

# Hancock Historical Society Newsletter

## Spring 2021

As Charlene and many volunteers labor to organize files and exhibits, work is continuing on the building, furnishings and fixtures. It has been a year since the building was substantially complete, and the Gatcomb/Grant crew finished up. Since then, with only a few people involved, tasks we reserved for ourselves have been slowly but steadily completed.

For the building itself, it started with painting the floor, final exterior grading of drainage swales, and paving the parking lot and driveway. We brought in internet service, and set up remote controls for our heat pumps. Display walls have been built in the museum space.

Furnishings and fixtures have been a huge job, with Don and Heather Parker in the lead. They have picked over the State of Maine surplus depot in Augusta, scoured the internet for deals, and found many bargains. For examples - a large set of chairs for the conference room came from a church, a number of display cases came from a former retail store, and many filing cabinets were acquired from state surplus. Some purchases have been made - notably a large map case. We are also reusing some shelving from our former location.

Items in progress include signage for the building, and out on the street. A flag pole and some short sections of fence are in the works. The kitchen will get some cabinets. The windows will get shades. There will be more - just like when you move into a new house - there's always one more thing.



Don was able to mount the ship model on the wall. (top photo)

The last of the unpacking in the Dr. Harvard Crabtree Meeting Room. (bottom photo)

Report and photos by Alan Gray

(Below) Setting up the museum room. In the event of overflow crowds at programs extra seating and the television will allow viewing in the museum space. The television and sound system were purchased with a Morton Kelly Grant.



#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On March 24, 2021, we held our first board meeting in our beautiful new building for The Hancock Historical Society. Along with the regular board members and officers, we welcomed new board members Savanna Havey and Mary Beth DiMarco. Ellen Sprague couldn't attend because she was teaching. Rich Malaby was a guest who brought with him a box of memorabilia from his years of running the Crocker House on Hancock Point. As the President, I ran the meeting and we talked about any new plans for upcoming programs that we might be able to have this year. We are hoping to open for everyone by July. Don Parker talked about what remained to be done to our new home, both inside and outside, including the addition of needed signs giving directions to our new location. What a change from our forty years upstairs in the Hancock Town Hall!

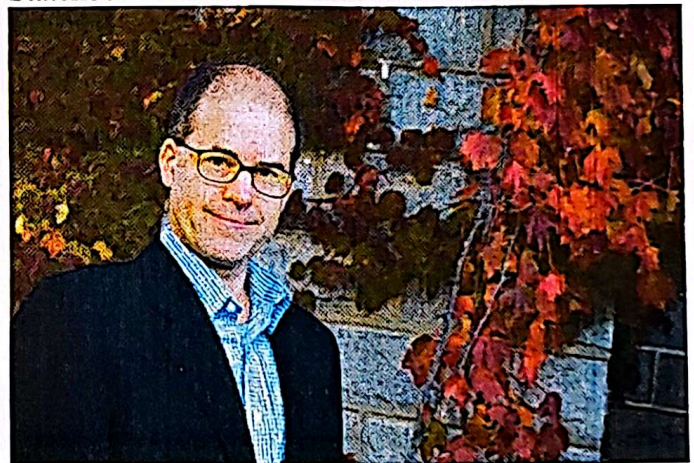
Sanford Phippen, President

#### CURATOR'S REPORT

What a delight to be able to once again open our museum to the public. And in our beautiful new building. What began as a dream three years ago became a reality thanks to the hard work of our amazing Board of Directors and the dozens of donors who gave money, time and materials to create a home for our collection of Hancock history and genealogy.

June 1<sup>st</sup> we will open for the 2021 season. In keeping with current CDC and Maine State guidance we will be fully open. We encourage visitors and volunteers to wear masks while inside the building. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 noon will be our regular hours. If these hours are not convenient, we will try to schedule a special appointment for you.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> we plan to hold our Grand Opening with guest speaker University of Maine History Professor Liam Riordan. His topic will be "What did we learn from Maine's bicentennial? Thinking about the Statehood Era in 2021"



Liam Riordan is the Adelaide and Alan Bird Professor of History at the University of Maine, where he has taught since 1997. He received his undergraduate B.A. in history at the University of California, Berkeley, and his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Glasgow in 2012.

He is a specialist on the American Revolution, especially religious, racial and ethnic diversity in the Philadelphia region, the subject of his first book. His current research focusses on Loyalists, those who opposed the rebellion that created the United States.

