

ST. CROIX HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



The Holmes Cottage



The Holmestead



Whitlock's Mill Lighthouse 1909

Editor: Lura Jackson

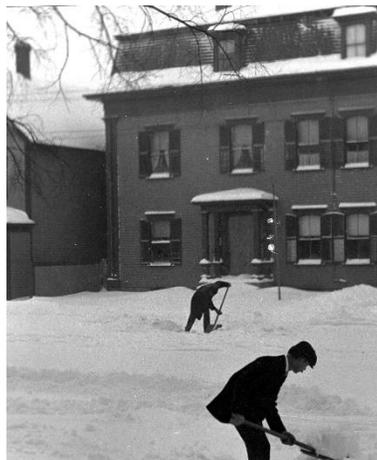
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Calais, Maine

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Moving Forward, Looking Back

As another year begins on the banks of the St. Croix River, we find ourselves at a fascinating intersection. In many ways, we are a community that has thrived on the progression of technology—gang saws revolutionized the speeds at which lumber could be processed, steamboats provided easy travel up and down the river, and personal automobiles put the services of the great city of Bangor (pop. 33,039) in our reach, enabling families to remain in the St. Croix Valley for generations.



Frank Moore (foreground) employs traditional methods to clear a path to the Holmestead. The Charles Hotel is across the street.



This log hauler of Woodland did the work of 24 horses.

While there can be little doubt that technology has facilitated much of our growth, many would contend that it presents a host of novel challenges. In the modern world, many members of the younger generations would prefer to communicate via texting or an e-mail rather than face to face. Some toddlers are learning how to use electronic tablets before they can even speak. This reflects our magnificent human ability to adapt to our surroundings—but that adaptation can produce a massive gap between older and younger individuals.

Is the preservation of our history at risk as that communication gap widens? Will digital-centric generations more comfortable with augmented reality lose touch with what has transpired in the past? That doesn't need to be the case. In fact, if we embrace technology as a tool that is neither negative nor positive in and of itself, it becomes clearer that we can use it to our collective advantage as historians.

In the past year, for example, the SCHS has created an online community from the roots of the tangible one. Photos and memories from the St. Croix Valley that may have languished in an archived box or faded from an aging memory have been prolifically shared with a global audience. Rare video footage of early Calais can now be seen with the click of a button.

There's no denying that the experience of a 9 year old in today's world is dramatically different than someone who grew up in the 1920s—but, similarly, there's no denying the value in the human lessons gained over the course of a life well lived. History is preserved in our personal stories; sharing those stories in the most accessed mediums thus becomes our task. By doing so, the human history of the St. Croix Valley—and indeed, of all communities—will find endurance in the digital age.

Past Meetings and Events

October 5th: The October monthly meeting focused on recounting the electrification of Maine. A segment from MPBN's documentary *Home* was shown, complemented by Al's knowledge of local history. While Maine boasted the greatest number of electricity generators in the nation at one point, it took many decades for rural areas to become fully electrified. Robbinston, for example, did not have power until the 1940s.

November 1st: Dr. Colin Windhorst provided a compelling presentation of the history of the Meddybemps letters, as written by William Pattangall of Pembroke at the turn of the 20th century. Pattangall wrote several letters under the pen name of Stephen A. Douglas Smith, all of which he sent to the *Machias Union* – thereby improving its circulation as people appreciated his biting political satire of current events.

December 12th: The annual Christmas party was well-attended by joyous members who came to celebrate their enthusiasm for the season and revel in good company. Jerry prepared a superb array of finger foods and Jane supplied a large pot of chili. Al played a slideshow of 1,200 photos for guests that clustered in the festively decorated parlor, and Brand was greeted with a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday” in recognition of entering his 94th year.



Senior History Class Visits Holmestead

Washington County Community College’s senior history class—helmed by Dr. Colin Windhorst—spent a few hours visiting the Holmestead on November 17th. President Al Churchill provided the class with a slideshow presentation and lecture on the history specific to the St. Croix Valley region, with special focus afforded to the area’s logging past.

Following the lecture, the group took a field trip to local points of interest. The former location of the Eaton wharf was viewed, followed by the dam at Salmon Falls, and finally, the Milltown bridge. Al showed prints of photographs to help bring the past to life for the enthusiastic group.

