

Down The Lane



In keeping with a good old-fashioned Maine lobster bake, Anne Stickney covers the food with seaweed at the 2015 Lobster Bake. The seaweed provides extra flavor.

Photo by Nick Waugh



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

SUMMER 2017

Celebrate Summer at Our Annual Lobster Bake and Silent Auction

Skyline Farm's 15th Annual Lobster Bake and Silent Auction

Saturday, July 29

- 5:00-7:30 p.m. Silent Auction bidding
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lobster Bake (or Steak or Veggie Burger) with all the fixin's,
\$50 per person, by reservation only
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. Dessert, Museum Exhibit, Entertainment, Silent Auction wrap-up

Proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses.

For many years, people have looked forward to coming to Skyline Farm's Annual Lobster Bake, one of our most popular fundraisers! Many use it for an excuse to host out-of-state friends who come to Maine once a year to drench our famous crustacean in butter and share a few laughs while enjoying the farm's beautiful vistas.

We hope you'll be able to attend this year and see what exciting changes are taking place, such as the creation of our Trades Learning Center. Mingle with other Skyline supporters and friends during the Social Hour as you bid on the silent auction, including some opportunities to support our mission.

At 6 p.m. be prepared to devour lobsters, mussels, potatoes, corn, and onions steamed in seaweed over a wood fire. For those who don't want seafood, grilled steaks or locally-made veggie burgers can be reserved instead (also served with the vegetables listed above).

Anne Stickney and Nick Waugh, with assistance from Skyline volunteers, build the Bake right before your very eyes! Anne, a former Skyline Farm Board member, learned the technique of throwing an old-fashioned Maine Lobster Bake from her father Charlie Stickney as he and wife Anita, also a former Skyline Board member, hosted famous flying groups such as the US Navy Blue Angels and the USAF Thunderbirds.

After dinner you can join other friends of the Farm for dessert, socializing, and wrapping up your silent auction bidding as you view the current exhibit "Recollections: Horse & Buggy Days", which showcases real quotes from real people who recall living in a horse-drawn time period in New England. Thirty-three antique vehicles help bring the memories to life.

Place your dinner reservations by Monday, July 24, with Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 or info@skylinefarm.org.

Dinner is \$50 per person. There will be complimentary lemonade and iced tea provided with dinner or you can bring your own beverage.

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Farm to Fork Fondo Bike Ride

Sunday, August 27

Once again, Skyline will be a stop on this bicycling adventure organized by Wrenegade Sports of Vermont. To register for the ride, go to <http://www.farmforkfondo.com/maine/> for detailed information.

If you'd like to volunteer for Skyline's Team Orange (yes, there's a

free T-shirt with great graphics) and cheer on the riders as they stop for a quick snack, please contact us at info@skylinefarm.org.

Last year, Skyline Farm won the Volunteer Competition (and a very sizeable check!). We're hoping to top the spirit shown last year and sincerely welcome the riders to our beautiful rest stop overlooking our fields.

Skyline's Fun Day 5K Trail Run/Walk By Jen Robbins

Please make note on your calendar that on Saturday, Sept. 16th at 8 a.m. Skyline Farm is hosting their 4th annual Trail Run/Walk. This fun, family oriented race, which is designed to introduce the community to Skyline's trail network, will begin and end at the Visitor Center. The race is scheduled early so that people can attend North Yarmouth Fun Day Parade and the events that follow.

Last year the field of enthusiastic sprinters and rambler's ranged in age from 8 to 88. During post race chatter there was praise for the single loop course that followed trails through Skyline, as well as Yarmouth Water District. At least one or two participants claimed they were transformed from walkers to runners mid-race!

Pies will be awarded to the top male and female finishers in eight age categories, and free T-shirts are available for the first 50 registrants. Eric Cobb from Back 40 Timing will be timing the race.

You can find more information and registration instructions at runsignup.com, search: Skyline Farm 5k. You can also contact Skyline Farm Trustee, Jennifer Robbins at (207) 415-6830 or info@skylinefarm.org.



Donning his new T-shirt, Scott Migliore of Leeds, Maine, is delighted with his prize: a freshly made home-baked pie. He placed first in the Men's 20-29 Division at last year's Skyline Farm Fun Day 5K Trail Run/Walk.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

Collection Corner

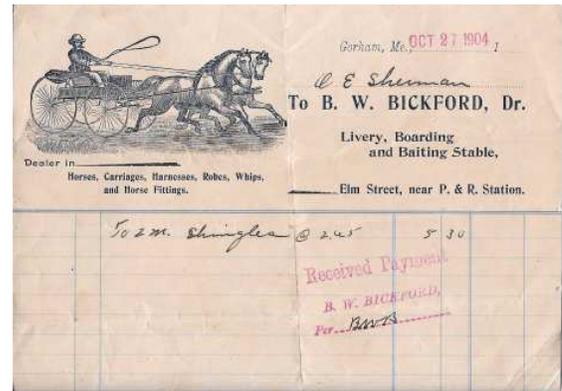
By Gregory Cuffey

Early billheads, stationery, and the stamped envelopes in which they were mailed are an interesting way to trace carriage related businesses that once flourished in just about every town in New England. These usually have elaborate company logos showing the building in which the business was housed, and listing information such as the most prominent services provided, the owners' names and the location. Both billheads and mailed envelopes are dated, and can often be used to create a timeline of when the company was in business.



