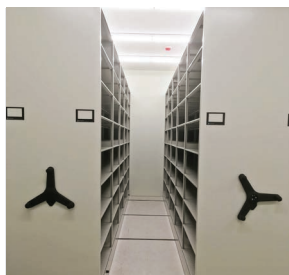


The Dash

Published by Freeport Historical Society | *Keeping the past present since 1969.*



FHS Collections on the Move

The cornerstone of the Society's ongoing building project

SEE PAGE 4



Discover the Harringtons

New FHS exhibition coming this summer

SEE PAGE 8

SPRING 2022



Annual Meeting

SEE PAGE 12

JAMES C. CRAM

–Director Emeritus–

Looking back at his time as Executive Director and a lifetime of Freeport history

JIM CRAM WAS STEEPED IN Freeport history, even when he was growing up in Cumberland Foreside in the home of his grandmother, Niva Star Soule who was born in South Freeport. When Jim and his wife Anne moved to Freeport themselves in 1973, it was to



the historic village of Porter's Landing. Jim can still point to the cedar gutters on Harrington House he replaced in 1978. Before long, Jim was serving as a Trustee,

and by 1982 he was FHS President. It was in this role Jim introduced the organization's first Executive Director, Mary Eliza Wengren, in 1983.

Jim and Anne lived outside of Maine for 25 years but returned to Freeport in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Jim and Eric work together to reinstall the hawk's nest model of the Dash after renovations in the Harrington House in 2021.

ERIC C. SMITH JOINS STAFF AS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In May 2021, Eric C. Smith stepped down from his roles as Trustee and President of FHS to step in as Interim Executive Director beginning June 1. This transfer of organizational responsibilities allowed Jim Cram to focus exclusively on his role as general contractor for our ongoing building project as construction entered its most intensive phase. Eric and Jim have continued to work together into 2022 as Eric manages operations, programs, and staff while Jim brings our project to completion.

SPRING 2022

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.freeporthistoricalsociety.org

OFFICE & EXHIBIT HOURS

Starting May 3rd we will return to regular office and exhibit hours: Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Check our events calendar for upcoming outdoor and virtual programs. Check our website for select Saturday hours and more special events.

Research and visits involving the collection require an appointment in advance. Please call 207-865-3170 or email library@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim DeGrandpre, *President*
Mary Babikian, *Vice President*
Polly Brann, *Secretary*
Scott Burrill, *Treasurer*
David Coffin
Jane Grant
Rebecca Hotelling
Dennis Landis
Brad Snow
Sally Walsh
Jule Whelan
Lonny Winrich

STAFF

Eric C. Smith,
Interim Executive Director
interim@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

Jim Cram,
Director Emeritus
emeritus@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

Audrey Wolfe,
Collections & Education Manager
library@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

Harper Batsford,
Community Engagement Coordinator
info@freeporthistoricalsociety.org

A Season of Renewal

AS SPRING SLOWLY blooms around us, at Freeport Historical Society it feels like we too are emerging from a long season of isolation. 16 months of construction within 2 years of pandemic have kept us very busy, but also limited our ability to engage with our community. As we eagerly complete final touches on our building project, we are bursting with enthusiasm to welcome you once again into Harrington House, as well as to in-person events in our garden and throughout Freeport.



When we open to the public on May 3, we will welcome members, residents, and visitors through a new door and to a new day at FHS. Our renewed space has new faces, including an entirely new staff since we were last officially open. We also have new perspectives on how we can serve our community from this prestigious location on Main Street.

Led by FHS President Jim DeGrandpre, a Vision Committee of FHS Trustees and community leaders has been work-

ing to chart a course for our organization to emerge and shine during this time of great transition and opportunity for our town. We will continue to serve as the keepers of the stories of generations past and present, and as advocates for the history and character of our town.

We will also embrace opportunities to expand our outreach to the many visitors to our town and actively engage in partnerships to promote Freeport's new and emerging story still being written.

In the coming months we hope to see you here at Harrington House to say hello and see what's new, in the garden for events we are planning throughout the summer, at our upcoming tours of historic sites throughout the town, or out in the soon-to-be green fields at Pettengill Farm.

