



The Newsletter of Freeport Historical Society Keeping the Past Present Since 1969

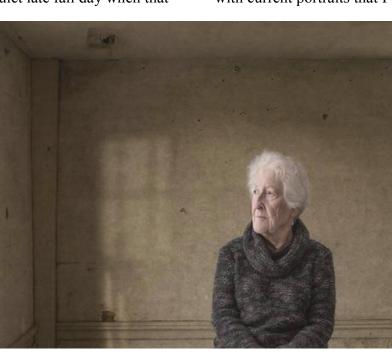
# Our Treasure The Pettengill Farmhouse

By Jack Montgomery

I have had the privilege of photographing at the Pettengill House for more than 15 years. It is a remarkable venue for portraiture and landscape. It has inspired me in many ways through that period, both by its exterior and interior views. It is not difficult to sense the presence of those who lived there, particularly on a quiet late fall day when that

soft light falls through the windows onto the old floors and plaster. I find that moving.

It is a unique venue for photography because so much of it is original. In some respects it reminds me of the Olsen House made famous by Andrew Wyeth, but in fact it has far more character than the Olsen House as it stands today on account of Pettengill's authenticity. The texture of the distressed



texture of the distressed Image by Jack Montgomery plaster, scuffed cabinets

and worn floors is so real. That was the experience of rural Maine in the 19th Century that my camera and my eye seek. It is an essential element of the images I seek to make. But of course, the very delicacy and vulnerability of those spaces that draw me to the house also require the utmost respect and care from all who are allowed to visit there. It is a testament to the stewardship of FHS and the care taken by the folks who have visited the house that it actual place.

I am inspired by Andrew Wyeth to a large degree, as well as several other painters (including Edward Hopper and James McNeill Whistler). I know that Wyeth would have fallen in love with that house, just as I have. My focus through the fall and winter has been to make photographs within the house for future - continue on page 5

has been preserved so well. I have made hundreds of photographs there through the years and I see no deterioration whatsoever. That is praiseworthy.

I am now largely making "constructed photographs' in which I meld interior images from past years with current portraits that I take in my home studio.

> Much of my current photographic work is based upon images created inside and outside the Pettengill house over those years. Some completed images may incorporate 10 or more photographs taken at various times. I also have the opportunity through Photoshop to move walls, doors and windows and create fictitious spaces, all without risk of damage to the house. But the textures and architectural details remain true to the

### The Dash Winter 2017

The Dash is published four times annually by Freeport Historical Society for its members.

#### **Freeport Historical Society**

Harrington House 45 Main Street Freeport, ME 04032 (207) 865-3170 www.HistorcFreeport.org

#### **Office Hours**

May to Oct. 12, Mon to Fri 9-5 Oct 13 to May, Tues to Fri, 10-4

Appointments may also be made for a weekend visit.

We encourage a phone call prior to any visit, to verify that the office is open.

Research and visits involving the collections require an appointment in advance. Call 207-865-3170 to speak with Holly Hurd or email library@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

#### **FHS Board of Trustees**

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*Curator/Collections Manager* Holly Hurd

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#### A Sense of Place

#### FAKE NEWS!

Hamlet Tweets: "Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player, that strut's and frets his hour upon the stage <u>and then is</u> <u>heard no more!"</u>

Freeport Historical Society responds ...... "HaH!"

Dear Friends,

Life's Stories are a precious commodity in our town and your Historical Society is proud to collect, preserve and present those stories in the most engaging ways we can. All thanks to your continuing support. We have ten events unfolding this spring and we hope that you may be able to participate in at least a few of them.

**Curator Holly Hurd's newest exhibit** celebrates over 120 articles from our collection that all relate to Freeport and have their own story to tell. The true stories are fascinating but the objects are so intriguing that we are sponsoring an essay contest to encourage anyone in the community to create their own story based on a particular object. Please see the web site for information and details leading up to the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline and awards dinner on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our Cover Story by **Jack Montgomery** is a brilliant illustration of how the preservation of the Pettengill Farm provides the opportunity for solitude, contemplation and reflection for us all. Jack is a master craftsman with a national reputation and we are fortunate to have him call Freeport home. His latest work with his camera, the Pettengill Farmhouse, stunning portraits and digital blending of the images is spectacular. These images evoke so many thoughts and emotions that feel right and good and sustaining to the viewer.

