

The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 1 Issue 4

Summer 2020

Our New Normal



Social Distancing on the waterfront, a new normal

This summer was one for celebrations, like every summer in Maine really. We shovel and slip and slide our way through winter, slog our way through spring and mud season, and then we arrive! Glorious summer, except for the blackflies, of course. This was going to be one season for big doings.

The bicentennial of the founding of the State of Maine would kick things off. Then Old Hallowell Day comes along. August brings the celebration of women's suffrage, a century since half the population fought for and won the right to vote. Plus, all the graduations, weddings, birthdays, anniversary parties—you name it! Big doings indeed! Then Covid-19 arrived and changed our social calendar in ways unimaginable.

So, to paraphrase the old song, we got to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and get back in the race! Salute to composer Jerome Kerr, lyricist Dorothy Fields as revised by Frank Sinatra.

First, the Maine Preparty Party that was to be held at the Old South

Congregational Church, is going virtual, like many other programs, meetings, and conversations. The program will soon be available on the web for your viewing pleasure. Bring your own cake.

Need to have your spirits lifted? Visit Granite City Park and enjoy the plantings by the crane or take a walk on the many trails now open for your strolling pleasure. If you are searching for a bit of inspiration, then the challenge put to Congress by the "Sundry Ladies of Hallowell" might do the trick.

These are tough times no doubt, especially for actors, musicians, artists, servers, and chefs of which Hallowell is blessed with a bevy. As we take the first hesitant steps into the "new normal," our challenge is to do what we can to help. Eat in. Take out. Buy art. Tip for tunes. Check in with a neighbor you might not have seen recently. If you really want to step up to the plate, check out Hallowell Helps. Whatever your course of action, take a few moments to revel in this special season and be thankful for what we have.

Covid-19 Basics

Covid-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person to person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.



Mask – Wear a mask to protect others.



Hands – Wash your hands often. Avoid touching your face. Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Distance – Put 6 feet (2 arms' length) of distance between yourself and others who don't live in your household. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.



Spray – Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Information from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

For the full INSIDE SCOOP, see page 3!

Message from Mayor Mark Walker

What a difference a year makes! 2020 is certainly not business as usual: no excitement for Old Hallowell Day, no Rock on the River, no large gatherings of over 50 people, and some of our downtown businesses are closed. Many stores and restaurants slowly are emerging from shutdown; people slowly are confident enough to go out in public. Everyone is cautious as public health and public safety are of the highest priority and concern.

But it is a good time to look forward. How best to position Hallowell to prosper post-Covid?

Opinions Needed

Does the City want a Pocket Park adjacent to Berry and Berry, in part of the parking area and behind that building? It would add to the attractiveness of our downtown so designs are being discussed. Hallowell has resources for people to be outdoors and active: Granite City Park along the river, Vaughan Field park with playground, the boat landing, The Res, trails behind Stevens Commons, and other public accessible areas. How best to use these going forward?

What sort of mix do we want in downtown Hallowell? More retail? More restaurants and bars? More arts organizations, building on past success and involvement? In some

ways we are at a crossroads on this front as well. Some long-time shops and restaurants are changing or closing. What do we do as a City to attract the right mix? We have several organizations to work with on these questions: the Hallowell Area Board of Trade, Vision Hallowell, and, most recently, Hallowell Heart and Soul.

The Public Utilities Commission has moved from its downtown location, and their office spaces are vacant. What is the best use for this building? More offices? Apartments as it was when it was known as the Worcester House? Answers aren't clear but whatever is decided will result in more changes to our downtown.

Comprehensive Plan

Hallowell currently is updating its every-10-year Comprehensive Plan, and these issues and more are being analyzed by the Comprehensive Planning Group. Transportation needs, housing, historic Hallowell, the arts and culture of our City, and educational concerns are a few of the subjects that are the focus of the Comprehensive Planning Group. You can access their work on the City's website at hallowell.govoffice.com.