It has been a privilege and a great learning opportunity for me to serve as Interim Executive Director for the last 10 months, working with our staff, trustees, and committees to get to this new season. We're all eager to share it with you.

— ERIC C. SMITH,
Interim Executive Director

Harrington House Reopens to the Public on Tuesday, May 3

We will return to regular office and exhibit hours: Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Check our website for select Saturday hours and more special events. Stop by to say hello and see what's new!

Jim Cram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2009, purchasing a house in the South Freeport village very close to where his grandmother grew up. While Jim was looking forward to retirement from the building industry, FHS soon offered a new opportunity, as well as a host of challenges.

Jim took on the role of Executive Director in December 2015 when the organization had been without a director for several months. "There was water pouring through the dormer of the kitchen attic," Jim recalls, "and I counted 70 visible holes in the roof of the carriage house." The organization was in serious discussion about whether it could afford to repair and maintain the property on Main Street, or whether it should relocate. At Jim's second meeting of the board, the trustees voted to remain at Harrington House and Jim set to work determining what it would take to bring the buildings back into shape. A week before the annual meeting in April 2016, Jim had a list of repairs and improvements totaling over \$900,000. It wasn't a plan, but rather an acknowledgement of the challenge that lay ahead for the organization in its effort to remain in its home on Main Street.

When these needs were made known at the annual meeting, George Denney announced he and Joyce would give FHS \$1 million. While a momentous and joyful event in the organization's history, this landmark gift was only the beginning of a long effort. When Jim went to visit George and Joyce the following week to receive the donation, he pressed George on his intentions for how the money should be used. "He just said, 'you figure it out.'" So, Jim got to work figuring it out. Selecting architects, engaging the trustees to determine priorities and goals, FHS soon had a project estimated at over \$2 million, and yet another challenge.

Jim continued to work for the next several years with the board to strategize fundraising options, alternative building plans, and prioritizing immediate repair needs and long-term facility goals. At the same time, Jim was managing the funding



Jim with local cabinet maker Chuck Devine at the historic bulletin board on the Town Dock installed in 2018.



Jim shows Freeport third graders the workings of the mills at Mast Landing at our 2019 exhibit.

crisis of the organization's rental income from the carriage house and parking lot plummeting from over \$70,000 annually to zero within three years. Meanwhile, programs were surging with increased participation and enthusiasm from the community. Jim's connections and deep commitment to the organization's potential were essential in increasing community giving and keeping FHS moving forward.

In 2020 the trustees voted to move forward with streamlined plans for Harrington House renovations and collections storage vault construction, at the same time launching a campaign to fund the project costs beyond the primary Denney gift. Jim took on the role of general contractor for the project in order to remove \$200,000 in overhead costs and set

about hiring dozens of local and regional contractors to implement the plans. He was onsite nearly every day to keep the project moving, while also raising over \$300,000 dollars in project funding.

As Jim closes out the project and his time as Executive Director, he leaves FHS with an accessible building for the first time in our 53-year history, a state-of-the-art fire-protected collections storage building, and a remade rental space in our adjacent carriage house, as well an endowment doubled in size during his tenure and a balanced budget.

For all his impact that can be seen in the buildings, Jim's motivation remains more personal. "I like spending time with people who care about their community," he says. "For me, that's what FHS has always been about." FHS

FHS Collections ON THE MOVE

Last Fall saw the long-awaited arrival and installation of the Freeport Historical Society's high-density, mobile shelving system to the Society's Collection Storage Vault.

