



"Winter Time in the City" was a very popular exhibit that served as a precursor to our next urban-based exhibit theme.
Patti Mikkelsen photo

Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM

95 The Lane
North Yarmouth, Maine
(207) 829-9203
www.skylinefarm.org

SPRING 2009

Horse Drawn Vehicles of "The Age of Innocence" Exhibit Opening May 17

On Sunday, May 17, celebrate Edith Wharton's book "The Age of Innocence" by attending the opening of this special exhibit and interpretive tour in the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum. Representatives from the Victoria Mansion will be on hand to help kick off the festivities. Late 19th century ambience will abound!

Knowledgeable docents will explain why the type of carriage or sleigh being driven often signified the owner's economic status and social standing during the Gilded Age.

The Big Read, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (www.neabigread.org) has chosen "The Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton as its subject book.

In collaboration with the Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine, Skyline Farm Carriage Museum presents a special exhibit on Sundays from May 17 through August 23, 12 to 3 p.m. (or by appointment), showcasing carriages and sleighs representative of the 1870s in New York City, the backdrop for the book.

The admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, call Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614.

"The Age of Innocence" Book Discussion
Sunday, May 31, 3-5 pm

History tells us who we are and helps to shape our identity. Often we think of history as merely political events, but social history is intriguing and influential.

Join discussion leader Dale King at Skyline Farm from 3 to 5 pm on Sunday, May 31 to examine Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence" and her view of society during America's Gilded Age. What were the social mores of the day; are we still experiencing them to any degree today? Human needs, desires and relationships are universals. How did those living in the upper echelons of Gilded Age society deal with these universals?

For more information, call Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614.



A Rockaway Extension carriage, circa 1890, is one of the featured vehicles in the new exhibit. It was built by F.O. Bailey Carriage Company located in Portland, Maine.

Some of the carriages that will be on display include: Gem of the Bay, Panel Boot Victoria, Park Phaeton, American Spider Phaeton, Brewster Stanhope Gig, Pony Wicker Village Cart, Pony Runabout, Laundry Wagon, Doctor's Phaeton, F.O. Bailey Trap, Gentlemen's Cane Phaeton, Wicker Pony Carriage, Oakland Cut Under Runabout and Hansom Cab (on loan).

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operated by organic farmer Justin Deri of Deri Farm

Skyline Farm's board of trustees is pleased to announce that Justin Deri of Deri Farm will be farming the south-west acreage of Skyline Farm for the 2009 season. Deri is an organic farmer who plans to operate a 100 member Community Supported Agriculture model.

A CSA consists of a community of shareholders who purchase a farm share in advance, and in turn receive a weekly farm share distributed throughout the growing season. By pledging their support of the farm, the shareholders become an integral part of the farm community assuming the risks and benefits of production.

The CSA model allows for building of community through farm days, volunteer opportunities and events promoting awareness of the farm and local agriculture. In addition to raising vegetables and herbs, Deri also grows flowers for shareholders and raises poultry and eggs. Most shareholders live in North Yarmouth and surrounding communities with several Portland-area families participating. Skyline Farm board members hope that shareholders become involved and engaged in many of Skyline's events and activities.

CSA shares are sold out for this season, but you can get on a waiting list and receive the newsletter. Contact Justin Deri (207) 829-3624, or visit www.derifarm.com.

We are especially grateful for our Annual Business Sponsors' contributions toward our general operating support. Please consider contacting them for your business needs.