Just last week I received a call and a letter from a **Michael Nabb** who graduated from Freeport High in 1961. We talked of many things Freeport but he followed up with a long essay about his ancestor **Bartholemew Reed** who settled in North Yarmouth in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. He and three of his sons served in the Revolutionary War. When Freeport was established in 1789, he became one of the two Town Wardens. The story is worthy of a future article as the family lived at 13 Harraseeket Road (The Hadlock Place) and the destinations they sailed to included New York, Havanna, San Francisco, Mauritius, Singapore, Melbourne and Penang. The ships they sailed included the little brig *Lauretta* and later the bark *Palestine*.

These are your Freeport Stories To be told Forever!

Jim Cram Executive Director

# STORIES OF FREEPORT'S PAST: CELEBRATING OUR COLLECTIONS

By Curator/Collections Manager Holly Hurd



The Freeport Historical Society cares for a number of objects associated with Freeport's history, the majority of which are rarely viewed by the public. In keeping with standard museum practice, artifacts are generally only seen

during times of exhibits. Although visitors could view any object from our archive on request, because our artifacts are not yet described online, many of the collections we maintain remain unknown and un-

experienced. This is the circumstance of most any historical institution-even the Maine Historical Society, with a much larger staff, has collections too extensive to be thoroughly presented to the public. Even so, most historical societies with museums, such as FHS, do their best to enable artifact exposure through exhibits, programming, and online avenues.



With the recent popular interest in historical stories associated with objects,

as highlighted in such programs as "Mysteries at the Museum," our next exhibit seeks to showcase a different group of our collections than have been seen before—particularly those that came to FHS with *stories*, sometimes very provocative ones. When objects are donated to us, their associated "provenance" (origin and history) is recorded. Sometimes it is as simple as "worn by a Freeport resident." However, some of the artifacts have compelling stories---such as the Inuit paddle brought back from Labrador by Arctic explorer



Donald MacMillan's engineer---that make their viewing intriguing and awe-inspiring.

The objects on display for our next exhibit—opening Feb 23 and on view until the end of May—share this in common: they have a story. And stories evoke emotions and engage our minds and inspire creativity! Because we know viewing these objects will have this effect, FHS is sponsoring a writing contest about our historical objects. People of all ages and writing abilities are invited to come in and view our storied artifacts (as well as some that are just strange and interesting, with little known about them), be inspired, and write something creative that will become part of FHS collections for years to come.

Part 2 of our exhibit programming is designed to engage storytellers and members of the community who hold artifacts related to Freeport's fine history. Since collections often bring out collectors, we will host an event aptly titled "Ancestors in the Attic." This program asks people to dig into their attics for artifacts with stories, and bring them in to share with others. A Light Lunch will be served and we ask that you register in advance.

# MUSICAL LETTERS AT SEA RECEIVES PRAISE FROM MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AS A "MODEL FOR EDUCATION"

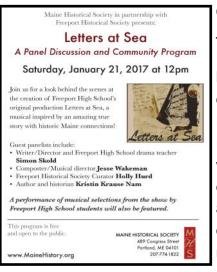


Figure 1

On Saturday January 21, Maine Historical Society hosted a program co-sponsored by Freeport

Historical Society with the purpose of sharing details about the collaborative musical "Letters

at Sea" with the public. (Figure 1)

MHS Education Manager Kathleen Neumann organized the event after seeing the historic play last November. She read in the playbill about how the musical came to be with the help and support of Collections Manager Holly Hurd, in conjunction with local author Kristin Krause Nam, High School drama teacher Simon Skold, and musical director Jesse Wakeman. Kathleen organized the event because she was extraordinarily impressed by the



performance and the Freeport Historical Society's role in the production, which she thought should be a showcased as a model for history-based education throughout the state.

Kathleen invited the play's writers, Simon and Jesse, along with Holly and Kristin to serve on a panel, which would describe the process of collaboration and answer questions from the audience. The program then featured High School performers describing their



Figure 2

experiences in the play, (Figure 2) and culminated in a several musical numbers from the play. (Figure 3)

Twenty-two people were in the audience that day as well as 14 students from Freeport High School. Everyone seemed enthusiastic about the play, asked good questions, and enjoyed the reprise of the historic original musical. Join us at our Annual Meeting on April 9 for a repeat of the MHS program, especially if you missed seeing the play in November.