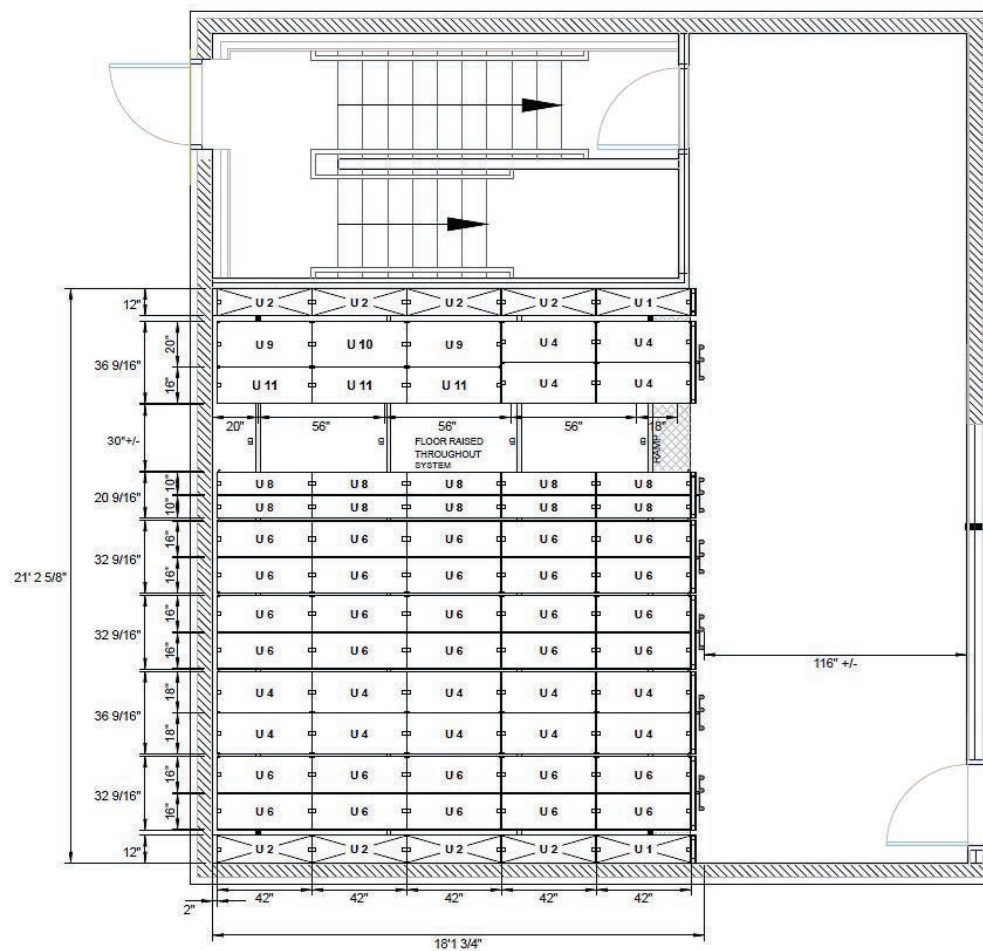
The Vault construction and the design of the new collection storage space is the cornerstone of the Society's ongoing building project.

THE VAULT PROVIDES a climate-controlled space that supports the long-term storage and preservation of the Society's most significant holdings (including its archive and museum collections), as well as space to care, process, and make our holdings more accessible. Agents of deterioration (like light, relative humidity, temperature, etc.) and lack of space make collection storage conditions detrimental in the Harrington House, their current home.

Designing the Vault and the new collection storage system took place on separate, but parallel, paths. In fact, the new collection system was designed and ordered before we broke the ground on the Vault. Collections Manager Audrey Wolfe spent the early part of 2021 conducting assessments of current storage, collection use, and future collection needs, as well as wading through the thousands of different options provided by the shelving company.

These assessments provided valuable data on how the FHS was (or wasn't) currently storing its collections; the quantity, type, and dimensions of our different collection areas; and quantifiable documentation for collection improvements. This data also helped form the criteria for what collections would be moved, what could remain with adjustments, and centered our decisions for what was ideal for the FHS collection.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