\$500 LEVEL

Abbott's Premium Ice Creams
of Conway, New Hampshire

\$250 LEVEL

Ames Farm Center
Averill Insurance
Bath Savings Institution
Blue Seal Feeds
Fat Andy's Hardwoods

\$100 LEVEL

Allen & Selig Realty
Anderson Landscaping
Cumberland Animal Clinic
Glacial Lakes Financial
Gray-New Gloucester Animal Hospital
A. H. Grover, Excavating
Scott Kerr, Broker, RE/MAX By The Bay
Law Offices of Thaddeus V. Day, PLLC
North Yarmouth Automotive Service Excellence
Pet Connection, Dog Training
Plainview Farm, Fine Perennials
Sweetser's Apple Barrel & Orchards
The Notes, a Free Weekly Magazine
Toddy Brook Golf Course & Café

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT: Pamela Ames; **VP:** Sheila Libby Alexander; **Treasurer:** Jennifer Kimball; **SECRETARY:** Kristi Wright

TRUSTEES: Ursula Baier, Gregory Cuffey, Cynthia Henriques, David Kleban,

Paul Lones, Patsy O'Brien, Lisa Peck, Leslie Peters, Donna Thurston, Gregory Wiessner, Lynn Young

ADVISORY TRUSTEES: Gary Bahlkow, Judith Bean-Calhoun, Gordon Corbett, Ruth Corbett, Jane Gordon,

John Greenall, Mark Heath, Richard Henriques, Helen Holman, Alix Hopkins, Barry Howgate, Holly Hurd,

Robin Kroc, Diana Logan, Lincoln Merrill, Ann Pierce, John Sowles, Anita Stickney, Rebecca Totten

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: (not a board position) Patti Mikkelsen, mikks@securespeed.us (207) 926-5660

Summer issue (covers July and August events): June 14 deadline for June 25 mailing

The public is invited to come admire a classic American-made marque: the Ford Thunderbird at Skyline Farm from approximately 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 23.

New England's Vintage Thunderbirds is a non-profit club dedicated to the enjoyment and advancement of the old-car hobby with a special emphasis on the Ford Thunderbird of all years from 1955 to present.

Approximately ten of these vintage automobiles will grace the farm's grounds for your viewing pleasure. While these cars are on exhibit, some of Skyline Farm's trustees will put on a horse drawn carriage driving demonstration in the outdoor arena with commentary by Sheila Alexander.

The museum will be open to all, free of charge; donations are welcome. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708.



A member of New England's Vintage Thunderbirds enjoys his ride. Photo courtesy of Don Seymour

Carriage Driving Clinic #1 - June 6

The first of three carriage driving clinics to be taught by Patsy O'Brien and Judith Bean will take place at Skyline Farm on Saturday, June 6. They will give you instruction in basic driving skills, dressage and some exercises with cones and obstacles to make the clinic fun for you and your horse.

The day will start with a safety check at 9:00 am, and hard hats are mandatory. The fee is \$60 for the day.

First, please make a copy of the entry form so you won't lose part of your newsletter. Complete and mail the form with a check made payable to "Skyline Farm" plus copies of Coggins and vaccination records. Mail to: Judith Bean, 280 Lisbon Road, Sabattus, ME 04280.

If you have any questions, please contact Judith Bean, (207) 375-4461 or info@skylinefarm.org.

ENTRY FORM FOR CARRIAGE DRIVING CLINIC(S)

Clinic(s) (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Driver _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

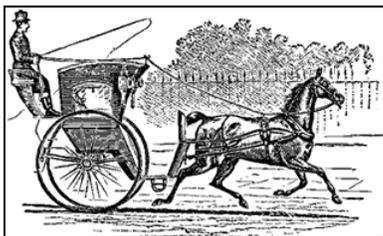
Horse _____ Experienced? Yes No

I understand and agree to the following:

Skyline Farm and Snowfields members and volunteers are not liable for any injury or damage incurred by me, my horse or my property while participating in these clinics, or prior to or following the clinics while on the grounds.

Signature: (Driver) _____

Signature: (Driver's parent if under 18 years of age) _____



Hansom cabs were light, fast and low-slung.



The Sherlock Holmes Museum's Hansom cab in London

Hansom Cab - Information/Photos from Wikipedia online encyclopedia

A hansom cab was designed and patented in 1834 by Joseph Hansom, an architect from York, England. Originally known as the Hansom safety cab, its purpose was to combine speed with safety, with a low center of gravity that was essential for safe cornering. Hansom's original design was heavily altered by John Chapman to improve its practicability, but retained Hansom's name.

