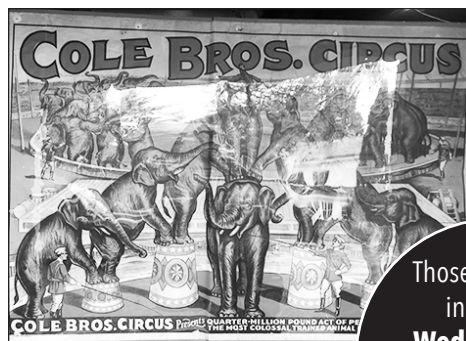
A unique presentation for our camp this year was that of Ken Hamilton who shared Native American culture from the 17th and 18th centuries with a workshop consisting of wampum necklace making, storytelling, song, and dance. Working within a camp set up on the lawn replete with historical reproduction artifacts campers stepped back in time. We look forward to future contributions by Ken to our forthcoming school field trips, and there has been discussion about creating a living history exhibit of Native Americans that includes a wigwam.



LEFT: Stringing wampum of white and purple shell (albeit synthetic) with interpreter Ken Hamilton. Wampum belts were both currency and record of family identity and history among Algonquin peoples.

BELOW LEFT: Cole Brothers Circus poster from the Richard Bronson Circus Collection.

BELOW RIGHT: Summer campers Dorian and Luke enjoy a snack in the heat.



Those interested
in being a
**Wednesday or
Thursday Volunteer**
give us a call at
207-205-4849



One camper made this bent wire jewelry.



Our new workshop space was teeming with activity this July.

Fall Workshops

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Do blacksmithing in the garage or barn. Make sure you ventilate. Starting with a helium tank, we weld horseshoe legs to it, cinching lugs to the top, and some thumbscrews to fix your flame wand inside the shell. You prepare the tank with steel reinforcement for the refractory cement. You adapt a SANA tube as a form inside the tank. You cut multiple holes in your steel tank. You cold bend and fit a handle. You assemble a series of brass fittings and copper tubing that involves cutting, flaring and tap and dyeing. You can fit a new electric blower to your forge increasing its' forging temperature (NEW option request). Your forge will be fully functional, but you should let the refractory cement cure for several days before using. We will instruct you on lighting and using the forge. Cost: \$425 (\$325 without blower). Call to register ASAP for the March 12 class: 207- 205-4849.



Shaving Horse Workshop

Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
MAKE A SHAVING HORSE
(WOODWORKING) and

Sunday, October 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
MAKE A DRAW KNIFE
(BLACKSMITHING) with Robert
Schmick and Dwight King
Open to Ages 11-15 with adult

With rough cut lumber and mortise and tenon techniques you create a traditional shaving horse to use for making a variety



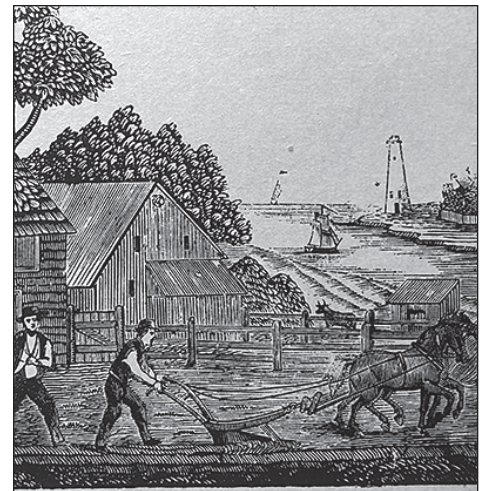
LEFT: Not only did we do a Railroad Spike Knife Workshop for a group of engineers from Keene, NH as part of a bachelor's party in Orrington, but we did a workshop for eleven at the Raymond-Casco Historical Society in South Casco with Dwight King.

BELOW: Our Whig & Courier Letterpress Office

of objects in conjunction with a draw knife or spoke shave. In Part 2 (Sunday), you will forge a traditional draw knife from high carbon steel and use your new shaving horse and draw knife to make hardwood handles, hiking staffs, and all else. Cost: \$325 You can take one of the two for \$175. Register by October 15. Pay to register: 207-205-4849.

