

# SCRIBNER'S MILL PRESERVATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

244 Scriber's Mills Rd. Harrison, ME 04040

Spring

2021



## Officers

Marilyn Hatch, President & Newsletter Editor  
Roy Clark, Vice President  
Penney Bean, Secretary  
Peter Hammond, Treasurer

## Directors

	Term
Barry Sturdivant	2023
Martha Denison	2022
Cheryl Callahan	2021
Matthew Charlebois	2021

## Membership Chairperson

Stuart Reynolds  
415 Ridge Rd.  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

## Our New Mission Statement

*To preserve a rural Maine sawmill and homestead, providing educational opportunities related to the life and times of a family operated farm and lumbering business.*

**Website:** [scribnersmill.org](http://scribnersmill.org)

**Telephone:** 207-583-6455

**August 14, 2021, SMP will be celebrating Maine's 200th (201st) anniversary at a *Back to the Past* event (following any Covid 19 guidelines that may be in place.)**

**Mark your calendar for this event.**

The Scribner's Mill book may now be purchased at Bridgton Books. Also on line at [scribnersmill.org](http://scribnersmill.org) and at the



Many of you may know by now that the Homestead has been deeded to Scribner's Mill Preservation, Inc. in a ceremony held during the April 21, 2021 SMPI meeting. Marilyn Hatch, representing the Homestead Trust, presented the deed to Vice President Roy Clark.

The homestead property was purchased by John and Marilyn Hatch in October 1983 at the time that Mr. Edward Scribner had required nursing home care. 1984 was the start of its restoration to its 1924 period of significance. The 1924 date was selected, because Jesse Scribner had updated the house with an addition to allow a modern bathroom. In 1993, Scribner's Mill Preservation held its first "Back to the Past" celebration at which time the homestead opened to the public. In 2001 the Homestead was listed on the National Register of Historic Places after which the Hatches started the planning to create a Homestead Trust with life tenancy. The purpose of the trust was to eventually transfer the Homestead to Scribner's Mill Preservation, Inc. to reunite them. In December 2020, Marilyn suggested to the Homestead Trust committee that it was time for this transfer to take place.

## Update on the Exhibit Shed

The saying that “Rome was not built in a day” rings true for the Exhibit Shed. In our past newsletters the story of obtaining a permit (which took the acquisition of enough land from both of our neighbors for enough set back and vegetation areas) to build. In last fall’s newsletter we were excited about the clearing of the area by Q team. Moving forward, now it is the acquisition of lumber to build.

Since last fall we have received two grants one from the Davis Family Foundation in December for the construction of the building and another from the Narragansett Number One Foundation (NNOF) this June for a Timber Frame workshop.



In November, Tom Scribner (above) came with an excavator to prepare the site and install the granite foundation.

By March the engineer stamped plans for the shed were received, thanks to Matthew Charlebois and Curtis Milton. This allowed the cut order to be sent to Gallon Lumber. As of this newsletter we are still awaiting the timbers to be delivered. It is all about the pulp industry bottoming out. Until the lumbermen are back in the woods we wait.

## Timber Framing Workshop

***Date to be determined.*** Once we have the timbers delivered and the floor in place we will have a timber framing workshop. **This will be a great opportunity to learn a new skill.** The workshop will be

free, however, limited to five participants. There are three persons who have expressed an interest to date. If interested contact **Marilyn at 583-6455.**

## Jesse Scribner’s Pike Pole.

In May Scribner’s Mill Preservation accepted the gift of Jesse’s pike pole from Martha Denison. As shown in the picture, it is 14’ in length and has a “P” stamped into the base of the pike. This indicates that it may have been passed down to Jesse from his mother’s family whose name was Prince. *Historic Note: Jesse Prince Scribner was named after Hannah’s brother Jesse who enlisted in the U.S . Forces and died at sea 60 days later.*

The pole is hand carved and the pike is hand tooled by a blacksmith.



This gift has been the motivation to create a new exhibit in the mill giving its history time line history with narrative and pictures. The Pike Pole will be a part of this exhibit.

## **Come Back to the Past to Celebrate Maine's 201st Anniversary August 14, 2021**

In August, SMP will be holding its *Maine's 200th anniversary celebration*, that was cancelled last year. There is a line up of exhibitors who will be participating in this event. We are so pleased that the 3rd Maine Civil War re-enactors have agreed to join us for this event. It is so fitting that they will be on hand to recognize a part of the Scribner's history: the loss of Elijah and Dorothy Scribner's 18 year old son Bourdon who was killed in 1863 during a skirmish with a Southern rebel contingent. He had survived Gettysburg to be killed in Virginia while on a March through a wooded area near Mine Run. His death was on Thursday November 26, our first official Thanksgiving Day declared by President Abraham Lincoln.

*Historic Note: Captain Edwin B. Houghton wrote to brother Cyrus, "I have the melancholy duty to announce the death of your brother Bourdon Scribner and member of Co H of 17th Me Infantry. He was killed in action yesterday (Thursday Nov27th 1863) while gallantly facing the foe and nobly doing his duty."*

We invite you to come and enjoy the day. **We also invite exhibitors and volunteers to make the day as successful as possible.**

### **1951 Truck to be in July 3rd Bridgton Parade**

SMP will be joining with the Lake Region DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) to participate in the 4th of July holiday parade. Our 1951 truck will be decked with banner's inviting viewers to Come Back to the Past at Scribner's Mill August 14 and the DAR members will be decorating the flatbed with their banner, flags, and bunting. It will be a flag waving day.

### **Annual Meeting**

This year's annual meeting will be held on August 18th, 2021. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs and beverage will be provided. Bring a salad, main dish, or a desert. All are welcome.

## **Board of Directors Vacancies**

There are two positions to be filled on the Executive Board this year. One position is for a 1 year term and the other for a two year term. Any one interested should consider attending a board meeting which are open to all members. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Homestead in the second floor office. The board does not meet in December or January unless there is an urgent issue to consider.

### **Archives**

With the transfer of the Homestead property to SMP, Marilyn Hatch has been busy this winter and spring archiving each item in the first floor museum, woodshed, barn, chicken house, and ice house exhibit. All items except those in the loft of the barn and the corn house have been digitized, given an unique number with a description, its donor, location, and its photograph number. It is estimated that there are close to 1000 items in this document.

The Homestead will have its own Trust Fund to use for maintenance. This has been set up, so the mill account will not have to use any donations to support this addition to their assets.

### **From the President**

Since 1975 when Scribner's Mill Preservation was formed, I have been the editor of the newsletter. Its was sent out annually then bi-annually starting with one page and expanding to three. There have always been pictures and articles about what was happening at the mill. This included disappointing news about the collapse of the mill in 1977 and our denied effort to install a three foot nature-like fishway so we could have water to operate the mill. The positive news was the community effort to rebuild and to install its interior works. Good fortune has been a part of the effort at restoring this vital historic site. We could not do it without your support. As I get ready to turn this newsletter over to other capable hands, I want to thank you for your continued support. *Marilyn Hatch*

**Membership Renewal/Gift Form**

Send checks made payable to Scribner's Mill Preservation, to:  
**Stuart Reynolds, 415 Ridge Rd., Bowdoinham, ME 04008**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Select membership level of support:

Student (under 18) \$5

Individual \$15

Family \$30

Sustaining \$25

Corporate/Patron \$50

Benefactor \$100

Life \$500

Jessie P. Scribner Club \$1000 (Name placed on a plaque located in a prominent place, plus a life membership.)

I would like to give a special donation for the exhibit shed project.

*Your continued support is appreciated.*

Contributions are tax deductible within legal limits for income tax purposes.