Cab is a shortening of cabriolet, reflecting the design of the carriage. It replaced the hackney carriage as a vehicle for hire. With the introduction of clockwork mechanical taximeters to measure fares, the name became taxicab. Hansom cabs enjoyed immense popularity as they were fast, light enough to be pulled by a single horse (making the journey cheaper than traveling in a larger four-wheel coach) and were agile enough to steer around horse-drawn

vehicles in the notorious traffic jams of nineteenth-century London. They were always seen as rather 'racy' and were not used by respectable ladies on their own.

The cab sat two passengers (three if squeezed in) and a driver who sat on a sprung seat behind the vehicle. The passengers were able to give their instructions to the driver through a trap door near the rear of the roof. They could also pay the driver through this hatch, and he would then operate a lever to release the doors so they could dismount.

There were up to 3000 hansom cabs in use at the height of their popularity and they quickly spread to other cities in the United Kingdom, as well as continental European cities, particularly Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg. The cab was introduced to other British Empire cities and to the United States during the late 19th century, being most commonly used in New York City.

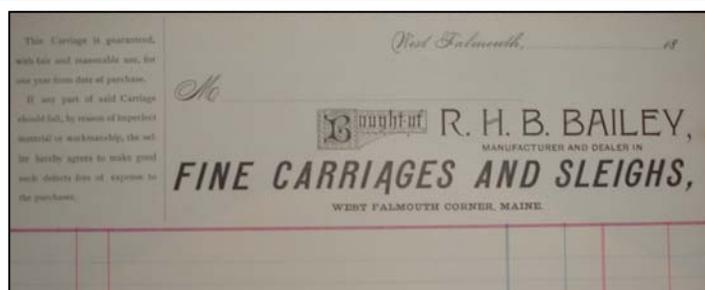
R.H.B. Bailey Carriage and Sleigh Manufacturer and Dealer Billhead

R.H.B. Bailey Carriage and Sleigh Billhead

Skyline Farm was the fortunate recipient of an interesting artifact donated by Robert Withee of Oxford, Maine at Sleigh Day on February 7. It's a billhead for "R.H.B. Bailey, Manufacturer and Dealer of Fine Carriages and Sleighs, West Falmouth Corner, Maine" operating in the 1800s.

The small text on the billhead reads as follows: "This Carriage is guaranteed, with fair and reasonable use, for one year from date of purchase. If any part of said Carriage should fail, by reason of imperfect material or workmanship, the seller hereby agrees to make good such defects free of expense to the purchaser."

Mr. Withee would love to find a Bailey sled somewhere. He noted that there is a Bailey wagon at 19th Century Willowbrook Village in Newfield, Maine, but he doesn't know if it's the same manufacturer.



A billhead from the 1800s donated by Robert Withee. Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

The Skyline Farm board of trustees would like to thank Mr. Withee for his thoughtfulness and generosity in donating this distinctive artifact.

Donations to our collection of horse-drawn vehicles, ancillary items, books, etc. are always most-welcomed. To make such contributions, contact Collection Committee Chair Gregory Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 .

The following information is excerpted from a recent e-mail message sent by Richard Semmes who belongs to the family that purchased Skyline Farm in 1944.

Richard wrote that his Dad (Carl Semmes) worked the farm with a team of horses after he had purchased the farm from his in-laws. Horses were used for the plowing, planting and haying. Richard had his own horse for raking hay and pulling the hay fork.

Richard went on to write, "In the winter we cut and skidded pulp from the woods behind the barn. I also have fond memories of making a trail through the snow to the main road and hauling our milk on a skidder to market. The good old days were hard work."

The Semmes family developed the farm as a riding school. To this day, it is fondly remembered by generations of children who learned to ride there.