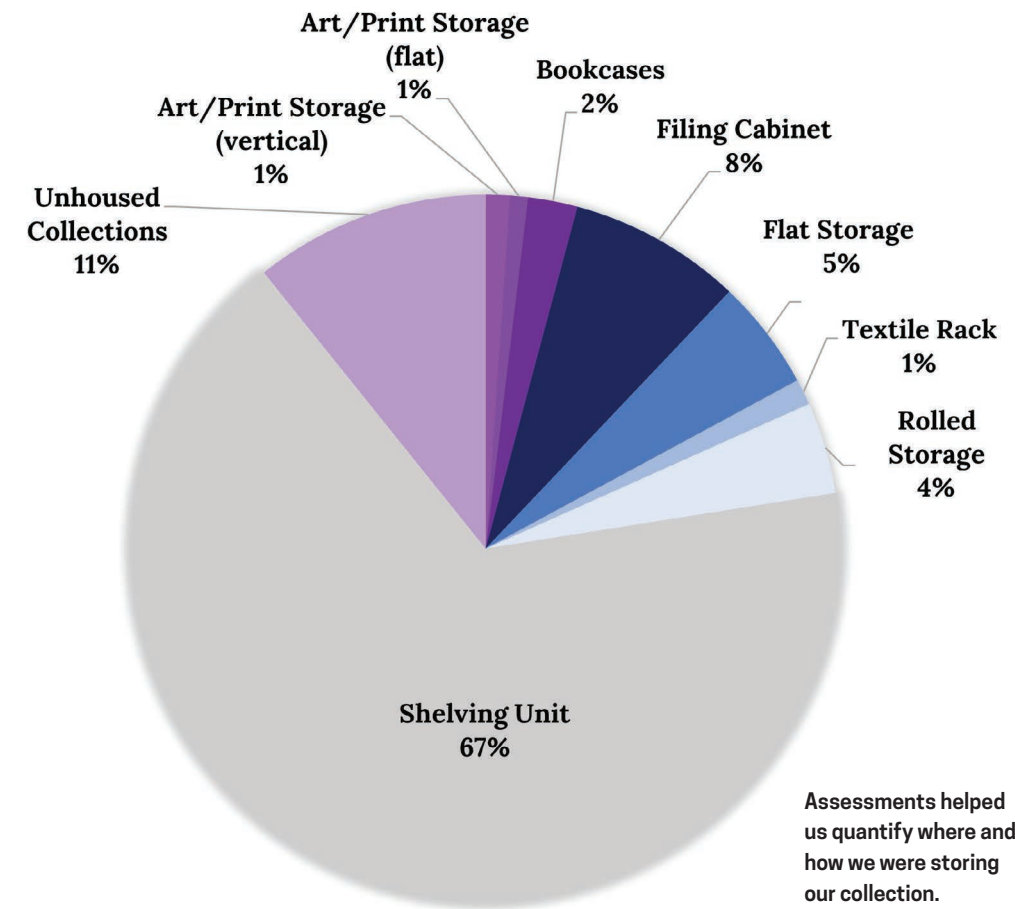


BY THE NUMBERS

14 rows ■ 70 shelving units ■ 560 individual shelves

1,960 available linear feet

1,110 linear feet slated for future collection growth



Assessments helped us quantify where and how we were storing our collection.

The collections of the Freeport Historical Society are the definitive resource for those looking to study Freeport's local and regional history. Our reference and archive collection contains manuscripts, books, maps, newspaper, and photographic collections, as well records of the town of Freeport (the FHS is a state-approved Alternative Repository for the Placement of non-Confidential Local Government Records). Our museum collection contains a wide variety of artifacts, including objects, prints and paintings, textiles, decorative arts, furniture, and industrial and agricultural implements. Our collections form the basis of our outreach initiatives, providing a launching point for exhibitions, research and scholarly requests, publications, and programs.



Present collections will occupy approximately one-third of the shelving system's capacity, leaving room for our collection to grow in the future.

The Vault provides a climate-controlled space that supports the long-term storage and preservation of the Society's most significant holdings (including its archive and museum collections), as well as space to care, process, and make our holdings more accessible.



1 - The shelving rails for the mobile system.



4 - The system is made of durable steel, but flexible for adjustments.



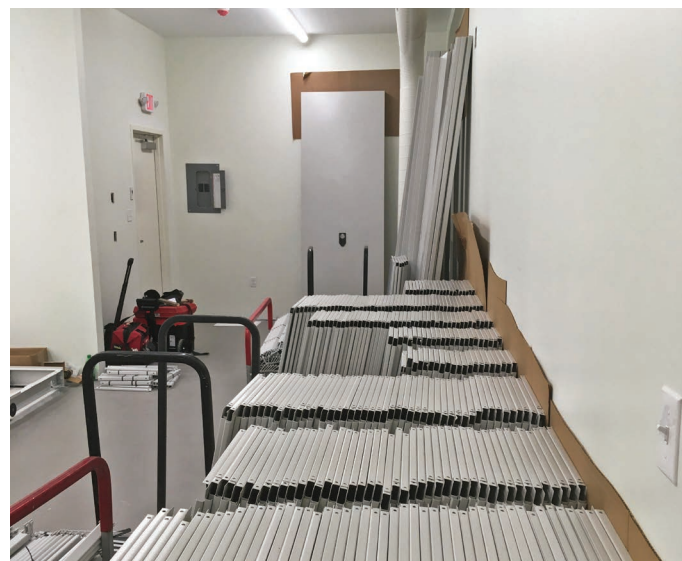
2 - Flooring is installed flush to the rails.