One important news item! WELCOME to 29 new residents



Mayor Mark Walker, masked and unmasked

at Stevens Commons! Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) has opened Central Commons for residents as of June 30th. People will be moving in over the next couple of months, and we look forward to having these new residents in Hallowell. There is lots to do, areas to explore, and stores and restaurants to visit. Again, Welcome! And Congratulations to Matt Morrill at Mastway Development LLC for his vision and to CHOM!

As we enjoy the summer, get outside and stay well and safe!

-Mark Walker

City Hall Office Update

The Clerk's office is open daily from 9 AM – 2 PM. All visitors are asked to wear masks / face coverings and observe safe distancing of 6 feet or more.

Most business can and should be

performed over the phone, online, or by mail, including online motor vehicle and ATV re-registrations, hunting and fishing licenses, and absentee ballot applications. Residents can also mail in tax payments, boat re-registrations, business licenses, and routine motor vehicle and ATV re-registrations.

Res Parking Permits for non-

residents are available BY MAIL ONLY, with payment by check or money order payable to "City of Hallowell." A link to the application form is available at the City website: hallowell.govoffice.com/.

General assistance applications are processed only via phone at this time. Please call 207-430-4401.

Central Commons

A New Welcoming Home

Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) is thrilled to announce the grand opening of Central Commons on the Stevens Commons campus. CHOM welcomed our first tenants at the end of June. We are delighted to have people now calling Central Commons home!

Construction of the historic school building took 12 months, the last four of which occurred during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. These final few months required quick implementation of new precautions and a high level of coordination to allow contractors to continue to work safely. CHOM is incredibly grateful to the exceptional team who helped bring the project across the finish line during these unprecedented times.

The 29 apartments enjoy historic features such as beautifully



Central Commons with renovations complete!

restored original windows, along with new construction amenities, including new kitchens, Energy Star appliances, bathrooms, schoolhouse-style lighting, and window treatments. Each of the 29 units is unique—an appealing feature of the adaptive reuse of a historic building. Many units have original hardwood floors; some units have original tin ceilings. The building features bright and spacious layouts, with a mix of efficiency and

1-bedroom apartments. Efficiency apartments range from 484 to 573 square feet, and the 1-bedroom apartments range from 580 to 745 square feet.

Central Commons also offers on-site laundry, community space, additional tenant storage, an elevator, and limited on-site parking. Heat and hot water are included in rent, as well as 24-hour emergency maintenance.

Tenants enjoy access to the campus open green spaces. The nearby Effie L. Berry Conservation area is the newest Hallowell hiking venue. The property was donated by Mastway Development to the City of Hallowell that, in turn, place the land under a conservation easement to be managed by the Kennebec Land Trust. The property abuts the Howard Hill Historical Park with trails leading to Augusta. The Hallowell Farmers' Market set up Saturday mornings. Food trucks visit mid-week. Stevens Commons provides a "mixed-use" community of neighbors in the other buildings on campus.

CHOM is proud to contribute to the larger effort initiated and directed by Mastway Development to revitalize the Stevens Commons campus, which has blossomed into a robust, vibrant community.

A heartfelt thank you to the City of Hallowell for welcoming us into your community. We also want to thank our development team and funders who helped bring this project to fruition: Ryan Senatore Architecture, Wright-Ryan Construction, Sutherland Conservation & Consulting, Landmark Corporation, MaineHousing, Northern New England Housing Investment Fund, the Federal Home Loan Bank of

Boston, and Bangor Savings Bank.

CHOM has hired Preservation Management (PMI) to professionally manage Central Commons. PMI is still accepting applications for the remaining apartments. Please visit <https://www.preservationmanagement.com/rental/property/central-commons> or call 207-653-4005 to receive an application. Central Commons is affordable rental housing. Eligibility requirements apply.

Continued Page 10 "On the Inside."