Figure 3

# **OUR TREASURE THE PETTENGILL FARMHOUSE**

#### - continued from front cover

constructed images. I visit alone, often just sitting and letting the house speak to me. The winter interior light is ideal for the images I am making at present — soft, quiet and cold. Snowy and cloudy days are the best. One goal is to make photographs of specific textures and materials (plaster, wall paper, floors, bricks, doors, shelves). These become part of my "palette" for new images and the creation of new Pettengill like spaces in the years ahead. Now, with constructed images I can let my imagination run, and put into the house many folks who may never see it except through my mind's eye.

I have been very pleased to use my photography to support the FHS through the years. It is one way that I can repay the Pettengill House for what it has given to me. For several years I have given a portrait sitting as a prize for the FHS annual auction. The winner is entitled to have a custom portrait done of themselves or a family member. And we often make that portrait at Pettengill.



Image by Jack Montgomery

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL FUND 2016-17 DONORS

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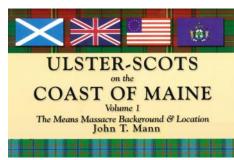
Janice & Edward Gerry Mary Minor Smith

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Linda Bean Diana Bean

### AUTUMN PROGRAMS AT THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Lecture by John Mann and Historical Archaeologist Pamela Crane



On October 20th John Mann and Pamela Crane recounted their work with volunteers from the Maine Ulster Scots Project (MUSP), and the findings on the Means Massacre, and archaeological findings of the area surrounding the massacre. John and Pam are searching for documents, artifacts, folkways, and oral traditions about the lives of Scots-Irish settlers on the coast of Maine. MUSP is currently organizing an international Symposium to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the first settlers to arrive in 1718 from the North of Ireland. These brave souls were pushed by the

circumstances of their times to emigrate from their homelands and were encouraged to settle here to protect the English colonies to the south from the advance of the French and Indian alliance to the north. Many of these immigrants survived and took root.

### Lecture by Alan Hall

On November 17th historian, Alan Hall gave a fascinating lecture on the transition from Freeport's earliest colonial settlements in the 18th century into the early days of Freeport's industrial and ship building economy of the early 19th century from the 1750's to the 1840's. In addition to using the rivers and streams as an early transportation network, the colonial residents of the town relied upon mill sites, landings, salt hay marshes, and stages for drying fish to support their earliest economic activities. From the Cousins River to the Harraseeket estuary and Bunganuc Creek, the waterways provided the most reliable means to move food, supplies, lumber, and people in and out of the new town. This maritime lifeline remained essential to the development





### **Students visit FHS Art Exhibit**

In December art students from the Freeport Middle school and Freeport High School visited the art Exhibit *Artists of Freeport's Past* prior to its end date. They were lead by Collections Manager Holly Hurd and were given an in depth background on many of the pieces in the exhibit. The students were engaged and asked great questions. We thank their art teachers for taking the time to introduce the history of Freeport through art.

### LMC AND PAUL POWERS VS. CMP By: Sam Smith

My father was a lawyer, but from the end of the war on, only practiced law as a one-man public interest litigant. He had sued a major corporation that had purchased WGMS in Washington on the grounds that it had violated his rights as a minority stockholder. The resulting case, which he won, ended up in law school textbooks. And in 1960 – a couple of years before the publication of *Silent Spring* - he decided to sue the Central Maine Power Company.

CMP not only provided most of the power in Maine, it enjoyed much of the power as well. But my parents were trying to run an organic beef farm and CMP had come right through their property spraying the vegetation around the power lines with pesticides. My father was incensed.

I was home in Philadelphia the evening that my father tried to find a Maine lawyer to take the case. He started with the most famous and was shunted over the course of the evening to five others. Each declined to get involved; for each was on retainer to CMP.

Somewhat in desperation, my father turned to the town lawyer, Paul Powers, whose stock in trade was land sales and wills. Together they forced an agreement from CMP four years later in which the company promised not to spray anyone's property anywhere in the state if they were not agreeable. The Brunswick Times Record ran an editorial stressing the environmental significance to the state; it was headlined "Mr. Smith and You." And CMP paid my father \$1,000 for his troubles. Paul Powers told me several times that it was the most important case of his career.

# THANK YOU MIKE HUGHES



Freeport Historical Society Sponsor, Mike Hughes of Hughes Arbor & Land Management spent a day volunteering his time and services to prune the apple trees at Harrington House. These apple trees produce a lot of fruit each fall, and create a nice shady spot in our courtyard during the warm summer months. We look forward to their "new look" this spring when they are in bloom.