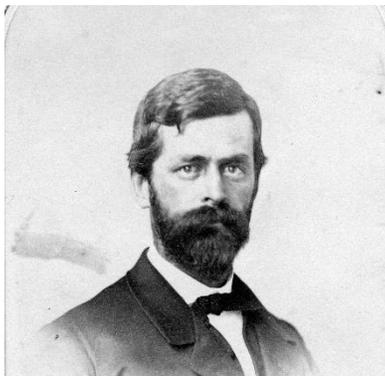
Dr. Windhorst and his class readily expressed their appreciation of being able to see areas where history took place, which is a primary goal of the course. “Visiting the sites of the wharves and mills of the lumber manufacturers brought it all to life for the whole class,” Dr.

Windhorst said in a thank-you note. Dr. Windhorst has been successful in reinvigorating an interest in history for many local students, and we commend him for his efforts.



SCHS Begins Digital Publishing Campaign

The past quarter marked a significant event for the society with the first-ever digital publishing of one of our books. Ken Ross’s second edition of *Washington County, Maine in the Civil War 1861-66* has the honor of being the first book readily available to buyers all over the world through channels such as Amazon and CreateSpace.



Naval officer Joseph Cony of Eastport is among the Civil War participants documented in Ken Ross’s *Washington County, Maine in the Civil War: 1861-66*.

Choosing to publish our compilations digitally is a departure from how our books have been produced in the past, which included purchasing the printing materials and then printing and binding each book individually. Publishing by hand is a time-consuming task, and so the decision was made to explore the options of digitally publishing through CreateSpace. Using this method allows for the production of each book to happen completely independently from the society. As more SCHS books become published in this fashion, a steady stream of revenue will be generated from our already established library of publications.

Furthermore, because digital publishing is vastly less labor intensive than publishing by hand, we are able to offer our digitally published books at a lower price. This puts history in the hands of more people while still contributing to our coffers. Ken’s book is available online or from a society member for \$18. The most profit is derived from face-to-face purchases—we

make \$13 for every book purchased directly from us. Online purchases yield less based on the outlet: buying from CreateSpace (at www.createspace.com/5897184) yields \$9.85, while buying from Amazon gives the society \$5.75 per copy.

Although Amazon produces less revenue, it is already apparent that a wider audience can be reached with it. 20 units have been sold through Amazon since mid-December while 3 have been sold through CreateSpace (several copies have also been sold in person to local buyers). Amazon allows prospective buyers to preview the book by digitally flipping through it, and it enables buyers to leave reviews. Two reviews have been left so far, both five of five stars.

To summarize, if you would like a copy of Ken's outstanding book—to which he invested thousands of research hours—purchase it from a society member directly to contribute the most back to the society. If you'd prefer to purchase online, please do so from CreateSpace. If you do buy from Amazon, leave a review to encourage others to buy the book!



Ken Ross (sitting at the end of the table) speaks to WCCC's senior history class about the process of researching the 4,700 individuals recounted in *Washington County, Maine in the Civil War: 1861-66*.

Honoring a Calais Hero

Not many may realize, but one soldier from Calais received one of the highest military commendations possible: the naval version of the Medal of Honor. Horatio Nelson Young, born in Calais on July 19th, 1845 was but a youth when he travelled to Boston to join the United States Navy as the Civil War progressed.

