



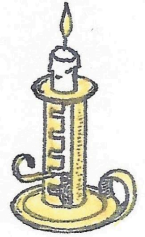
Yore Connection

Arundel Historical Society Newsletter

February 2025

Arundel Historical Society, 3 Talbot Drive, Arundel, ME 04046
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We hope you are having a safe and healthy winter and are sure we are all looking forward to spring! The AHS has been getting ready for our 2025 activities and events. You will find a list of our spring dates on the last page of this newsletter.

Since postage is quite expensive, we are transitioning to using email when possible to send out *Yore Connection*. If we have your email address, we have already sent you a note asking you to let us know if you would prefer your newsletter mailed as a paper copy instead. We will be happy to accommodate that request. Conversely, if you are receiving this as a paper copy but would prefer it via email in the future, please provide us with your email address. Simone will be coordinating the email list, so send your address to arundelhistoricalsoc@gmail.com. Hopefully this transition will go smoothly. Please don't be shy about letting us know if there are any corrections to be made.

As in past years, we will be mailing out our **membership renewal forms** during the month of **April**. We appreciate all of you who continue to support us with your dues. Costs continue to increase with electricity and insurance topping the list. The funds from dues along with those from our fund-raising activities support our regular expenses. Remember—new members are always welcome!

Heritage Day this year will be on Saturday, September 13 and it's not too early to begin thinking about it...so we are doing just that! Each year we like to add new things for our guests to see and do, so if you are a crafter, have a skill you would like to demonstrate, or have some vintage items to display, please contact us. Other creative ideas are always welcome...just let us know. We also like to see local businesses and organizations participate, so join us!

It is obvious to us, based on the feedback we get from many of you, that what we do is appreciated. However, what we do cannot happen without volunteers. Many of you already help us with your time or your baking skills and you are valued beyond measure. We are always in need of more people to help share the burden and anyone, regardless of their time or talents, can find a way to help. Being an active member of the community is rewarding, interesting, and fun.

Arundel Veterans Honor Roll

Additions: February 2025

Paul Steven Sfreddo * U.S. Navy

Please let us know the names of Arundel veterans.

Old railroad bridge
over the connection of Arundel's
Old Post Road & Proctor Road
to Elm Street (Biddeford).
It was replaced c. 1937.



Source: Elizabeth O'Brien



Moving Snow



Despite a slow start, we are now caught up to the average snowfall for the winter and many of us are ready for it to be done with. People have been moving snow out of their way for a long time. Today we have efficient plows on motorized vehicles and snowblowers both large and small. Thanks to dedicated snowplow drivers, we are able to negotiate our highways and byways quickly and with relatively little difficulty. Historically, things were quite different.

In the 1700's snow was simply not removed. People utilized snowshoes or created passable ways for horses, carts, and sleds to move by simply flattening the snow drifts. "The Great Snow of 1717" left four feet of snow and 25-foot-high drifts in New England. In 1772, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were both trapped in their homes by three feet of snow.

One approach to making passable roads was the horse-drawn snow roller which was used to pack and flatten the snow, thus creating a reasonably smooth and stable surface on which to travel using vehicles with runners. The roller was essentially a large, wide wheel filled with rocks. Some communities had a snow warden who was in charge of this process.

The most basic of snow removal tools, the scoop snow shovel, was introduced in the late 1800's and one of the first was invented in 1889 by Lydia Fairweather.



Moving snow in Arundel
Pearson Farm

Dealing with the snow in cities led to approaches other than just equipment for removing snow. Elevated tracks for trains avoided dealing with huge drifts on railroad tracks. The blizzard of 1847 ultimately led to putting trains underground with Boston in the lead in 1899 and New York following some years later.

The blizzard of 1888, which left some places with 50 inches of snow and drifts up to 40 feet tall, basically brought everything to a halt. One of the lessons learned was to start clearing roads at the beginning of the storm rather than waiting for the snow to stop—a practice still in use today.

The first snowplows were used in Milwaukee in 1862. They were plows attached to the back of a cart which was pulled by a team of horses or oxen. The downside to these plows was the snow left behind, which was piled up on the sides of the road. This made it difficult for people to access buildings. In New York City men were hired to follow the plows with horse-drawn carts into which the piled snow was shoveled. The carts then hauled the snow to the river or the ocean, where it was dumped.

Over time, through the early 1900's, motorized vehicles replaced horse-drawn devices and men with shovels. In 1920, in Chicago, the Barber-Greene snow loader was first used. It had a large, wide scoop and a conveyor belt and it moved on huge tractor treads. As snow was plowed it was first forced into the scoop, then caught on the conveyor belt which moved it away from the street and up a chute. From the chute the snow was dumped into a truck to be hauled away. By 1926, snowplows were put on the front of trucks, as they are still today.

Mildred L. Day School – 4th, 5th, & 6th grades off on a school trip!

[Do you know what year this photo was taken? If you do, please let us know.]



TAKING PART in the trip to Portland City Auditorium yesterday for the Youth Concert Symphony Orchestra were these children of the fourth, fifth and sixth grades of Mildred L. Day School in Arundel. About 100 children were accompanied by teachers, Mrs. Eleanor Hutchins, fourth grade; Mrs. Janet Bowley, fifth grade, and Mrs. Dorothy Garrett, sixth grade, and several members of the Community Club of Arundel, which sponsored the trip.

Many thanks to our business sponsors.

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wayneparry@roadrunner.com
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AHS calendar of events for this spring:

- ✓ SPAGHETTI SUPPER - SATURDAY - MARCH 8* - 4:30-6 pm
M.L. DAY SCHOOL *SNOW DATE - MARCH 15
- ✓ BAKED BEANS & PASTA SUPPER - SATURDAY - APRIL 5 - 4:30-6 pm
M.L. DAY SCHOOL
- ✓ BAKED BEANS & PASTA SUPPER - SATURDAY - MAY 3 - 4:30-6 pm
M.L. DAY SCHOOL
- ✓ MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY - SUNDAY - MAY 25 - 11 AM - VETERANS
MEMORIAL at the FIRE STATION
- ✓ BAKE SALE - ALL DAY - TUESDAY - JUNE 10 - TOWN HALL during
Voting

Our popular **JULY RAFFLE CALENDAR** with lots of great gift certificates and generous cash prizes will be available from March thru mid-June. Don't miss out!

Please watch for our flyers and other advertisements for any changes in the schedule.
We look forward to seeing you!
