



Yore Connection

Arundel Historical Society Newsletter

November 2025

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Once again we were fortunate to have glorious weather for Heritage Day! The event was well attended and we were delighted to see so many families with young children. Many of the children took good advantage of the activities available for them and we had BIG bubbles and kites in the air all day. The Civil War Encampment attracted many inquisitive guests as did the blacksmith with his functioning forge. Antique engines and farm tools as well as tractors, large and small were on display. Spinners provided demonstrations of their craft and Api D'oro was there to explain the habits of bees and provide their products.

Crafters provided a variety of wares including wood keepsake and jewelry boxes, cutting & game boards, upcycled livestock feed bags, and quilted and crocheted items as well as needlepoint and embroidery.

Games of checkers entertained people of all ages, and many guests spent some time learning about and writing with quill pens. Some families took advantage of pony rides. Two people were the lucky winners of 10 lobsters each in our Lobster Raffle.

Arundel Conservation Trust once again sponsored their Ladies Skillet Toss—always a big hit! The AHS Reminisce Tent displayed information about Arundel's connection to theatre and music: *Arundel Barn Playhouse*, *"Vinegar Hill"*, and *Kennebunkport Playhouse & Jane Morgan*. Leslie Rounds provided a delightful display of late 18th, early 19th century embroideries along with explanation of their history.

With hot dogs, our bake sale, and the Lobster Company food truck, no one went hungry and terrific music entertained all of us throughout the day.

In short, we had a wonderful time and we thank all of our guests for attending, and the participants, sponsors, contributors, and volunteers for making it all possible!

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 11, 2025—11am

Arundel Veterans Memorial

"The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month."

Please join us for this ceremony to honor our veterans.

Arundel Veterans Honor Roll

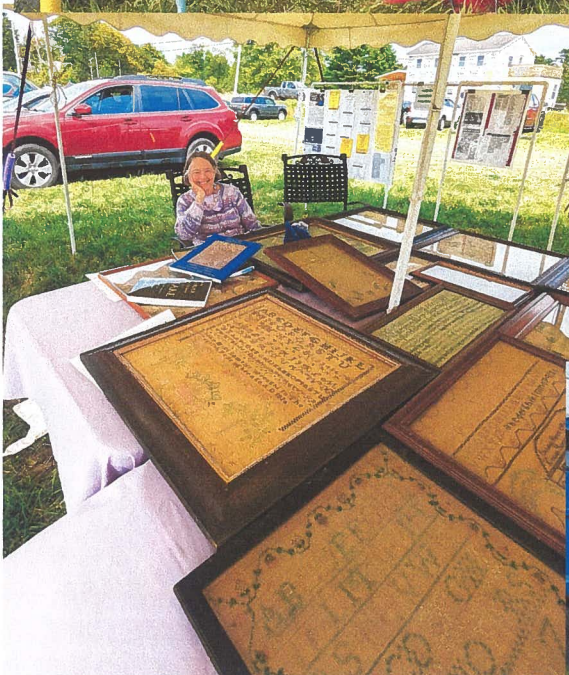
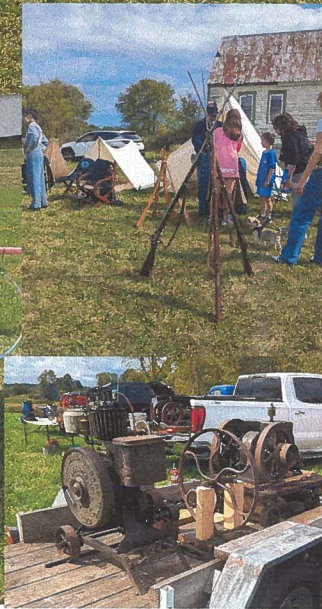
The Honor Roll is an important record of a valued part of Arundel's history and currently includes 286 names.

A copy of the Honor Roll is located for viewing at the Municipal Building main office along with a form for information about any veteran.

Please let us know the names of any Arundel resident who is or was a veteran or is currently serving. Also, if your Arundel ancestors served at any time, please tell us what you know about their service.

Arundel's veterans deserve recognition and our appreciation for their service.

Some Heritage Day 2025 Goings On...



Talking (Wild) Turkey

Turkeys were first domesticated in Mexico over 2000 years ago and brought to Europe by Spanish explorers in the 1500's. We recognize the domesticated birds as regular "guests" at our Thanksgiving tables, but turkey did not become a Thanksgiving staple until the mid-1800's.

Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are a far cry from their domesticated descendants. Wild turkeys are colorful (an adult will have 5,000 to 6,000 feathers) and North America's largest gamebirds, weighing up to 25 pounds and sometimes more. The males, called toms or gobblers, tend to be larger than the females which are known as hens. Hens tend to be about half the size of the toms and don't "gobble" but make a variety of sounds like clucking and purring, among others. Hens lay from 10 to 12 eggs which take a month to hatch.

Newly hatched turkeys, called poults, begin foraging with their mothers only 24 hours after hatching and eat protein-rich insects along with spiders and snails for the first month of their lives. Turkeys are omnivores and in addition to insects will eat a wide variety of plant foods—grasses, ferns, leaves, buds, flowers, seeds, berries, nuts, and so on. Acorns are a universal favorite. Turkeys, along with many other birds, consume small stones (called gastroliths) which accumulate in their gizzards. These gastroliths grind apart the hard nuts and seeds allowing them to be digested.

Wild turkeys were originally abundant across North America, but neared extinction in the early 1900's with only about 200,000 left. Now there are in excess of 6 million and they can be found in all continental states except Alaska.

A group of turkeys is commonly called a "flock" but is technically called a "rafter". During the summer wild turkeys gather into a variety of flocks, some consisting of hens and their poults, others made up of hens with no offspring, and some flocks are "regrouped" toms of a dozen or so males. In the fall the immature males, called jakes, leave their mothers and the young females (called jennies) to form flocks of their own. Flocks provide some safety from predators such as hawks, owls, bobcats, and red foxes (many sets of eyes to see danger coming) as well as providing warmth in winter by sharing body heat.

Flocks are not the only protection against predators. Turkeys can travel at up to 18mph on foot and can move at up to 50mph in flight, sometimes for up to a mile. Poults can fly about 2 weeks after hatching. At night the turkeys roost in trees, often near the top. They have excellent eyesight and peripheral vision and can see in color. In addition, their eyes can detect ultra-violet (UV) wavelengths which helps in spotting predators and finding food.

Turkey droppings are often found under trees where they have spent the night. The droppings are distinctive: tom droppings are j-shaped and hen droppings are spiral shaped. The larger the diameter of the droppings, the older the bird.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us to all of you!



Please support our wonderful business sponsors.

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