Another area of expertise is the Maine statehood era and its bicentennial commemoration. In 2020 he received two awards related to this work: the Maine Historical Society's Neal W. Allen, Jr. History Award, to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to the field of Maine history, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Outstanding Faculty Member Award for Service and Outreach. Liam currently serves on the City of Bangor's Historic Preservation Commission. He was the Director of the University of Maine Humanities Center from 2014 to 2016 and is a past board member of the Maine Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is active in National History Day in Maine (<http://www.mcslibrary.org/national-history-day-in-maine>), part of a national research program for students in grades 6 through 12.



Hancock Point Schoolhouse

By Pat Moll

The Hancock Point Schoolhouse, built in 1870, turned 150 years old in 2020. However, like

the State's Bi-Centennial celebrations, we were not able to celebrate the school's birthday. The School, and education survived the 1918 flu epidemic and hopefully will go on for another 150 years. In preparation for recent art exhibitions in 2019 and 2020, the interior has been pared down of furnishings, mainly some of the many school desks.

Desks of different sizes were donated to the Franklin and Sullivan Historical Societies. There continues to be the buildings' and the students' histories, some furnishings, and memorabilia as it relates to the town and education, as well as books, school supplies (before 1940), slates and games, and the original blackboards.

Last summer the building was painted and the windows were repaired, glass replaced and glazing done. As it is, the building lends itself to social distancing, and is a nice venue for exhibits, or small meetings. We welcome activities such as arts, crafts, musicals, etc. to benefit community groups. There have been 2 art shows, and the meetings last fall of the Hancock Womans Club, and the Hancock Historical Society, with fires going in the woodstove!

For interest in seeing or using the school, call the Historical Society, or Pat Moll

***From the Bar Harbor Times  
November 6, 1919***

Prospect Harbor: Mrs. Amelia McFarland of Hancock Point and her daughter Mrs. Marcia Killman of Livermore Falls accompanied by two friends were dinner guests at the home of L. P. Cole last Wednesday.

***June 1, 1918***

Sibley Martin and Carroll Johnston have employment with H. W. Johnston for the summer.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Gallison are glad to welcome them back home after spending the winter in Brownville where Mr. Gallison is

employed as engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Several from this vicinity attended the picture "The Kaiser, The Beast of Berlin at the Strand Theater in Ellsworth Last Week.

### *January 11, 1919*

Mount Desert Ferry: Mrs. Eleanor Partridge of Hancock Point is visiting with Mrs. Edgar Keif for a few days.

The Fall [sic] Hancock: Mrs. Harvey is very poorly. She cannot stay with us much longer as she has been crippled for several years.

F.W. McLane received a letter from his son Charles McLane in France. He is well and thinks it will be some months yet before he reaches home.

Hancock Point: Schools have reopened here after a week's vacation with Mrs. Susie Baker teaching the Point School and Miss Marion Morse of Eden teaching the Ferry School.

West Sullivan: Mr. and Mrs. Archie Foss were in town this week visiting relatives. Mr. Foss who has been in training at Camp Devens, has received his honorable discharge from the Army and will be at his home in Hancock for the present.

Gouldsboro: Arthur Smith of Hancock is employed by W. F. Hutchings as teamster.

### *November 2, 1918*

Mount Desert Ferry: Mrs. L.O. Grant recently visited a day with her mother Mrs. Carrie Springer at North Hancock.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nickerson went by auto to Ellsworth Friday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dow who have been home for a few days went to Waterville on Saturday where they have employment.

West Franklin: Friends of Mrs. Adah Savage are pleased to learn of her election as superintendent of schools of the Franklin-Hancock-Lamoine-Eastbrook class. After a month's vacation on account of influenza all schools will be open today. Margaret Fraser and Ola Smith are the teachers.

### *February 9, 1918*

Born: Dow Jan. 25 at Hancock to Mr. and Mrs. Amos L. Dow, a son.

Grant Jan. 25 at Hancock to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Grant, a son.

Keif Jan. 28 at Hancock to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Keif, a daughter.

Prospect Harbor: Mrs. Frank Shaw has returned from Hancock where she has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. A. H. Colwell for a few weeks.

### *January 28 1920*

About Town: Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Young of Hancock were in town Friday visiting their daughter, Mrs. Maurice Lymburner. Mr. and Mrs. Young made the trip by horse and sleigh.

Hancock: The community was saddened Friday morning when news was received from New York of the death and burial at sea of Capt. Maynard Young on Jan. 18. He was in command of the steamship Alaskan which sailed from Holland about two weeks previous. Friends are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the ship at Baltimore, as the only information so far received is from a wireless dispatch received in New York. Capt. Young was the son of Rufus H. Young of this place. He had been sailing in command of steamships out of New York about twenty years and was an able navigator, a genial companionable man who made friends with all he met.

Pamola Grange Store Co. held their annual meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening for the election of directors for 1920.