



Yore Connection

Arundel Historical Society Newsletter

July 2025

Arundel Historical Society, 3 Talbot Drive, Arundel, ME 04046
283-9699



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Our AHS volunteers have had a very busy year thus far with three suppers, all of which were very well attended, and a bake sale during voting in June. Our bakers and kitchen volunteers have worked overtime. We thank them so much! The suppers also require people to act as servers as well as those who assist with setting up tables and chairs and then clean up and put everything away at the end of the event. A great effort on the part of everyone...and one appreciated by all of us. We also want to thank all who donate supplies for the suppers.

The support we receive from the many people who attend the suppers and participate in the bake sale is crucial to our fund-raising efforts, not to mention the wonderful opportunity to chat with so many of them. Their interest in our goals and what we do is very gratifying.

The **Memorial Day Ceremony** was, once again, supported by many Arundel residents and the program included students from M.L. Day School as well as some local veterans.

All of the names of the Arundel veterans on the Honor Roll were read aloud. A reminder once again to give us the name and other information about Arundel veterans, including those currently serving, so we can add them to the Honor Roll. We would like to honor their service! **Note:** A copy of the Honor Roll is available at the Municipal Building as well as on display at our events.

We published our popular **July Raffle Calendar** and the drawing has begun! As usual, the calendar has a great prize for each day in July provided by a local business. If you haven't won yet, there is still time since the drawing continues until July 31. Thanks and good luck to all of you who participated.

Membership renewal forms have been mailed out and we appreciate those of you who have already joined us for another year. If the form is sitting on your desk, please take a moment to send it to us with your 2025 dues. If you have not been a member, just use the form included at the end of this newsletter. Membership dues are minimal, but very important for providing the funds to cover the regular costs associated with printing, postage, insurance, electricity, and so on.

Finally, we were awarded a grant this spring to cover the costs of upgrading our website. If you haven't visited it recently, or perhaps have never visited it, please do so. We have revised some sections and added some new features, including blogs. Please be patient with us as we familiarize ourselves with the new format.

Heritage Day preparations have begun! Forms have been sent to past participants and we have heard back from many of them. If you have a skill to demonstrate, a collection of historical items or documents to display, or are a crafter with items to sell, please contact us. We would love to have you come and add to the day's festivities. **Heritage Day** is Saturday, September 13 at **North Chapel Common**, 1065 Limerick Road, Arundel. [Corner of Limerick Road and Rt. 111.] Come one, come all—enjoy the day and each other's company!

PS: We also need volunteers!!

Arundel Veterans Honor Roll

Additions: July 2025

Joseph E. Foster: 1967-1968 - Vietnam * U.S. Navy
Norman P. Schieren, Sr. * U.S. Army

Braided Rugs

Most of us have various rugs and carpets on the floors throughout our homes. They add to and complement our décor as well as providing warmth*. Braided rugs originated in America in the early 1800's, but the story doesn't start there.



Floor coverings were not the “norm” for early settlers. Bare wood or dirt floors had the obvious drawback (one of many!) of being uncomfortable during the colder months of the year. Beginning in the late 1700's, woven or braided straw mats were sometimes used to cover floors. They helped, but did not hold up well or provide much insulation.

The first braided rugs in the colonies were fashioned from scraps of clothing too worn out to be used any more. Fabric was a precious commodity and none of it was wasted. However, once the American textile industry was established in New England, fabric became more easily accessible. Wool fabric was used to make many articles of clothing and the scraps were used to make braided wool rugs. Wool has many advantages: it repels water due to the lanolin from the sheep, sparks from the fireplaces used for cooking and heating tend to smolder on the rug rather than catching fire, and dust mites don't thrive in wool.

Originally, braided rugs were round or oval with the braids sewn together with thread. At first, the colors and patterns were somewhat random and depended solely on the scraps of fabric available. In some cases they were rather like quilts in that the scraps of clothing utilized had a connection to the former owner of the clothing. Later on, the braids were laced together with wool lacing pulled through the braid so it was not visible. Over time, with increasing availability of more colors of fabric, the rugs became more colorful and delightful (and sometimes very intricate) patterns were introduced. The rugs were now not only useful and long-lasting, they were beautiful as well!

Over time, braided rugs were produced commercially using looms. This made them easily obtainable and affordable, but, as with many things, the mass-produced rugs lack the personal touch and sentimental value of the hand-made rugs produced by families.

****Note:** Rugs do not actually provide any heat. What they do is reduce the transfer of heat from a person's warmer feet to the colder floor, thus making the feet feel warmer than they would on a bare floor. Heat always travels from “warm” to “cool” areas and objects.*

Please support our great business sponsors.