To Be Announced Online (November date) LETTERPRESS PRINTING

This two-day workshop in our new letterpress office is introductory. It has a syllabus and students learn the language of printing. Students will also learn about materials, equipment, and techniques. You work with real lead and wood type as well as our collection of windings, borders, ornaments, and cuts. There will be an opportunity to take your learning process beyond this two-day workshop with offered apprenticeships. Cost: \$225. **On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30 there will be an opportunity to meet and discuss the workshop with instructor/printer Mark Matteau of Dunstan Press in Scarborough, a working letterpress business.** Contact us if you are interested: 207-205-4849.



One of the many printing cuts our summer campers utilized for the first time in possibly a half century or more! We need more cuts!

Some Great News!

Recently, we received partial funding for a planned multi-purpose, two-story Carriage Barn thanks to a 2022 **Davis Family Foundation Grant** award.

We need your additional support!

We have nearly completed the **Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP)** Program. This program allows us to gain insights into the needs of our collections and the buildings housing them through an evaluation by independent museum consultants.

Kids' Workshops

Friday, October 14, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

WOODWORKING: MAKE A COAT RACK

Ages 7-12

Using woodworking techniques, split rough cut wood, remove bark and shape with draw knife and shaving horse, drill holes with bit & brace, measure, cut, and hammer wooden dowels. Make two lengths or more of a pegged coat rack for your family's mud room or entryway. Cost: \$20. Snack provided. Parents welcome.

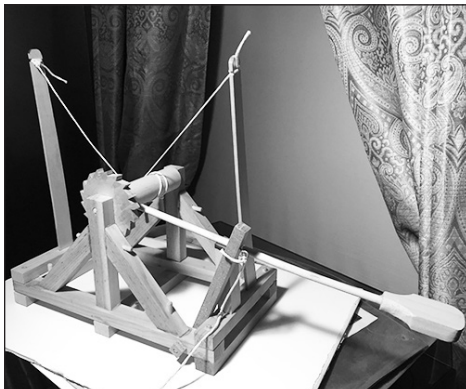
Friday, October 14, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

(Includes a Break)

ERECTOR SET FUN!

Ages 7-12

Parents welcome. One of the most popular learning toys of the 1930s... involves a screwdriver, small wrench, screw bolts and nuts. Several projects planned. See our erector set collection. Cost: \$15.



Friday, November 4, 9 p.m.-12 p.m. or

Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

CATAPULT MAKING

Ages 7-14

Learn post and beam construction with this working scale model of Leonardo da Vinci's war machine. Assemble the museum's kit using wooden pegs and glue. An exercise in following illustrated instructions. Use a hand-crank drill press and other hand tools to fit pieces, if necessary. Cost: \$35. Call to register: 207-205-4849.

Friday, November 4, 12:30-3 p.m. or

Saturday, November 5, 12:30-3 p.m.

MAKE A DOWEL HANDLE TOOLBOX

Another good beginner's woodworking experience. This involves measuring,

fastening screws, cutting with a handsaw, using a bit and brace, and sanding. Cost: \$25



Friday, November 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

BAKING & PICKLING WORKSHOP

Ages 7-14

In the Curran family's kitchen stove bake some Irish soda bread in a cast iron pan. Make butter, butter your bread, and eat it all. This involves reading directions, measuring, and mixing. In addition, traditional food stored in the cellar included pickled cabbage, or "sauerkraut". Learn the art of pickling. Prepare a Mason jar of pickled cabbage or refrigerator pickles to bring home. Parents are welcome. Cost: \$35

One Day, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ADULT/CHILD BEGINNING

BLACKSMITHING with Dwight King

Kids aged 11-15 with an adult

Two for the price of one. This is a great start to blacksmithing. Learn safety and use a propane burning forge due to the accelerated time. Forge a series of "j" hooks with drifted holes. Create rivets to fasten hooks. Create ornamental details making this a potential heirloom. Heat, hammer, cut, bend, and drift. Cost: \$130. Call to register.

Friday or Saturday by arrangement

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

1-DAY KIDS' BLACKSMITHING

with Robert Schmick

Ages 11-15. Need 5 to conduct class.

Learn to make a forge fire, heat, cut, bend, and drift metal. Make a series of hooks, "J" and "S" type. Cost: \$75.