THE INSIDE SCOOP

Our New Normal	Page 1
Covid-19 Info	Page 1
Message from the Mayor	Page 2
City Hall Update	Page 2
Central Commons	Page 3
Row House Survey	Page 4
UMA	Page 5
Granite Symposium	Page 6
Cohen Center	Page 7
Hubbard Reopens!	Page 8
Ladies of Hallowell	Page 9
Community Planning	Page 10
Inside Central Commons	Page 10
Heart and Soul	Page 11
Your Stories Matter!	Page 11
Crane Garden	Page 12
Virtual Bicentennial	Page 13
Harlow Gallery	Page 13
Trails Open!	Page 14
Hallowell Helps	Page 15
Musical History	Page 16

Volunteers Needed to "Save" Historic Hallowell! Building Survey Updates 50-Year-Old Initiative

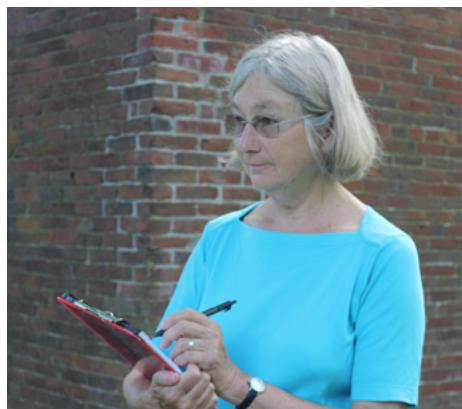
"Hallowell is one of the most historic cities in the state of Maine and New England," exclaimed Larry Davis, President of Row House, Inc. "Hard to believe that the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) was ready and willing to tear down all the buildings on the river side of Water Street in the 1970s." Thanks to a dedicated group of citizens, that plan and other demolition plans were stopped, in part because Hallowell has a recognized historic district, one of the first in the state. Efforts are underway to update that work.

Local Historic Districts

The creation of local historic districts is one of the oldest and strongest forms of protection for historic properties. The historic district movement began in the United States in 1931, when the city of Charleston, South Carolina, enacted a local ordinance designating an "Old and Historic District" administered by a Board of Architectural Review.

The effort here began in 1963 with the Hallowell Civic Improvement Association when it was suggested "that an Historical Committee be set up to explore Hallowell's history and especially the history behind its old buildings and landmarks," as reported in its newsletter at the time.

"It was generally thought that Hallowell was destined for urban renewal. A preliminary plan called for a drastic overhaul and change predicated on zoning into simple areas: commercial (downtown), residential (hillside), and industrial (back over the hillside)," according to a Row House newsletter. About the same time the Maine DOT proposed a long-range plan of traffic surveys and feasibility studies that was published in the local paper. "When



Sylvie Charron, Row House Trustee, conducts a site visit for the Hallowell Historic Building Survey

we moved here," local resident Don Huff explained at the time, "it was already established in many people's minds that they (federal and state government) would come in, condemn, and bulldoze away the stores and businesses in downtown Hallowell."

Fast forward five years and the threat was becoming increasingly real that buildings would be condemned and demolished for health and safety reasons. Little was known about the actual merits of the structures. A weekly Architectural Workshop was set up by then newcomer Linda (Bean) Clark. It was conducted under the auspices of the Hallowell Associates for the Arts so "people interested could learn the characteristics of historical architecture in New England and Hallowell in particular," she wrote in an article describing the effort.

First Historic Building Survey

A group of eight women then walked every street in Hallowell and systematically inventoried every old home, taking photographs and recording information about the buildings. An album documenting nearly 400 buildings arranged by

architectural style was prepared and placed in the Hubbard Free Library for public use. This work became in large part the basis for the creation of the Hallowell Historic District. The nomination papers noted, "Of the 450 buildings located in the proposed historic district, 85% were built during the 18th and 19th centuries. Half were built before 1850." Fifty years later it is time to update this survey.

Row House, Inc., has been a foundational part of preserving Hallowell's history. The organization was formed "in 1969 by 11 Hallowell citizens concerned with the public apathy over the neglect and threatened demolition of 1) the Hallowell Row House and 2) the downtown area as a whole." The five-unit wooden Row House on Second Street was purchased and saved from destruction with contributions and physical effort by the Trustees and supporters, the first of several buildings saved.

Volunteers Needed!