Skyline was blessed when the late philatelist Bruce Hazelton of North Yarmouth donated more than three dozen such bill-heads and envelopes to expand Skyline's small paper collection.

This interesting type of ephemera helps us help you, with your local carriage maker questions.



Cultivating an Interest in Nature

Kids Farm Camp

The Kids Farm Camp program is being offered to 6-10 year olds in three week-long sessions and is hosted by Stephanie O'Neil of Farm to Table Kids and Justin Deri of Deri Farm. Farm Camp days are full of adventure, hands-on-education, and fun with farm friends with an emphasis on healthy harvest choices. The children's typical daily activities include yoga; planning chores, such as planting, weeding, and harvesting; hiking on wooded trails; and making crafts to sell each Friday at The Farm Stand, 408 Walnut Hill Road, N. Yarmouth.

For information on signing up for Session 3, which runs from July 31-August 4, refer to farmtotable-kids.com or call Stephanie O'Neil at (207) 252-9960.



"Celebrating the end of our first Kids Farm Camp week! We had the greatest group of kids at the farm this week and can not wait to welcome others through the summer."

Quote and Photo by Stephanie O'Neil of Farm to Table Kids

Friends School Students Visit the Stream

Susan Hayhurst

Middle School science teacher, Friends School of Portland

On May 2, a group of fifteen 5th and 6th graders from Friends School of Portland, a Quaker day school for preschool-8th grade in Cumberland, visited Skyline Farm to investigate Loring Stream. The students studied water quality and insects/macro invertebrates as part of their science class unit on water. With equipment support from a grant through the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, the students measured water quality parameters—pH, temperature, and more.



While learning about stream science at Loring Stream on May 2, Friends School students had a wonderful time and gained appreciation for the natural beauty of Skyline Farm.

Courtesy photo

Old Fan and the Piano

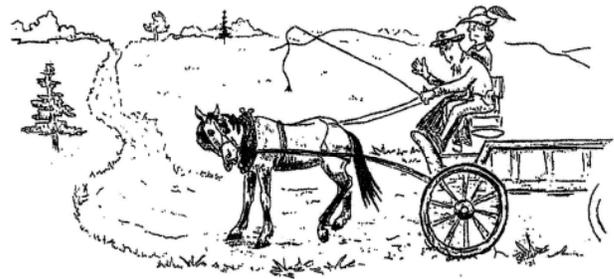
By Margaret St. Pierre

Now, stop me if you've heard this... My mother's father, my Grampa Wheeler, was a wonderful story teller. Knowing my childhood passion for horses, he related several tales of his younger days with horses and wagons. My Grandmother Belle would always admonish him when he embellished the truth, so I know the horse stories to be true as Grammy would nod and laugh, adding to Grampa's recollections.

Belle Bradbury became Almon Wheeler's young bride in the early 1900s. He had lived in Cape Elizabeth, Maine at the time and would go a' courting, replete with shiny horse and fancy buggy to see her in Hollis. When they married, they moved to Pride's Corner in Westbrook where they built their home alongside his parent's family farm. Among her belongings back in Hollis, Grammy Belle Wheeler owned a beautiful black upright piano. How she'd bounce on that piano stool and throw out wonderful songs. Just hum a few bars to her and she'd pick out the tune on the ivories, hitting the chords like a pro.

Grammy yearned for her beloved piano, so plans were made for its transport from Hollis to Westbrook. "Fan," a stout little bay mare, always said to be a Morgan, was a tough old bird with a mind of her own. It seems that Fan's biggest drawback was that if you were planning a trip, it had to be a one day event, because she refused to drink water other than from her own barn. Although the roads were well kept and graveled, they were still sharply winding. The hills were all steep and uncut, not like the paved thoroughfares of today. The now "Route 302" was either referred to as the Bridgton Road, the Windham Road, or the Roosevelt Trail, due to the fact that Teddy Roosevelt used the route on his hunting expeditions to Maine. But I digress here...

The right wagon to haul a piano was chosen: a buckboard with sturdy wheels and heavy bed to accommodate the weight. Making sure that Fan had dutifully tanked up on water for the drive, she was readied and harnessed on a sun-baked, sultry yet overall clear day. Hauling the empty buckboard over Pride Street to Rocky Hill, Fan started briskly, but nearing Saccarappa Falls, her pace slowed. She'd come to the bottom of a hill, stop, sigh, and rest a minute.