Chalkboard: The Plow Day Learning Experience

Fast forward about sixty years from the Semmes family's life at Skyline Farm to April 18, 2009 - Plow Day. Fields located in the southwest pasture were reopened to farming by four teams of draft horses and their skilled plowmen cutting several acres in preparation for the planting season.

According to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, the primary purpose of plowing is to turn over the upper layer of the soil, bringing fresh nutrients to the surface, while burying weeds and the remains of previous crops, allowing them to break down. It also aerates the soil, and allows it to hold moisture better. In modern use, a plowed field is typically left to dry out, and is then harrowed before planting.

The plowmen, all from Maine, were Luther Gray of New Gloucester, Sonny Richards of Windham, Gary Kenny of Falmouth, and Dick Fortin of Arundel. Heather Phinney of Gray ran the Stillbrook Acres shuttle wagon drawn by draft horses between the Visitor Center/Museum to the plowing demonstration/lunch area for the convenience of the commuting spectators.

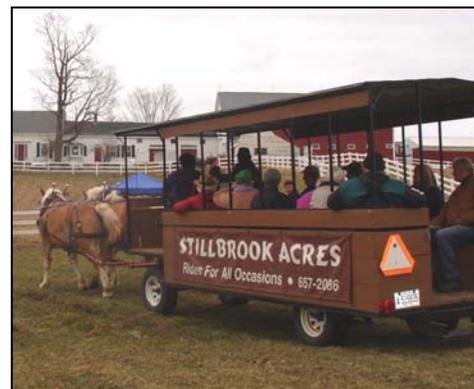
Luther Gray reported that the groundbreaking work was particularly difficult because it had been so long since it had been done and due to the deep grass. Cuts were made by a metal blade about 12 inches in diameter called a 'coultter.' Each pass plowed a strip of about 2 feet in width.

He reported that there were three brands of sulky plows used. His was an International that was built in the early 1800s. The Oliver used by Sonny Richards was also a vintage one. Dick Fortin's was a new model built within the last ten years: a Pioneer.

Many thanks to these experts from the Farmers Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club of Maine and event organizer Justin Deri for treating us to a memorable day!

Heather Phinney of Stillbrook Acres and her team of draft horses shuttle hundreds of spectators. Skyline's farmhouse is now home to Justin Deri, Vivian Page and their baby Julian.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen



The day after Plow Day took place, Skyline Farm Vice-President Sheila Libby Alexander summed up the way many spectators felt: *"Yesterday was a really wonderful 'farm' experience. Everyone seemed to be having such a good time. Kudos to Justin and his family, the teamsters, the patient draft horses, and Skyline Farm and friends for providing a lovely backdrop for the entire experience. I loved it."*

The circular coultter blade gives the initial cut into the grass. Luther Gray is the plowman.

Photo by Mary Cupp





Liesel Cybulski having a blast!
Photo by Jennifer Wiessner

March 7, 2009 was a very warm (40-50 degrees!) and sunny day. Fortunately for Skyline Farm, it happened to be the day that the 3rd Annual Sledding Party was scheduled!

More than 20 families arrived at the farm for some much needed outdoor fun. The hills were alive with children and adults on sleds for the full two hours. There was also a snow-person village, complete with a snow bunny, constructed on top of the ridge in the field.

It was a great opportunity for families and friends to get out, play, socialize and maybe even meet some new friends!

Most everyone moved inside later for snacks and hot chocolate (or a cold glass of water) and a tour of the museum. Once again, the Skyline Express was a big hit with children wanting to practice their driving skills!