5 - The space starts to fill in with nearly 9-foot carriage fronts installed.



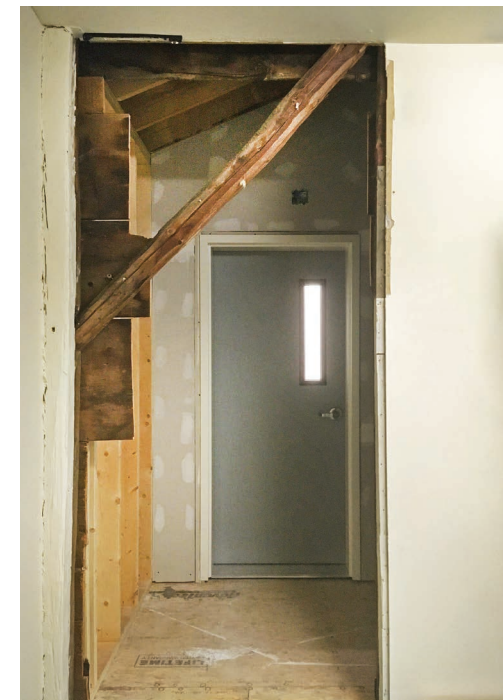
3 - The first uprights are installed.



6 - Only a portion of the 560 shelves to be installed.



7 - Donnegan Systems, Inc. Installed our custom system over a week.



8 - The long-awaited moment of connecting the Vault and the Harrington House.

FHS Collections on the Move

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In the end, we were able to design a custom shelving system on the upper level of the Vault that is frugal, flexible, and able to grow with the needs of our organization. The lower level of the Vault will make use of our current steel shelving, as well as house material not suited to a shelving system.

The physical move of the collections from the Harrington House is happening in phases and in tandem with the ongoing work on the FHS campus. This move is an exciting and rare opportunity in the organization's history, as it marks the first time we'll be able to step back and view our collections through a new lens. This move has been a major focus of the FHS throughout the last half of 2021 and into 2022. FHS



JOIN US TODAY!

MEMBERS RECEIVE a copy of the book *Tides of Change: A Guide to the Harraseeket Historic District, A Window Through Time* (Pettengill photo book), a trail map of Pettengill Farm, our quarterly newsletter, *The Dash*, and a 10% discount at the Freeport Oyster Bar, coming to our carriage house this June. Family Members and higher receive one hour of research time in our archives (a \$50 value) and invitations to events and exhibits at free or reduced rates.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