If you're interested in learning more about apple tree pruning and

grafting join us on March 25th for our Pruning and Grafting Workshop at Pettengill Farm, in cooperation with the **UMaine Coop Extension Program, Wolfe's Neck Farm and ReTreeUs**. Register online in advance, space is limited. *extension.umaine.edu/Cumberland* 



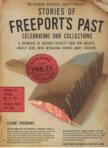
Apple Pruning & Grafting Workshop

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

A showcase of rarely seen objects from our collections archive. These objects "tell" an interesting story of Freeport's history: for example the top hat of Freeport entrepreneur E.B. Mallet who developed Freeport Village in the late 19th century by building a shoe factory, and opening a granite quarry, sawmill, and brickyard

STORIES OF FREEPORT'S PAST: CELEBRATING OUR COLLECTION

Tuesday through Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm: February 23—May 31 Admissions: \$5 general, \$3 members and children 12-17 (under 12 free)



DENNEY LLBean an ange prover any

#### WRITING CONTEST: THE ART IN ARTIFACTS

#### February 23—April 15

Freeport Historical Society is sponsoring a writing contest in conjunction with their winter exhibit, *Stories of Freeport's Past: Celebrating Our Collection.* The exhibit features infrequently-seen items from their collection, which they invite visitors to use as inspiration for written work. View the exhibit, select an item that moves you, and write! Writers of all ages are invited to submit their work, and all literary forms and genres are welcome. Complete contest guidelines will be available from Freeport Historical Society by February 23. There will be a celebratory reception on April 23rd, for contest winners. (location and time TBA). FMI and contest rules: <u>library@freeporthistoricalsociety.org</u>



#### ANCESTORS IN THE ATTIC

to encourage industrial production.

#### March 18 12:00pm-3:00pm 45 Main St. Harrington House

Bring your objects that have a historical story. Share the story of your artifact while also having the opportunity to view and hear more about the objects in our exhibit. Light Lunch will be served, RSVP is requested. Freeporthsitoricalsociety.org or library@freeporthistoricalsociety.org, or 207-865-3170



#### APPLE PRUNING AND GRAFTING WORKSHOP

March 25 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Pettengill Farm

*Workshop Fee: \$25, must be paid in advance at extension.umaine.edu/Cumberland* Presented by the Freeport Historical Society, Wolfe's Neck Farm, Retree Us, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Cumberland County.**Participants will get to graft their own tree and take it home with them.** 

#### *ANNUAL MEETING* April 9, 2017 5-7pm, South Freeport Church

All welcome. After the business meeting we will have a mini performance of excerpts from *Letters At Sea* by the Freeport High School Players, musical from November 2016. This was a musical written by Freeport HS teacher Simon Skold and based on the story of Captain Josiah Mitchell who lost his ship the *Hornet*, and the story was made famous by Mark Twain.

#### THE GREAT HAMILTON

#### April 20, 7pm Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive

Charles Stockbridge is an experienced lecturer on the founding of the first United States currency and the restoration of the public credit put forth by Alexander Hamilton in 1790. In this play, Mr. Stockbridge reenacts Hamilton in period attire. The setting is December 23rd, 1800 and the political atmosphere is charged with a dead-locked ballot for the Presidency: Thomas Jefferson versus Aaron Burr.



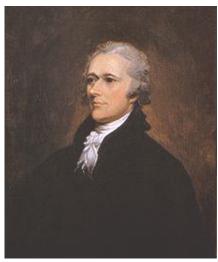


#### *Freeport Historical Society Plant Sale* May 20, 8:30-9:20 am Member's Preview, 9:30-1:30 open to all, 45 Main Street

The Freeport Historical Society will be joined this year by the Freeport Women's Club Bake Sale. Come visit us at our headquarters at 45 Main Street to purchase your annuals and historic perennials.

#### 8

# WHO WAS ALEXANDER HAMILTON?



Portrait of Alexander Hamilton by John Trumbull, 1806

Alexander Hamilton was an American statesman and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was an influential interpreter and promoter of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the founder of the nation's financial system, the Federalist Party, the United States Coast Guard, and *The New York Post* newspaper. As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was the main author of the economic policies of the George Washington administration. He took the lead in the funding of the states' debts by the Federal government, as well as the establishment of a national bank, a system of tariffs, and friendly trade relations with Britain. His vision included a strong central government led by a vigorous executive branch, a strong commercial economy, with a national bank and support for manufacturing, plus a strong military. Hamilton crusaded against Vice President Aaron Burr, who ran for governor of New York in 1804, as unworthy. Burr took

offense and challenged him to a duel. Burr mortally wounded Hamilton, who died the next day.