Now the organization is asking for help in updating the historic building survey. Volunteers are needed to again walk the streets of Hallowell and record information about the buildings in the historic district. No prior experience is needed. A short training seminar will be provided. Join this vital project! Spread the word to friends and neighbors! Row House wants to bring the community together in a fun and meaningful way. Work together to keep Hallowell a unique and cherished town to call home for another 50 years!

Contact Larry Davis for more information by calling 207-557-0702, email rowhouseinc@gmail.com, or visit the website www.rowhouseinc.org.

University of Maine at Augusta Expands Housing and Educational Opportunities

When renovations are completed, Erskine Hall at Stevens Commons will open in late August as the second residence hall for the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA). Stevens Hall opened at the beginning of the 2019–2020 academic year, becoming the first student housing in UMA's history.

In addition to expanding its residential capacity by welcoming 62 residential students at Stevens and Erskine Halls, UMA is also expanding its educational opportunities with new graduate programs and micro-certificates to advance Maine's workforce development.



Erskine Hall

New Graduate Programs

UMA launched two new graduate programs that will support Maine's workforce. With online courses, they allow participants to meet work and family obligations while obtaining an advanced degree.

The online 30-credit Master of Science in Cybersecurity, developed jointly by UMA and USM faculty, is designed to emphasize a theoretical framework with hands-on applications. One of the most affordable programs of this kind in the country, applications for the Fall 2020 cohort are being processed.

Graduates are prepared for career opportunities in cybersecurity fields including security analysis, information assurance, digital

forensics, intelligence, and cyber defense. Graduates with an M.S. in Cybersecurity can fill these positions in public-sector agencies at all levels and private-sector businesses from biotechnology to law.

UMA's Mental Health and Human Services program offers an online Graduate Certificate in Substance Use Disorders. The program will admit its first cohort in fall 2020, and applications are now being processed.

The demand for training in the area of substance use disorders is growing exponentially. This new graduate certificate seeks to meet the workforce development needs and societal demands of the current substance use crisis in Maine and across the country.

Micro-Certificate Programs to provide an employment edge

Micro-Certificate programs at UMA provide opportunities to grow skills, round out resumes, and may give an added edge in a competitive job market.

UMA offers micro-certificates in a variety of areas, including the growing field of Computer Information Systems (CIS) and cybersecurity, such as CIS Cyber Fundamentals, Cyber Forensics, and Web Design and Development. To expand business skills, micro-certificates in Accounting, Fraud Examination, or Human Resource Management might provide the additional credential to move someone forward in a current career or qualify for a new position.

Micro-certificates are also an excellent way to explore a degree program, and credits earned typically transfer toward completion of an Associates or Bachelor's degree.



Most micro-certificate programs are available online. There is no long-term commitment, and many programs can be completed in a period of weeks. Upon successful completion, the earned certificate can be added to a resume or personnel file. Please review the specific program details for class schedules, requirements, and the application process at UMA Micro-Certificates.



Study Hall at The Chairs!

Fall semester reopening plans are underway

The UMA campus will open for fall 2020 on August 31. However, the completion of the semester will be conducted online after the Thanksgiving break. In preparation for the fall opening, UMA and the University of Maine System have implemented reopening plans that will provide necessary health and safety precautions for students, faculty, and staff while offering students the best educational experience possible. More information is available at uma.edu/return.

Sturgeon Sculpture to Migrate from Stevens Commons to Granite City Park



Jon Doody at work

Local artist Jon Doody has been carving a sturgeon out of a block of Hallowell granite on the grounds of Stevens Commons since May 2019. As artist-in-residence at the Commons, Jon has been welcoming visitors to watch the process from start to finish on Saturdays (weather permitting) from 9 to Noon during the Hallowell Farmers Market.

The sturgeon will be completed sometime in the next few months, and this fall it will migrate down Winthrop Street to its permanent home on the banks of the Kennebec River at Granite City Park.

Jon's residency was designed to act as a teaser for the Hallowell Granite Symposium, which was originally scheduled to take place this fall. The symposium has been rescheduled due to the ongoing pandemic and will now take place in September 2021.