J.W. Booth, Landscape Contractor
638 Alfred Road
Arundel, ME 04046
(207) 282-9908
jwbooth57@yahoo.com
Jim Booth
*Lawn Maintenance*Gardens*
*Trees*Shrubs*

Mann Memorial Veterinary Clinic
1121 Portland Rd., Arundel, ME 04046
(207) 985-4774
mannvetclinic@gmail.com
Dr. Christ Angelos V.M.D
“MMVC offers exceptional care for
your pet's needs.”

Douston Construction, Inc.
754 Alfred Road, Arundel, ME 04046
(207) 283-0110/468-5384 (c)
shawn@douston.com
www.douston.com

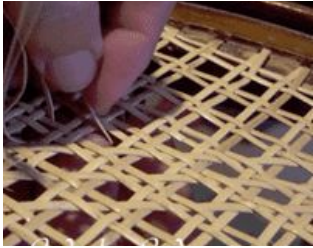
Wayne R. Parry
851 Alfred Road, Arundel, ME 04046
wayneparry@roadrunner.com
Lobster sales/Lobsterman
229-5195

Shawn Douston

Labbe Excavating, Inc. 207 282-1426 [office]
6 Drews Mills Road 207 468-7574 [Phil]
Arundel, ME 04046 207 468-0364 [Shawn]
“Celebrating 64 years in 2025”

Chair Caning

Chair caning dates back to Egypt circa 1300 BC and appears in Europe during the 17th century. The caning material is rattan cane or rattan peel which is harvested from rattan vines that grow in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Rattan is a type of palm which grows as a solid, flexible vine a couple of hundred feet long and uses other plants for support to reach the sunlight.



In hand caning, individual cane strands are woven through holes drilled in a chair frame. This painstaking task creates the patterns we associate with caned seats and backs. Machine, or pressed, caning is done with woven cane sheets which are pressed into a groove on the perimeter of the chair's seat and then held in place with a spline, much the same way a piece of screening is held in place with a rubber spline on today's window screens.

In addition to being visually appealing, caned seats and backs on chairs are very durable. The natural flexibility of the caned seat provides some “give” making it more comfortable than hard surfaced wooden or metal chairs and the holes provide for air circulation making the seat a bit cooler.

Originally in England, chair caning was done by basketmakers. As the demand for the chairs grew, chair caning became a separate craft done by others. The rattan used by basket-makers was a “filler” material used to keep cases of tea from moving about in ships' holds as they sailed from China to London. After the tea arrived safely at its destination, the rattan was repurposed for caning.

Chair seats were also made by “rush weaving”. Twisted bulrush or cattail leaves were wrapped around the chair frame so the seat was covered edge to edge with the woven materials. These seats were not as “elegant” as caned seats, but were sturdy and served the purpose.

After the “Party”...

After the Boston Tea Party, the colonists needed a replacement for English tea. The answer was a native North American plant which many of us have in our gardens today—bee balm! Bee balm (genus *Monarda*) is an herbaceous perennial related to catnip, peppermint, and lavender. As a member of the mint family, it has square stems. (Gently twirling the stem of a plant between the fingers is a reliable way to identify a member of the mint family. If the stem is square, it's a mint.) Its tubular flowers may be pink, lavender, or red, depending on the species. Bee balm is a valuable plant for pollinators since it attracts bees and butterflies. Hummingbirds are especially drawn to red bee balm.



The colonists learned from the Native Americans that a pleasant tea could be brewed using the leaves and flowers of bee balm. It is the plant's connection to Native Americans which gave it its other common name, Oswego tea. The Native Americans, and then the colonists, were aware of the tea's various benefits. It has a calming effect on an upset stomach and also soothes a sore throat. The tea is also known to reduce anxiety and promote relaxation. Since it has some antimicrobial properties, it can be used externally on minor wounds, scrapes, and insect bites. The bee balm's oils were used in soaps.

Many of the herbs used by the colonists, such as basil, marjoram, and peppermint, were brought to the New World from Europe. Bee balm, on the other hand, originated here and was exported back to the Old World.

A note to our readers

If you are currently receiving *Yore Connection* via USPS mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send us an email requesting the change. This will save on postage as well as printing cost.

arundelhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

AHS Membership Application

AHS is a non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation whose primary goal is education.

If you are already a member, please pass this on to a friend!

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date _____, 2025 I would be willing to:

_____ volunteer to help at events _____ donate baked goods for events

Annual Dues:

_____ Individual \$15

_____ Family \$25

_____ Sponsor \$50

_____ Please send my newsletter via email [not USPS].

Mail to: Arundel Historical Society
3 Talbot Drive
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