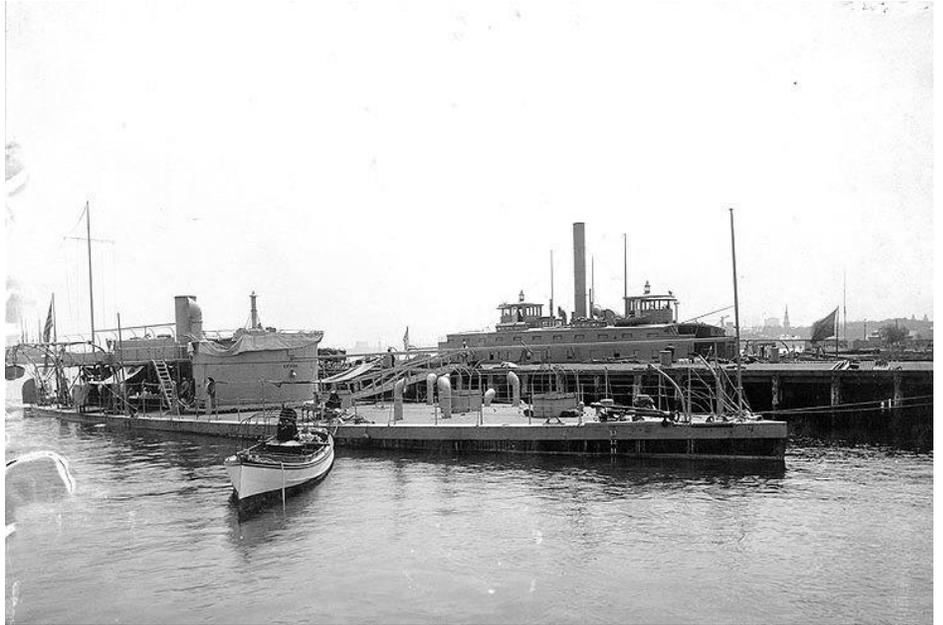
In November of 1861, Young was stationed on the *USS Lehigh* in Charleston Harbor when it came under fire. Unbeknownst to the members of the crew, the ship had actually run aground in the soft sands of the harbor, leaving it completely unable to move to avoid the incoming enemy shells.

Along with Frank S. Gile and William Williams, Young took a small boat out from the *Lehigh* under the cover of darkness and successfully rowed it to the nearby *USS Nahant* with a line running between the two.

The *Nahant* pulled the *Lehigh* out of danger, and Young and his companions were given the distinction of the Medal of Honor. Young would later go to Calais, passing away in 1913. He is interred in the St. Stephen cemetery.

In recognition of Young's valor and his commendation, the society has opted to raise funds to purchase a brick in his name in Calais Memorial Park. Each brick is \$250. Donations are now being accepted specifically for the purpose. To donate, send a check to the society with "Young Memorial" in the memo line, or donate online at stcroixhistorical.com/?page_id=400.

If a donation is made online, you will be contacted via e-mail to verify what you would like the contribution to go to.



The *USS Lehigh*, as seen in 1898. The *Lehigh* and her crew were saved from destruction by the valiant actions of Calais's Horatio Nelson Young as the ship came under fire in Charleston Harbor.

Tradewinds Supermarket to Feature Calais History

If you're still in the Calais area, you'll soon have the opportunity to peruse a selection of the society's finest photographs thanks to the new ownership of the Shop n' Save on South Street. In January, the Shop n' Save (formerly owned by Paradis) was purchased by Chuck Lawrence of the Tradewinds franchise. This is the tenth Tradewinds store in Maine, and just as he has in his other stores, Lawrence wanted to incorporate local history into the store's presentation.

Store manager Carla McLellan contacted the society and requested a variety of pictures showcasing the Calais area. Al collected fifty digital copies of photos that he, Jerry and myself then proceeded to create captions for. The resulting compilation was handed over to Carla, who gave them to Chuck to be printed.

Each chosen photo will be mounted with a gold-plated caption visible to customers. The photos will be hung throughout the inner perimeter of the store, creating an exhibit-like effect. While an exact date isn't available for the completion of the photos, Chuck relayed that his vision of the store will be in place by mid-March.

As a secondary bonus, Carla said that the SCHS may be one of the nonprofit organizations chosen to have their name put onto reusable shopping bags. If so, each time a customer purchases a bag with the society's name on it, we will receive \$1. If the society is chosen, this program will be a fantastic way to promote awareness of our presence in the community and enable members to show their support for the preservation of local history.

Friends of Devil's Head to Rehab Historic Site

The Devil's Head conservation area (composed of 315 acres along the St. Croix River) will soon be undergoing a rehabilitation to its trails, roads, and picnic areas thanks to the efforts of a group headed by former SCHS president Brand Livingstone. Volunteers are now being sought for the project, which is now in the active planning stages.

Brand has identified several tasks that need completion, including restoring the gravel on the road, clearing trails of branches and debris, repairing the facilities, creating signs marking the trails and one-way roads, and replacing the handrail leading to the beach, among other items. Once the basic rehabilitation is complete, the group intends to continue expanding on the efforts undertaken by community members just over a decade ago to turn the park into a first-rate destination for various forms of outdoor education and recreation. Past work has included the creation of a vernal pool and a cleared outdoor viewing area.