The Hallowell Granite Symposium will bring the art of stone carving back to Hallowell to educate and engage our citizens. It will reintroduce granite sculpture to our public spaces as permanent public art that reflects back on Hallowell's history for current and future generations.

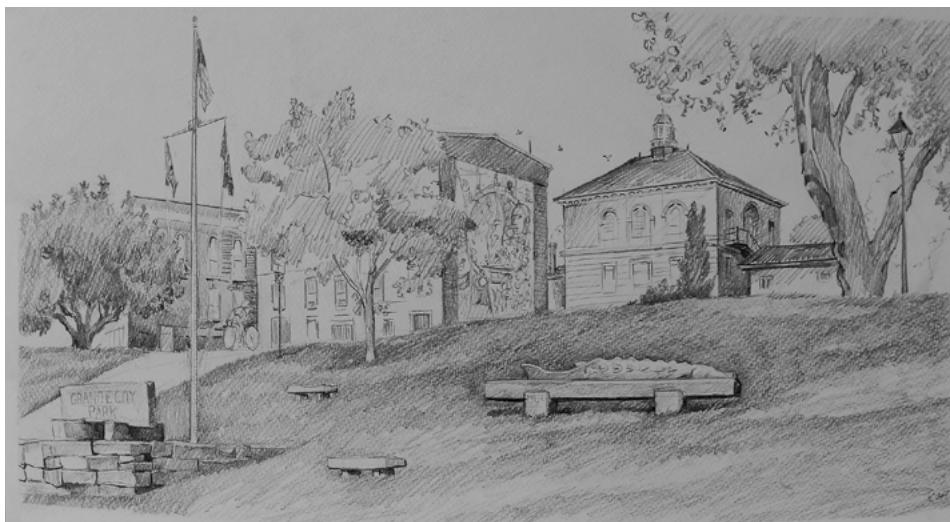
The symposium will also feature the premiere of a new multimedia presentation expanding on the online exhibit "Solid Foundations—Lasting Legacies" on Maine Memory Network (mainememory.net) which was created in 2010 by the Historic



Hallowell Committee working with Hall-Dale Middle School students and faculty and funded by a grant from the Maine Historical Society. Topics will include the architectural heritage of Hallowell granite, the impact of immigrant workers and their families on the character of Hallowell, and portraits of historic vs. modern carvers and techniques. The new program will be uploaded to the Maine State Library Digital Archive where it will be available for viewing anywhere at any time.

Chris Cart's Hallowell History Mural will also be installed sometime in the next few months, and the two works of art have a very special interrelationship. Jon Doody himself served as a model for a 19th-century stone carver in the mural, so 19th-century Jon will be looking out over his 21st-century creation for years to come.

Contact Hallowell Arts & Cultural Committee with any questions at hallowellarts@gmail.com. For more information about the Hallowell Granite Symposium, visit <http://hallowellgranitesymposium.org/>. ~DF



Artist's rendering of the sturgeon sculpture installed at Granite City Park. Chris Cart illustration.

Cohen Center Reopening, But Not Quite Yet

Spectrum Generations is working on a reopening plan for the Cohen Center and other facilities designed to keep staff, volunteers, and members of the public safe. Since mid-March, the organization has doubled its capacity for preparing and serving Meals on Wheels, but all other programs were temporarily closed. In June, the Bridges Adult Day program reopened. Aging and Disability Resource Counselors are now scheduling appointments.

The plans for the Cohen Community Center call for rearranging spaces to allow for social distancing, while still giving regular customers and visitors an opportunity to socialize with one another. The facility may look a



Chef Gary Hurtubise, Chef Jurgen Wurth, and facilities manager Todd Ouellette with Meals on Wheels dinners packed in banana boxes, perfect for storage.

little different the first time through the door. Plans call for reserved seating in the dining room. Changes and arrangements are based on the Maine CDC guidelines. The changes may impact the number of people that can be served at any one time. No specific date has been set for reopening, but it will not be prior to September 1. Cindy Sullivan, Center Director, said,

“We really appreciate everyone’s patience as we learn how to best serve our customers and friends in these challenging times.”