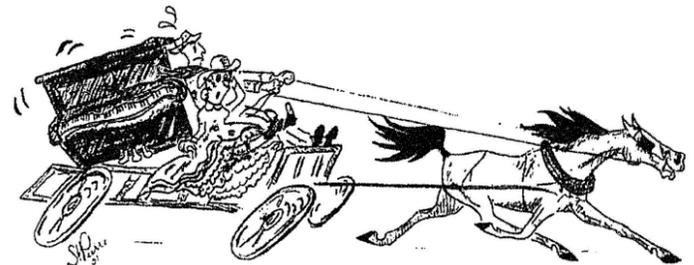


She'd come to the bottom of a hill, stop, sigh, and rest . . .

No urging, prodding, or flick of the buggy whip could encourage her to walk on until she felt ready. She would plod ahead only when it felt right to her, then pause half way up, and turn back to oversee Grampa engage the brake on the empty wagon so she could lay back in the harness to fully rest her seemingly over-worked body.

And so it went, a trip that should have taken less than half a day took the good part of a whole one. Stopping, sighing, resting with an eventual clip-clop pitifully on... up and down, through the woods and fields of Buxton to Salmon Falls Hill and across the Saco River. Upon arrival the couple was exhausted and took time to visit and rest. Later, the piano was loaded into the buckboard. As expected, Fan refused to drink the water offered and she was re-harnessed. As the sun began to lower in the late afternoon sky, the couple dreaded the thought of the long slow trip back home in the dark. Of course, there were no phones, and the family would be anxiously awaiting their arrival. The decision to fuel the wagon lamps for an arduous night's journey seemed like a good idea.

Then out of the driveway bolted Fan with buckboard. The poor, pitiful Morgan mare who had trudged a snails pace to Bear Hill magically transformed into an equine dynamo. Grampa leaned agonizingly back on the reins as the little bay mare gave them the ride of their life. (Continued on Page 5)



Grampa leaned agonizingly back on the reins!

Old Fan and the Piano (Continued from Page 4)

Hills were devoured with strong muscled legs. The heavily loaded buckboard with swaying piano careened and spun on to two wheels around the corners. Grammy remembered clinging, white knuckled, onto the wagon seat for her dear life, her skirts billowing up in the wind. Anything not tied securely down flew out of the back, but there was no stopping to retrieve anything unanchored and left behind. With a big earth covering trot, Fan reached Pride's Corner and home, barely breathing hard. Her big dark eyes sparkled as she delivered the buckboard, piano, and her owners to her own barn, supper, and a big drink of water.

As mentioned, this is a true story. I would listen intently at each telling, relishing in those horse and buggy day stories of my grandparents as they took me with them to another time, another era.



Skyline Farm's unique piano moving wagon is sprung specifically for that purpose. A rare cylinder player piano is loaded aboard to illustrate how it's mounted on the vehicle.
Photo by John Sowles

Facilities Update By Gregory Cuffey

Trading Places

Moving day. On a sunny early June day a group of six Skyline Farm volunteers and a dog named Olive Oyl headed off to Red Mill Lumber in Casco, Maine. We deconstructed an old planer sawdust building. As many of you know, this building will be erected on a new foundation to be used as Skyline's new blacksmith shop. After a long day of dismantling, we loaded most of the building materials on several flat-bed trailers and a truck bed. Weeks later another trip followed to pick-up what was left. I will report on the reconstruction progress in the next newsletter.

In the new red Trade Center building, we have assembled the Norman Reed/N. Yarmouth horse stocks and are evaluating the Wheelwright shop tools to see what we have and what we will need to fill in the gaps to achieve a working shop. The vintage hub borer has a new wooden stand and some metal parts that were disassembled and sent to a machine shop for repair.

We are presently looking for good used blacksmith tools and anvils to create a working environment for six students, as well as an electric motor or two to operate some freestanding tools. Red bricks are needed for the new blacksmith forge. Contact Greg Cuffey at (207) 892-0188 if you can help.



Above: On June 4, three men dismantle the shell of the former planer building at Red Mill Lumber in Casco, Maine, in preparation for the move to Skyline Farm. The shell will be reconstructed into a Blacksmith Shop.

Below: Two trailers are ready to load.

Photos by Pamela Ames

Plow Day in Review

By Pamela Ames

How did we ever luck out to hit the fair weather patch in between all the rain? More than one hundred people showed up to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you, Patti, for suggesting we change the weekend, reducing the conflicts with popular events in surrounding towns.

When it became apparent that it was too wet to plow, J.L. Gray Draft Horses quickly switched over to wagon rides around the property which pleased so many in attendance. Of course, Ben Lapointe's mini's always make a big hit with the younger crowd!