Devil's Head is historically important as it has long been used as a clam and fish harvesting site for aboriginal peoples. In more recent centuries, the Passamaquoddy and European settlers used the location as a boat launching area. In the 19th century, Calais citizens worked together to open DeMont's Hotel, which entertained guests from Eastport, Calais, and points beyond until 1920 when it was destroyed in a fire.

Beginning in 2002, Brand worked with the St. Croix International Waterway Commission to raise funds to purchase the parklands for public use. Once the lands were obtained, additional fundraising and volunteer efforts enabled the creation of a new access road, the trail itself, displays, and a sign for the park, among many other initial features. It has since fallen into some disrepair as a result of a lack of resources on the part of the city, to which the park was donated.

Expressing the importance of the site as a historical and natural resource, Brand is personally committed to seeing the park restored, though he recognizes the challenges it presently faces. "I love to be able to overcome a problem," he said with characteristic enthusiasm.

For more information or to offer to lend a hand, contact us at friendsofdevilshead@gmail.com, join www.facebook.com/friendsofdevilshead or call Brand at 454-2604. There will be an informal meeting of the Friends at the Holmestead in late March or early April to coordinate efforts.

Donations and contributions since our last newsletter

The society received a donation of the remainder of Thelma Eye's research material for her book, *Calais, Maine, Families: They Came and They Went*. A donation of loose papers dating to the early to mid-1900s was received from amateur ghost hunter Joe Moffitt, who came across them during an investigation at the St. Croix Apartments.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Now that the bulk of winter is behind us, it's time to get back in the swing of things with our monthly meetings. Our next scheduled meeting is March 7th; typically we don't have a large turnout for the first meeting due to weather, so a formal program is not planned at this time. The meeting will include a short business meeting and a potential presentation, and of course, the company of good friends.

If you have any suggestions on potential presentations for the coming year, please do let us know. We will be looking for volunteers to watch the Holmes Cottage in the summer months, so please do keep that in mind as well. Efforts are underway to plan the ever-popular cemetery tour in August, featuring a brand new selection of long-dead residents to meet.

Connecting with the Society Online

The SCHS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Stcroixhs) continues to enjoy increasing interest as more and more of our regularly published posts achieve a wider audience. The number of fans have increased from 1,054 to 1,351 since the last newsletter in September. Our fans are spread across the border, with 830 from the United States and 508 from Canada. Coming in at a surprising third is Italy, where 2 of our fans come from. Fans from 11 other countries around the world have come on board to have a look at our vast selection of pictures and historical articles.

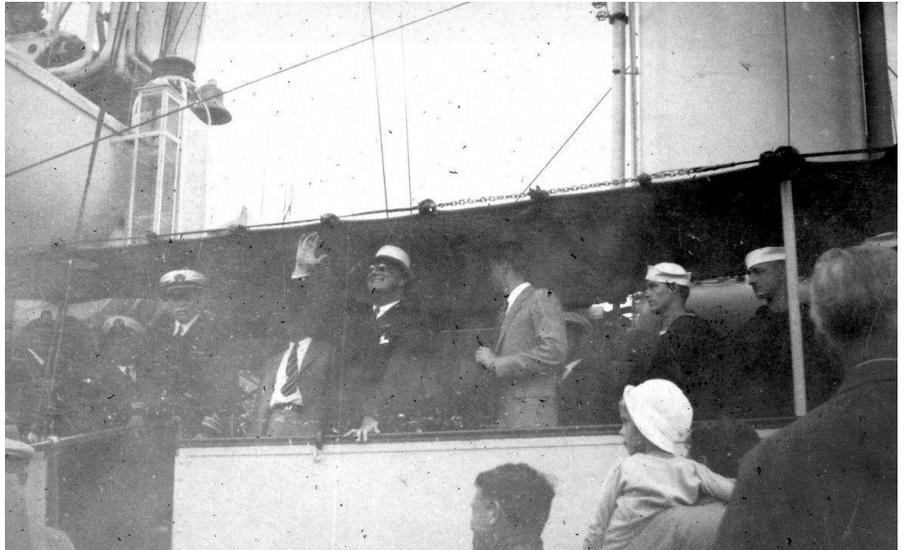
The most popular collection of photos published since the last newsletter is an album of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his visit to Campobello in 1933. The album has been shared 206 times by such groups as the Eastport Chamber of Commerce, Trails and Rails New York on the Adirondack, and Roosevelt Campobello International Park, garnering enthusiasm wherever it was posted.