Friday, October 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

CRYSTAL RADIO SET BUILDING WORKSHOP

Ages 8 and above

This workshop is 3 hours in duration. Make a working AM crystal radio set. Begin with a wooden base and fasten components with screws as well as do some minor soldering (we show you how). The crystal radio was the first radio receiver; it uses the power of the received radio signals to produce sound, needing no external power. The quartz crystal functions as a detector rectifying the alternating current radio signal to a pulsing direct current. We will make this from a series of components including a diode that has the crystal encased. Cost: \$45. Includes all materials. Call to register: 207-205-4849.

KIDS' NIGHT AT THE CURRAN FARMHOUSE

Friday, September 30, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

For ages 7-12. Parents welcome.

Vintage Games, Punch, Shirley Temples* and Hors d'oeuvres**

Play Board Games from History, including Round the World with Nellie Bly (1890), Monopoly (1935), Parcheesi, Sorry (1939), and The Checkered Game of Life (1861) to name a few. See some of our original games from our collection.

Play on reproductions of these and have a refreshment and snack.

* A non-alcoholic kids' cocktail named after the 1930s child actor; it consists of grenadine syrup and ginger ale.

**Includes family snacks popular in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century.

Join our new Adopt-a-School Membership

Members will identify a public school or homeschool group that they wish to fund for a school field trip visit to 19th Century Curran Village in 2022. \$10 sponsors a student, Sponsor a minimum of 10 students. Sponsor a whole grade level at a school of your choice.

We Need You as a Member!

Support this family education resource. Get as much as 20% off our workshops. Bring a guest to the museum. Your support allows us to offer more!

SELECT A MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- ☐ **Dual: \$50**
- ☐ **Family: \$75**
- ☐ **Family Plus: \$125**
- ☐ **Historian: \$100**
- ☐ **Adopt-A-School: \$100 plus**
- ☐ **Historical Society, Museum & Library: \$150**
- ☐ **Business: \$200**
- ☐ **Sustaining: \$300**
- ☐ **Benefactor: \$500**
- ☐ **Homesteader: \$1000**

Benefits of membership levels are found on our website or by mail upon request.

Wish List



We're looking for donations of pottery wheels; we will soon offer pottery workshops.

2022 Charitable Donation

Please print legibly:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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

*Be aware that credit card charges for the 19th Century Curran Village are processed by the **Bangor Letter Shop** as a savings to the museum and their name will show on your credit card statement.*

Please make checks payable to "The Curran Homestead"

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ DISCOVER

Name on Card _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

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.

2022 CAROUSEL FUND

See particulars in the Fall/Winter 2021 newsletter or at "Donations" on our website: curranhomestead.org

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

THE RURAL HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND

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

THE 2022 ANNUAL FUND

Funds to assist us in meeting the cost of operations and current development of infrastructure.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

\$ _____ Level _____

*Please fill out form and return with payment to:
The 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

Thank You to Our Recent Donors & Members

2022 Contributions

Memberships: *Dual:* Keith & Heather Bowden, Richard L. Dorf, Richard & Patricia Judd, Algis & Lina Vydas, Arthur & Bonnie Cone, Barry & Gail Ryan, Bernadette & Glenn Gaspar, Carter Cincotta, Donald & Eileen Hillman, Evelyn M. Lutz, Herb & Judy Crosby, James & Wanda Leighton, Janice & Paul E. Hills, Lorena Fenlason, Wally & Kelley Fenlason, Stanley & Ellie Israel, William E. Clark
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Benefactor: Doug & Dorothee King

Business: Mike Nelligan Construction

In Memory of Robert Croce: Jill Martel

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Carousel Fund

James F. Whitty, Dick Campbell

Rural Maine Heritage Endowment Fund

Alan Baker

Lest we forget

Thank you to our greatest benefactors:
The Estate of Alfred & Catherine Curran
William & Dede Bullock
Hank & Gloria Waldron
The Willowbrook at Newfield Legacy
&
Anonymous Donors



WEDDING & GRADUATION PHOTOS: Call us. We take donations. This Orrington couple did their photo shoot hours before their wedding.