A Photo Essay of the 10th Annual Sleigh Day on February 7, 2009



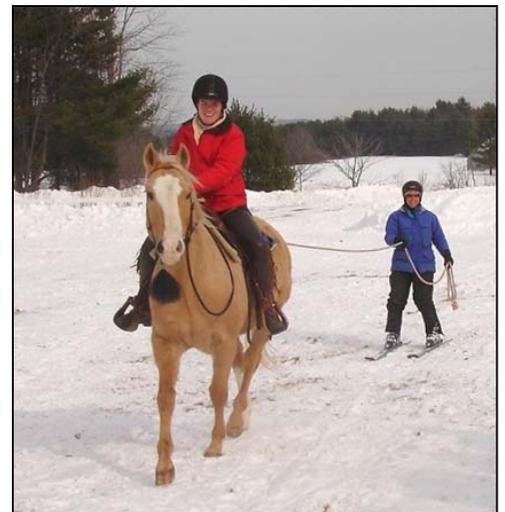
Nancy Wines-DeWan driving her horse Sinna, a five year old Icelandic mare. This was only the second time Sinna had pulled a sleigh - the first time was the week before when they went to Skyline Farm to try it out. The sleigh is from Skyline's collection.
Photo by Terry DeWan



The Cuffeys, sleigh and Standardbred horse Dave's Thunder creating their own version of a Currier and Ives print.
Photo by Don Perkins



Luther Gray piloting a big sleigh and his team of Percherons around the outer arena as part of the course.
Photo by Patti Mikkelsen



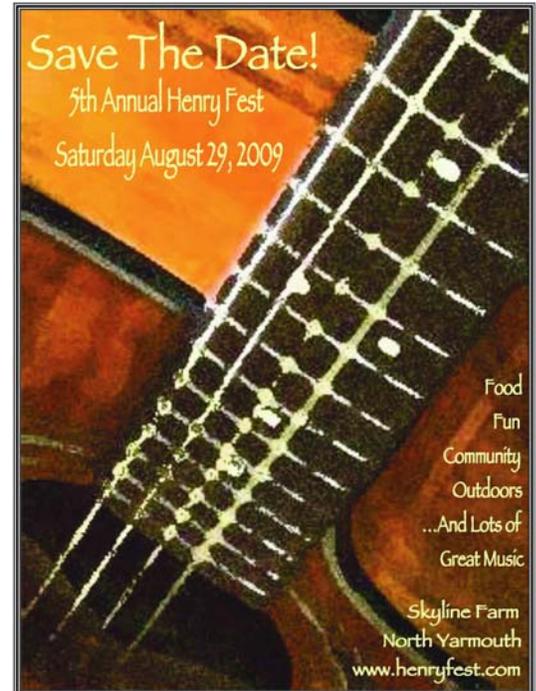
Rider Allie Taisey mounted on Britt, a Quarter Horse, is pulling Jen Roy on skis during a skijoring demo.
Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

Skyline's 7th Annual Summer Auction.
Including Antiques, Carriages, Sleighs - July 11
Consign Now !

We're accepting any quantity of quality consignments. We would also like to include an estate in this auction, so please contact Greg Cuffey.

The sooner we receive your consignment information, the sooner we can start advertising your items.

Plan to attend Maine's premier horse-drawn carriage, sleigh, antique & collectibles, driving & riding appointments, carriage & wagon parts, harness, miscellaneous horse related items, auction. Mark Saturday, **July 11th** on your calendar. Benefit auctioneer Phil Stanton will be joining us once again. Auction location is 95 The Lane in North Yarmouth. Contact Greg Cuffey now for consignment contracts at (207) 239-5782 or e-mail info@skylinefarm.org.