On a related note, just before Christmas, Al sent around an e-mail detailing the story of the White House Christmas tree of 1941, which was taken from St. Croix Island at the behest of President Roosevelt.

The article was widely popular and requests for copies were granted to the St. Croix Courier, the National Park Service, and the World War II Memorial site. It was also subsequently published on our website at stcroixhistorical.com. To join Al's mailing list, send an e-mail requesting to sign up to Al at jaclaw1@gmail.com.

Also popular on the Facebook site was a post of a Lewis Hine photo featuring a 9-year old girl who had come to Eastport from Perry with her family to work in the fishing industry for the summer. Anna J. Gallant worked as a sardine packer with her sister, earning up to \$7 a day working 17-hour shifts.

The post reached 4,880 people through 24 shares, garnering interest from local community members as well as fans of Hine's work. Society member Susan Esposito posted a link to research conducted by Joe Manning that was prompted by the photo many years ago. Manning thoroughly sifted through the available data on Anna to compile a biography on her, including comments from her still-living descendants. Through Manning's efforts, one of Anna's descendants found the impetus to finally travel to Eastport from New Hampshire to see the place where she'd spent so much of her time.



President Franklin Roosevelt waves to the crowd as he arrives at Campobello Island in 1933.

Comments from members on Anna and her story were abundant and favorable, including this one from Susan Tupper Gillmor: “Fascinating biography with wonderful research and some astonishing strokes of serendipity! Anna's story was worthy of the work that went into it and it inspires me to flesh out the stories of my own ancestors, many of them from Lubec and elsewhere in Washington County.”



Anna J. Gallant at 9 years old, as seen on Clark Street in Eastport in 1911. Anna and her sister were workers at the sardine factory, and worked many long hours in attempt to improve their family's meager income.

To read Manning's research yourself, visit: morningsonmaplestreet.com/2014/12/18/anna-j-gallant/
Our thanks again to Susan Esposito for providing us with this additional information.

Contact the SCHS:

Do you have questions about local history, suggestions for events or presentations, or comments or concerns regarding the newsletter? Let us know!

President: Al Churchill jaclaw1@gmail.com

Vice President and Assistant Editor: Jerry LaPointe

Treasurer: John Wood

Editor and Secretary: Lura Jackson

luraejackson@gmail.com

New and Renewing Members for 2016

The Society is supported through membership dues and donations. If you haven't yet paid your 2015 dues, please remember to do so. A green mark on your address label denotes unpaid dues for 2015. To make a donation via credit, debit, or Paypal, visit http://stcroixhistorical.com/?page_id=400 and click "Donate".

Financial Update

The checkbook balance is \$1,446.50. The savings account balance is \$1,576.19. The value of the 100 shares of Qualcomm stock has decreased to \$5,947.55.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

Available by mail from SCHS, prices include postage

Note Cards:

4 Views of St. Croix Island (8 cards & envelopes total) –
Paintings by Mary Livingstone - \$15

Books:

Champlain's Journal - translated from French - \$8
 "Washington County, Maine in the Civil War 1861-66" by Ken Ross - \$32
 Ganong's, "Champlain's Island" - \$12
 "Beginnings" (A reprint of the 1875 "Annals of Calais" by Rev. Knowlton) - \$16
 "Pork, Molasses, & Timber" by Eaton - \$14
 Around Town by Rail - \$11
 Nellie's Diary - \$29
 The Way We Were 1908 - \$19
 Keene on Red Beach - \$29
 Calais Fair 1914 - \$14
 Ned's Valley - \$29
 The Valley Cookbook - \$14
 Charlie's Civil War - \$24 Calais
 Centennial - \$14

Picture Books:

- “In Days Past: Calais 1896” - 52 views - \$8
- “In Days Past: St. Andrews 1896” - 30 views - \$8
- “Old Friends” - 49 old area photos - \$6
- “Scenes of St. Stephen, 1895” - \$9
- “Scenes of Campobello, Eastport, & Lubec, 1895” - \$10

Maps:

- Red Beach Birdseye view map, 11x17, laminated - \$15
- Calais, St. Stephen, & Milltown Birdseye view map 1879, 11x17, laminated - \$15
- Wharfs of Calais & St. Stephen map 1856, 11x17, laminated - \$15