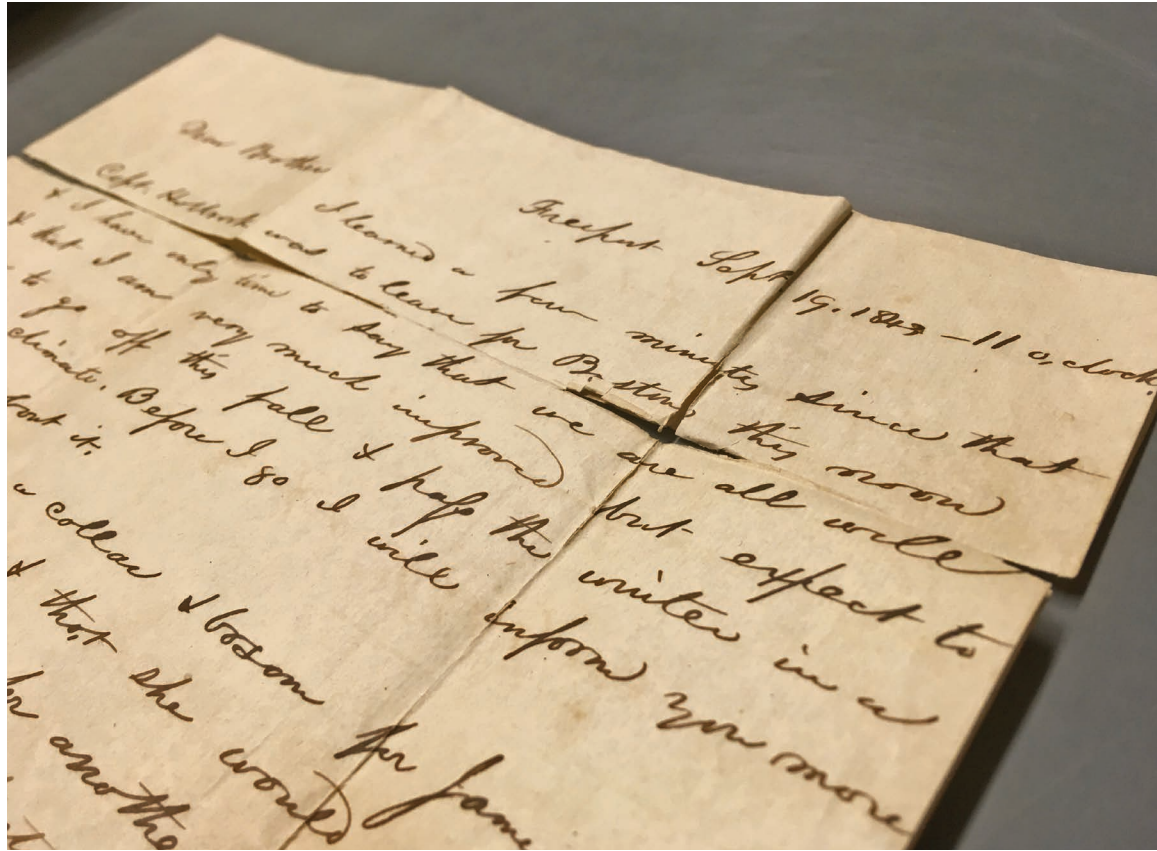
- \$20 Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual
- \$40 Senior Family
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Contributing
- \$250 Supporting
- \$500 Sustaining
- \$1000 Leadership

CORPORATE SPONSORS:

- \$100 Contributing Business
 - \$250 Supporting Business
 - Special Corporate Sponsorship opportunities exist from \$500 - \$5000
- Please visit our website for details.

Please make checks payable to **Freeport Historical Society** and mail to **45 Main Street, Freeport, ME 04032**, or pay by debit or credit card online at **www.freeporthistoricalsociety.org**

For more information: www.freeporthistoricalsociety.org or 207-865-3170



Detail of letter from Enoch Harrington to Capt. Luther Harrington, 1843. Loan courtesy of the Harrington Family.



Portrait of Enoch Harrington. Loan courtesy of the Harrington Family.

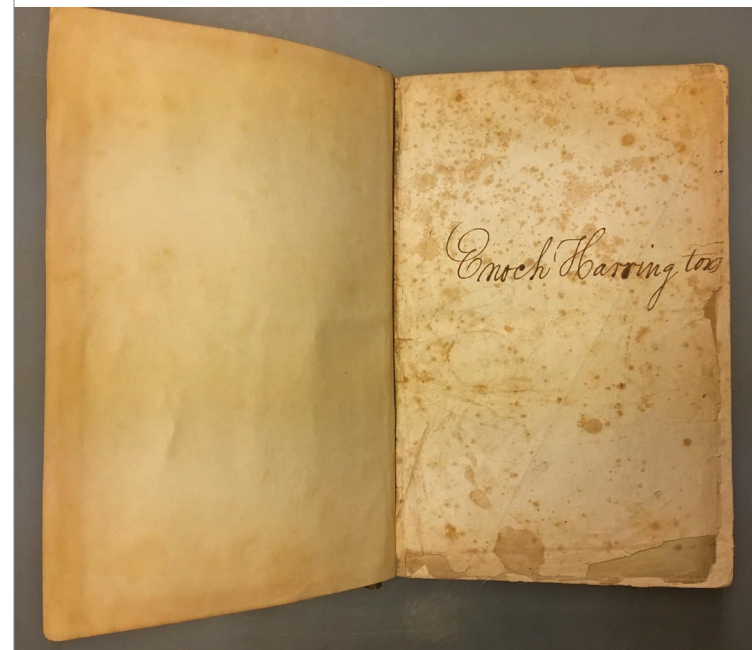
DISCOVERING THE HARRINGTONS

NEW EXHIBITION
COMING THIS SUMMER



What do Puerto Rico, the Second Great Awakening, and a barrel of rum have in common? All new information we've uncovered about the Harrington family.