Spectrum Generations Virtual Offerings

Like many organizations, the Coronavirus pandemic has changed the way Spectrum Generations provides its much-needed services. The current situation does not allow for traditional methods like holding workshops and one-on-one informational sessions. The staff is embracing the use of technology to connect with customers and connect people with important resources.

Medicare 101

If you are looking for information on Medicare, the popular Medicare 101 session is available online! Visit the website www.spectrumgenerations.org/medicare. You will need to enter some basic information to view the program including your name and email address, then click the “Register” button. A new window will open with a viewing screen. Click on the play button to begin viewing the video. You should have a copy of *Medicare and You* close at hand. You may request a copy online if you don’t have one. The link is on the Spectrum Generations website. Call our Helpline if you have questions about Medicare at 1-800-639-1553.

Healthy Living for ME

Another popular program, Healthy Living for ME, offers workshops that can be done in your home. It brings together Spectrum Generations, SeniorsPlus, and Aroostook Agency on Aging—three of Maine’s Area Agencies on Aging—in a partnership to deliver statewide chronic disease self-



Spectrum Generations' Cohen Center

management and falls prevention classes.

The Better Health Now

This is a group of three workshops delivered over the telephone through small groups that “meet” once a week, for 6 weeks. Once a participant is registered, he or she will receive in the mail an inclusive and complete toolkit of the workshop materials. Participants then work with a workshop leader at predetermined times by telephone or online through Zoom, the videoconference program.

Virtual Tai Chi for Health and Balance

Tai Chi for Health and Balance is one of Healthy Living for ME’s most popular workshops. It equips participants with skills to help maintain their balance in their day-to-day life. Virtual Tai Chi for Health and Balance is the same 16-session workshop but delivered via Zoom. After registration, participants are provided with a secure Healthy Living for ME Zoom link. At the scheduled workshop times, two leaders (one providing verbal instruction and the other demonstrating movements) lead participants virtually from the comfort of their homes.

To register for any of these free workshops, please call 1-800-620-6036, visit healthylivingforme.org, or email info@healthylivingforme.org.

Red Doors Open! Regular Hours, Limited Patrons

Patrons are once again walking up the steps and through the red doors of the Hubbard Free Library. Starting in mid-July up to three visitors can be in the library at one time during regular business hours. At present though, you cannot just walk in. You have to make an appointment. Visitors then have 30 minutes to browse and check out items.

Annemarie Kromhout, Library Director, explained the process. "You can call or send us an email requesting the time that you would like to visit. The day is divided into 30-minute periods, then we take 15 minutes to sanitize the surfaces. Tuesday, for example, the library opens at 2:00PM so the first slot goes until 2:30PM. We clean the areas. The next time available for appointments is 2:45PM."

The Hubbard is following the guidelines of the Maine State Library and Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). Scientists have found that the virus



Hubbard Free Library

SARS-CoV-2 that causes Covid-19 is not detectable on five common library materials after three days according to the IMLS website. As a result of the research findings, all items returned to the Hubbard will be quarantined for 72 hours.

Patrons who come into the library will be provided hand sanitizer. They can return any books or materials they have borrowed at the front of the library and then browse the library as usual.

"We have also rearranged the children's section. All the toys and stuffed animals, so popular with younger children, have been put into storage for the foreseeable future," she explained. "We can't wait to bring everything back, but it

looks like it will be a while."

Two popular library activities are back and available through Internet streaming. Story Time returns to Saturday morning. The program is presented through Facebook Live. Connect from the library home page www.hubbardfree.org. Book Club is now Book Talks! Readers can join the conversation the third Thursday of the month using Zoom conferencing. It's easy and enjoyable. Sign up for email updates at www.hubbardfree.org/book-club.

To arrange an appointment or for other information, call the Hubbard at 622-6582 or send an email to hfl@hubbard.lib.me.us.



Annemarie Kromhout provides hand sanitizer to Connie Ottmann, one of the first library patrons to visit under the new guidelines.

Ladies of Hallowell First to Petition Congress!