If you are interested in this animated part of American history you're in luck! On **Thursday evening, April 20** Charles Stockbridge (a Stockbridge Point descendant) will reenact Hamilton in period attire, in a one man show in which he has written. The setting is December 23rd, 1800 and the political atmosphere is charged with a dead-locked ballot for the Presidency: Thomas Jefferson versus Aaron Burr.

Mr. Stockbridge is an experienced lecturer on the founding of the first United States currency and the restoration of the public credit put forth by Alexander Hamilton in 1790.



Charles Stockbridge

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Are you a history lover? Perhaps a long time resident of Freeport? Want to meet new people from town? Maybe you're just looking for something to do for a

few hours each month?

The Freeport Historical Society is seeking volunteers to begin training in the following areas, If you are interested please contact Jennifer Pollick at info@freeporthistoricalsociety.org or call 207-865-3170.

**Walking tour docent:** Walking tour docents will lead one hour tours of the Historic Freeport Village. Tours take place during the week and possibly Saturdays. Training will be provided.

**Office Admin/Meeter-Greeter Volunteer:** This volunteer will meet and greet visitors to the Historical Society, work with Programs and Admin Manager to do light filing, answer phones, etc. Training will be provided.

# CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE DENNEY, FREEPORT'S 2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

On Feb 28<sup>th</sup> the Town Council chambers were packed with many of our great friend and benefactor George Denney's friends from several decades. It was a surprise for George to learn the he had been nominated and selected as

Freeport's "Citizen of the year for 2016". Many people came to the podium to salute George for his extraordinary contributions to the town over many decades.

A **good community** is made by people that volunteer, give their energy, creativity and drive on its behalf. George Denney is one of those people!

There were multiple people that submitted nomination papers for this honor. They described how his vision, generosity, and willingness to roll up his sleeves helped make Freeport the great place that we all live in.

The nomination papers identify many different projects that George has been involved in, but what runs through all of them is his enthusiasm towards creating a welcoming,

vibrant and invigorated Freeport.

A quote that was relayed to us in one of the nomination forms, highlights his philosophy in short hand: "You give, you get, you get, you give, that is how it works". This

quote is a rule for life; Good deeds are returned to you in many different ways and it is your responsibility to be part of this life cycle.

He supported Freeport by creating an international brand (Cole-Haan) and provided local manufacturing and retail jobs.

He was a founding member or active board member for many Freeport Civic Organizations including: Freeport, U.S.A., Freeport Historical Society, Freeport Development Association, Freeport Community

Improvement Association

A reception followed at the Historical Society.

# **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

Please consider becoming Corporate Member. Corporate membership, supports the various public programs, staffing, and educational programs at the Historical Society. For more information on membership levels and benefits please contact Executive Director, Jim Cram at director@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

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# **THANK YOU TO OUR 2016-17 CORPORATE MEMBERS**

# George & Joyce DENNEY

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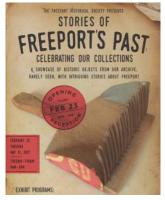
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Harrington House 45 Main Street Freeport, ME 04032

info@freeporthistoricalsociety.org www.HistoricFreeport.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



New Exhibit OPEN

#### Wish List

#### Volunteers

- Legal size, fireproof file cabinet.
- New (used) phone system for six work stations.
- Mapping software and specialist.
- Lightweight plastic folding tables 6'

We are ever grateful and thankful for our very dedicated and loyal volunteers. These volunteers give us countless hours of their time, which allows our small staff to operate successfully.

With two National Trust properties, extensive collections and an active schedule of public events and exhibits, Freeport Historical Society offers a range of interesting and varied volunteer opportunities.

#### Some Opportunities are:

- Walking Tours to start this summer
- Greeter & exhibit guides
- Office support and mailings
- Poster & brochure distribution
- Collections cataloguing & data entry
- Special event planning & staffing
- Program Chairperson

Contact: info@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

#### JOIN or RENEW your MEMBERSHIP!

Membership has its benefits: A copy of the book *Tides of Change: A Guide to the Harraseeket Historic District*, a trail map of Pettengill Farm, and our quarterly newsletter, *The Dash*, are included. Members also receive one hour of research time in our archives and invitations to all Society events and exhibits at free or reduced rates.

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