Facilities Update by Paul Lones

Spring is a good time to think about summer projects to fulfill our stewardship responsibilities for Skyline Farm. Here's a summary of the projects that I consider to be the most critical, if you're interested in volunteering to help out on any of them:

- Finish painting the main entry porch
- Improve erosion control on far side of Carriage Shed #3 (near paddock) with crushed stone along building and planting grass on remainder of slope
- Install gutters on house and north side of barn to improve drainage in wet areas and reduce moisture in house basement
- Paint siding on the front of the house and barn
- Paint new siding on the north side of the barn
- Paint second coat on the Visitor Center
- Carriage Shed repairs and ventilation

Some other projects not as high priority:

- Improve grass area near Carriage Shed #1 by adding topsoil (on site), compost and fertilizer.
- Trail work (large and small projects)
- Stump removal on far side of picnic grove
- Tend the several blue bird houses on the property

Now for the for the good news. This is a list of some of the work that was completed in 2007 and 2008:

- Front entry door of house stripped & repainted, thanks to volunteer Margaret Totten
- Exterior near the side entry scraped and repainted, thanks to volunteers Patti and Mick Mikkelsen
- Side entry door of house replaced
- Lamp post footing and new pole lamp installed at Visitor Center entry
- Landscaping, granite curbing, crushed stone and plants installed to finish Visitor Center entry ramp
- New flashing and siding installed on north side of the barn
- Exterior lighting improvements in carriage shed area and alley
- Added end entrance to outdoor riding ring to improve event access to ring
- Created new exit driveway on far side of riding ring to allow one-way event traffic for horse trailers
- Electrical outlets at picnic grove and near swale to support events & facility rentals
- Painted exterior doors of Exhibit Hall & Basement



PO BOX 144
YARMOUTH, ME 04096

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage PAID
Yarmouth, ME
Permit No. 310

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



This is a horseshoe in our collection that we'd like to know more about. It is a horseshoe with rope embedded, 5 3/4" L x 5" W. Does anyone know more about its use, origin, etc.? If so, call Ursula Baier at (207) 829-3628.

2009 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS - All are open to the public.

All event proceeds benefit Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, which owns an historic farmstead, including a carriage and sleigh museum, and offers trails through its woods and fields for public use. FMI: Call event chair, go to www.skylinefarm.org, info@skylinefarm.org, or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

May 17 **Horse Drawn Vehicles of "The Age of Innocence" Exhibit Opening** 12-3 pm
The opening of a special exhibit and interpretive tour centered around Edith Wharton's book. Free. Info: Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614 (see page 1)

May 24 thru Aug. 23 **Horse Drawn Vehicles of "The Age of Innocence" Exhibit** Suns., 12-3 pm or by appointment
In collaboration with the Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine, the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum showcases carriages and sleighs representative of the 1870s in New York City, the backdrop for the book. Knowledgeable docents explain why the type of carriage being driven often signified the owner's economic status and social standing during the Gilded Age. Free admission; donations welcome. Info: Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614 (see page 1)

May 31 **"The Age of Innocence" Book Discussion** 3-5
Join discussion leader Dale King at Skyline Farm to examine Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence" and her view of society during America's Gilded Age. What were the social mores of the day; are we still experiencing them to any degree today? Info: Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614 (see page 1)

May 23 **New England's Vintage Thunderbird Club's Late Spring Cruise to Skyline Farm** 11-1 (app.)
10 Ford Thunderbirds will be on display. The museum will be open. Open to the public. Free. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see page 3)

Celebrate Driving Horses - CANCELLED

June 6 **Carriage Driving Clinic** 9 am
Instruction in basic driving skills at Skyline Farm. Info: Judith Bean, (207) 375-4461 (see page 3)

July 11 Carriage, Sleigh and Antiques Auction
July 11 Al Fresco Dinner, Concert & Silent Auction
July 18 Carriage Driving Clinic at Snowfields, Pownal, ME
Aug. 15 Carriage Driving Clinic at Skyline Farm
Aug. 29 "HenryFest 2009" Music Festival
Sept. 18 Opening of Art Exhibit and Sale w/Silent Auction
Sept. 19 Art Exhibit and Sale w/Silent Auction through 10/25
Sept. 19 Dog Day 3 (Sept. 20 rain date)
Antiques Appraisal Day (cancelled)
Oct. 3 Maine Carriage Day (Oct. 4 rain date)
Oct. 24 Pumpkin Fest
Nov. 8 Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive in Woolwich, Maine