Despite the FHS headquarters being known as the “Harrington House,” we’ve known relatively little about the Harrington family and their life in Freeport. The arrival of Enoch Harrington’s portrait in 2020 at the start of our building project sparked new interest in 45 Main Street’s original—and longest—owners. **Visit our new exhibition space this summer to learn how we discovered more of the Harrington family story and what mysteries remain.**



Harrington Family Bible. Loan courtesy of the Harrington Family.

Welcome Harper Batsford

FHS Community Engagement Coordinator



IN HIS NEW ROLE as Community Engagement Coordinator, Harper Batsford is tasked with making our programs, events, and communications lively and inviting. Prior to joining FHS in early February, Harper worked at organizations dedicated to sharing Maine’s unique history with the public, including Victoria Mansion and the Tate House in Portland. With a strong background in collections and conservation, Harper enjoys using images and material culture to encourage members of various communities to investigate their own personal connection to the past. Harper is looking forward to welcoming visitors to our newly renovated space soon; in the meantime, he is enjoying getting to know our members and volunteers online and in person.

Annual Fund Donors 2021

The people, programs, the protection of our unique collection, and the preservation of our historic properties all rely on your contributions.

\$1,000 – \$4,500

Janice & Edward Gerry
James & Maureen Gorman
Jane & Ed Bradley
Mabel Gerquest
Josephine Bail

\$500 – \$1,000

Lynn Hannings & Scott Miller
James & Anne Cram
Cornelia & Robert Santomena
Elinor Hudson
Norma & Hugh Phelps
Carl VonSaltza & Suzi Spector
Walt Dunlap
Gordie & Judy Hamlin
Evelyn Sawyer
Stephen & Cinda Joyce
Elizabeth and Robert Moore
Edgar & Dot Leighton

\$200 – \$500

Anne & Ben Niles
Beverly & Mark
James & Doris Bannar
Vivi & David Miller
David & Connie Coffin
Jayne & Chris Soles
John Cornell
Beth & Bill Muldoon
James & Lynn Shaffer
Elisabeth & John Montgomery
Tom & Jule Whelan
Brad Snow
Polly & Steve Brann
Rebecca & David Hotelling
Curtis & Nina Scribner
Beverly & Roger Richmond
Jay & Lynne Espy
William H. Gibson
Wilfred Gilman
Sandra & Dennis King
Susan & William Martens
Vivian Belanger & Cliff Goodall

\$100-\$200

Joan Benoit & Scott Samuelson
Melanie & Andrew Sachs
Mary & David Hurd
Susan Metters & Mark Segar
Stephanie Paine & John Pier
Haidee Merritt
Kathy & Sam Smith
Jane & Alden Grant
Cynthia & Gilbert Wilcox
Ann Deering
Beverly & Sandy Williams
David Soley & Debbie Coppinger
Roger Carpenter & Alice Rohman
Marjorie B. Eno
Janet & Tom Ross
Pete Bouman & Carrine Burns
Tee Taggart & Jack Turner
Greta A. and George G. Waterman
Lynn & Bill Heinz
Thomas & Eleanor Duffus
Gustav & Doris Schwenk
Karen Marsh
Mary & Randy Mraz
Michael Naab
Betsy & Nathaniel Warren-White
Paul E. Bennett, Jr.
Rita Armstrong & Frank Rogers
Bridget & Michael Healy
Caroline & Robert Knott
Joan & George Connick
Betsy Roper
William A. MacLeod & Anne C. Parker
Genie & Joseph Field
Mary & Andre LeMaistre
Jane & Frederick Woodruff
Kathleen Damon
Janet & Paul Aliapoulos
Julia Tebbets
Susan Stowell
Kenn Guimond & Jenny Moore
Helen Richmond Webb