Thank you, Nick Buck, for the wonderful idea to open up the new Trades building so people could take a peek and see what might be on the horizon.

Our guest blacksmith Tim Greene doubled as ornithologist as our resident momma Killdeer was unhappy about all the spectators while sitting on her nest (picture to right). He used orange surveyor's tape and two saw horses to mark her territory.

A hearty THANKS:

To Jim and Jeremy Gray of J.L. Draft Horses and Ben Lapointe of Greene who switched over from plowing to giving wagon rides because the soil was so soggy.

To blacksmith Timothy Greene of StandFast Works Forge in Parsonsfield

To 4-H leader Kristi Wright and the kids from White Pine Caprines 4-H Club. The clipping contests with their adorable goats drew quite a crowd, and the club's activity added youthful fun to the day! A warm thanks to judges Donna Thurston and Justin Deri.

To Donna Stein who promoted the Kids Farm Camp by engaging the children in planting seeds in pots.

To Diana & Drew Logan and Astro the Wonder Dog. Thank you for wowing the crowd with your clever and well-choreographed routines. People are always amazed at Astro's performance!

To Nick Buck and Greg Cuffey for showing people around the Trades building and letting them know about our future plans.

To the people who helped on the grounds: Jen Robbins, Bob Solman, Jo Birmingham, Rosemary Whitney,

Melanie Poperechny; Pam and John Ames, as well as John Sowles. Rosemary and Melanie gathered guest information that will be useful for planning next year.

To Museum docents Gordon Corbett, Lynn Young, Ursula Baier, Jane Auchincloss, Greg Cuffey, & Sheila Alexander. The museum was abuzz with interesting stories as steady traffic passed through the exhibit.

To the Food Tent staff: Mark & Marsha Heath, Audrey Lones, and Ann Cuffey. You served approximately two dozen cheeseburgers, one dozen hamburgers, and two dozen hotdogs.

To all the fine bakers who made outstanding goodies: Lynne Champoux, Jen Robbins, Sandy Scully, Rosemary Whitney, and thank you to Margie Hansel and Lynn Young for being considerate and making gluten-free cookies.

To New Gloucester Public Access Television videographers Richard Erwin and Patti Mikkelsen. Everywhere we looked, you were capturing the event as it happened! We'll look forward to seeing the final product. (Note from editor: See newgloucester.com in late July.)

Thank you to those who were able to stay after closing to clean up the grounds. Many hands made light work!

With gratitude to the volunteers who came out to support this enjoyable, down-to-earth Skyline Farm event,

Pam



Skyline's resident momma Killdeer reluctantly endured all of the hubbub at Plow Day while sitting on her nest.

Photo by Matt Baier

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Or, give online at skylinefarm.org. The membership year extends through April 30, 2018.
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This quarter's donors: Your support of Skyline Farm is sincerely appreciated!

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This is the fourth year that residents from The Woods at Canco have visited Skyline Farm for a carriage driving demonstration, museum tour, and a box lunch in the Visitor Center. Skyline Trustee Nancy Wines-DeWan of New Gloucester skillfully drove her horse Brenna while Trustee Patsy O'Brien described to the audience what was happening in the arena. This visit is the highlight of the summer for all parties involved!

Photo by Pamela Ames

2017 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).

July 29 **15th Annual Lobster Bake**
Saturday, 5-8 pm
This fun-filled summer gathering includes a lobster bake (or steak or veggie burger) dinner, by reservation only, and homemade dessert. Please place dinner reservations by July 24th. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (See Pg. 1)

Sept. 10 thru Oct. 15 **Fall Museum Exhibit**
Sundays, 1-4 pm, or by appointment
"Recollections: Horse & Buggy Days" showcases real quotes from real people who recall living in a horse-drawn time period in New England. Approximately 33 vehicles help bring the memories to life, including a piano moving wagon with rare cylinder player piano, four-wheel racer, Pall bearer, and Market wagon. Free admission, donations welcome. Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 892-0188

Sept. 9 **13th Annual HenryFest Music Festival**
Saturday, Noon-6 pm
Presented by 317 Main Community Music Center, HenryFest is a fun, family-oriented outdoor music festival. See 317main.org/henryfest. Info: Molly Gallagher Burk, (207) 846-9559

Sept. 16 **4th Annual Fun Day 5K Trail Run/Walk**
Saturday, 8 am start
As part of North Yarmouth's Fun Day, Skyline Farm is holding its 4th Annual 5K Trail Run/Walk. The event is a fun, family-orientated race with free T-shirts. Volunteers are needed. Info: Jen Robbins, (207) 415-6830 (See Pg. 2)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 15 Soup & Cider Day with N. Yarmouth Historical Society
Nov. 4 Christmas Photo Shoot in Skyline's Sleighs, by appt.