DVD:

- Calais First Town Meeting Reenactment - \$19

Order at St. Croix Historical Society, P. O. Box 242, Calais, ME 04619

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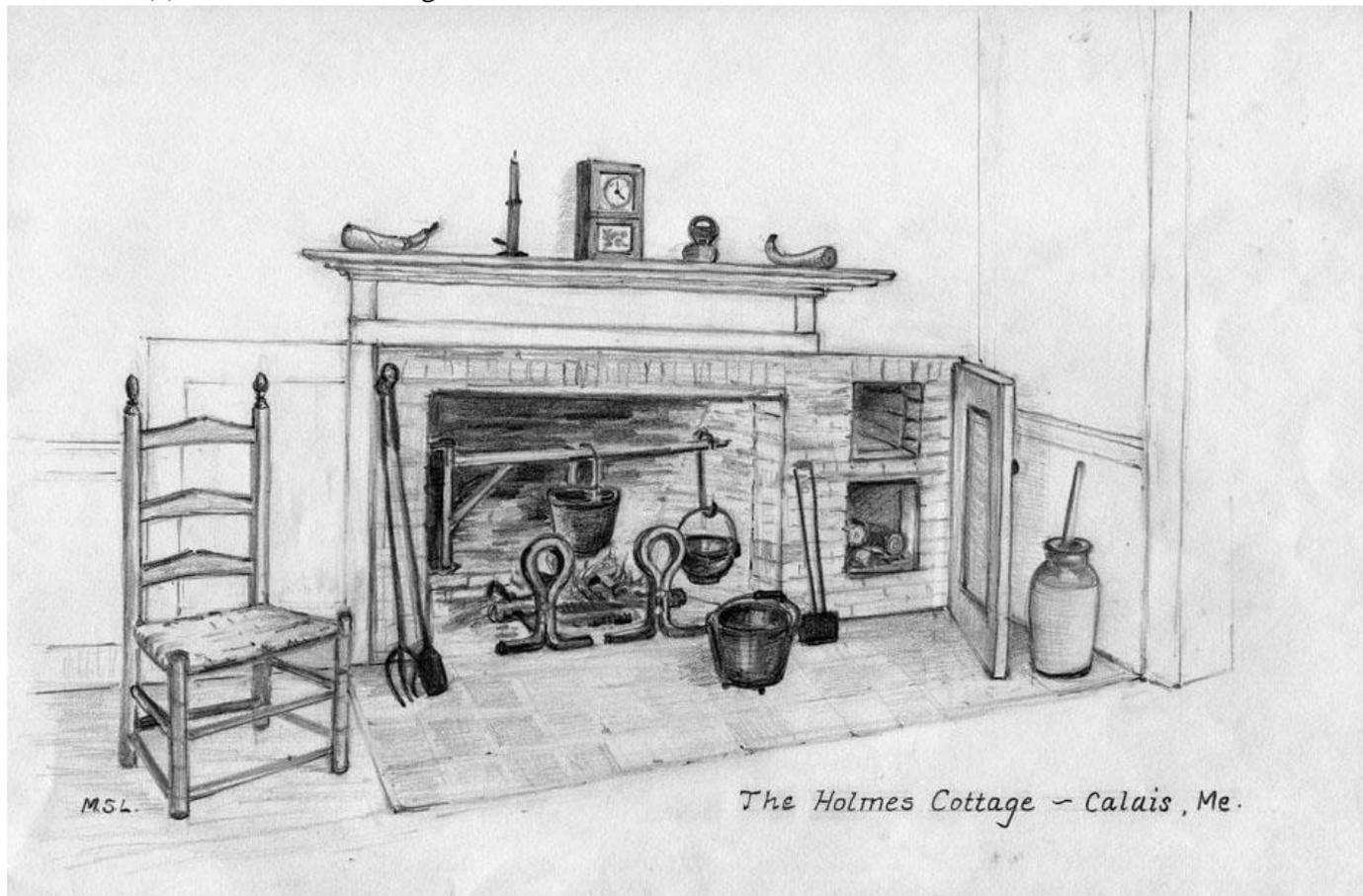
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- Historian \$15
- Family \$25
- Supporting \$35
- Corp/Bus \$60
- Patron \$150 (includes one free 3 hour rental of Holmestead meeting room)
- Life \$500

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Calais, ME 04619

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