UP TO \$100

Alan Seidman
Richard & Jean Leslie
Melissa Reeve
Dorothy & Edward
Philip & Linda Press
Kathie Nelson
Maureen & Larry Cullen
Bettina Lumpkin
Judy Elfring
Sally Walsh
Lynne A. Brown
Lincoln & Kim Merrill
Candice M. Dennison-Holden
David Tamminen & Louisa Picard
Anne LeClair
Fran & Jim Worthington
Marjorie Porter
Lara T. Bailey
Wendy & George Brockman
Caroline Southall
Lawrence & Elizabeth Estey
Bill & Eleanor Browder
Keith and Melissa Kennedy
Guy Blanchard
Marilyn & Atwood Dunham
Betsy McElvein & Benjamin Soule
Janice Peterson
Carol & Henry Lukas
Helen P. Clarkson
Richard Bowen
Gregory & Nancy Goodspeed
Donna & Herbert Taylor
Paula Craighead & Michael Saucier
Franklin Limbocker
Nancy Snow
Dorothy E. Nichols
Malcolm & Susan Collins
Nancy Marston
Dawn Hamilton
Shaina Graff
Eleanor & John Davis
John & Ann Murriner

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF JOHN D. DAVIS

Elinor Hudson
James & Doris Bannar
James & Anne Cram

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF WHEATON HUDSON

James & Anne Cram
Elinor Hudson
James & Doris Bannar
Rebecca & David Hotelling
Cynthia & Gilbert Wilcox
Ann Deering
Beverly & Sandy Williams
Richard & Jean Leslie
Melissa Reeve
Dorothy & Edward McAloney
Philip & Linda Press
Judy Elfring
Sally Walsh
Gregory & Nancy Goodspeed
Janice & Edward Gerry
Mary & David Hurd

GIFTS IN HONOR OF JIM & PAM MATSON

Ed & Jane Bradley

2021 Corporate Sponsors

The Freeport Historical Society relies on the generous support of these local businesses. Please support them whenever possible.

GOLD AND SILVER MEMBERS



L.L.Bean



SUPPORTING AND LEADERSHIP MEMBERS



BEDROCK MEMBERS

Casco Bay Auctions
Jay Enterprises Inc.
Maine Idyll Motor Court
Estabrook's Garden Center & Nursery
Maine Idyll Motorcourt

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Harraseeket Yachts
Hughes, Inc.
Richard and Nancy Reynolds
Grant's Kennebeco Camps

Thank you to everyone who has already given in 2022. Please visit our website if you would like to become a donor.

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



Meetinghouse Arts

Saturday April 23, 2:00 PM

2022 Annual Meeting

This year we are hosting our meeting at two sites. First participate in the program and awards at Meetinghouse Arts in the historic First Parish Church at 40 Main Street. Then, enjoy a private reception in the newly renovated Harrington House across the street at 45 Main Street. Members, donors, and interested individuals from the community are all welcome to join us for this gathering. Parking will be available at either location.

This event is free and open to the public, no registration is required.

Harrington House



**Saturday April 30,
10:00 AM**
**Mast Landing
Walking Tour**

Join Freeport Historical Society Trustee and Mast Landing historian David Coffin on a

walking tour exploring the site of mills built in 1757 by Abner and Mast Landing Dennison as well as additional mills and the 30-foot dam built by Abner's son Solomon. David Coffin's research has shed light on the history of these structures, which were destroyed by fire in 1861, as well as their place in the broader context of Freeport's History.

Saturday May 14, 9:00 & 10:30 AM
Mann Cemetery Walking Tour



Author and land surveyor John Mann will lead a tour of the Mann cemetery. With burials dating to 1770 or earlier, Mann cemetery is one of the oldest burial grounds in Freeport. Over 168 burials have been discovered at this site used by several families from Freeport's Ulster-Scotts community; some are marked by engraved stones and cairns, others by depressions in the ground. John Mann has

contributed his expertise as a surveyor and his skill as a researcher to the ongoing effort to preserve the cemetery and shed light on the lives of these early Freeport residents.



Saturday May 21, 10:00 AM
Annual Plant Sale

Celebrate spring and find some new additions for your yard while enjoying the beautiful Harrington House Gardens, maintained by our dedicated and skilled volunteers.