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote. Women in Hallowell have historically been eager to engage in the struggle to solve vexing societal problems.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson defeated President John Quincy Adams in the U.S. presidential election. Jackson had a clear mandate from the southern states, especially Georgia, to establish U.S. sovereignty over all the lands in their jurisdiction, including lands granted to the Indians by treaty. In 1829 the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Indian Affairs voted for the forcible removal of Indians who refused compliance. Debates on Indian Removal were carried on in pamphlets, newspapers, and other print sources, especially in the north.

A petition signed by 61 “Sundry Ladies of Hallowell, Maine” in January 1830 protested the forcible removal of Indian tribes from their ancestral lands in the southern United States. This antiremoval petition represented the first time that women petitioned the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives in an effort to change federal policy. Women had used the petition for years, but mostly as individuals to secure widows’ pensions and such. Changing federal policy was a venture into the political landscape viewed by many (men, mostly) as unseemly territory for female involvement.

Surprisingly, though, the women’s petitions met with relatively little challenge in the national legislature. Some senators, including Henry Clay, advocated the women’s case. But most congressmen paid little attention or ignored them altogether. Over the next two



Hannah Dole, one of the “Sundry Ladies of Hallowell, Maine”

years almost 1,500 women signed similar petitions submitted to the federal legislature. Not only were they from towns in Maine, but also Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio. How did these women justify their “right to speak” on the subject?

The women recast the debate in the context of morality and Christian values, rather than the politics of government. Most of the signers belonged to the same church. In Hallowell, many of the signers belonged to the Old South Congregational Church. They were from prominent families in Hallowell and the surrounding area and had supported missionaries to these same southern tribes. The Hallowell petition states: “There is one consideration connected with this subject which adds much interest and gives us as we think a right to speak on the subject. We refer to exertions made by the pious and benevolent to enlighten and [C]hristianize this long neglected people,—and we say it without any

desire of vain glory, that these efforts have been sustained chiefly by the charity of our own sex—by the two mites of the widow, and the penny of the poor....We are unwilling that the church, the school, and the domestic altar should be thrown down before the avaricious god of power....”

The list of petitioners is representative of many of the oldest family names from Hallowell history, such as: Gage, Goodale, Gow, Agry, Dole, Cheever, Getchell, Perley, Gillett, Fuller, Moody, Bond, Page, and many more.

Many of the women represented on the antiremoval petition were later associated with the antislavery movement. One of the signatures on the Hallowell petition bears a family name that is associated with the abolitionist cause both in Maine and nationally. Sybil Lovejoy was born in Albion. When Sybil signed the petition, she had just had her twenty-first birthday. She was at that time conducting the “female department” of the Hallowell Academy, which was introduced in 1829 when her brother Joseph Cammet Lovejoy became the Preceptor. Joseph was active in local abolitionist and temperance societies. (Joseph married another signer of the petition, Sarah Moody.) Another brother, Elijah Lovejoy, was martyred in the abolitionist cause when he was murdered by a pro-slavery mob in 1837 in Illinois, where he was publishing an abolitionist newspaper.

So, did the antiremoval petitions change federal policy? Sadly, they had very little effect. The forced removal of Native Americans from the southern states began in 1831 and continued through the Trail of Tears in 1838. ~JW

City Plans in the Works—Input Needed

The Comprehensive Planning Group is working on a new comprehensive plan for the City of Hallowell. The plan will be a guide to how the city government and other stakeholders in Hallowell's future should work to guide the City through the next 10 years. The State of Maine Growth Management Act provides overall direction combined with local interests and priorities. The plan will include actions that will help get the city where citizens want to go as a community between now and 2030.

Creating a new comprehensive plan is part science and part art. There is a lot of data gathering involved, and there is also a lot of talking to people and hearing what they think about their city (see below). In the end, a good comprehensive plan has both objective data and value statements, ideally complementing one another and creating a realistic vision of where the city should go in the next 10 years.

Although City meetings can't happen in person right now, Hallowell's Comprehensive Planning Group continues to work (remotely) on background material needed for the plan. The Committee

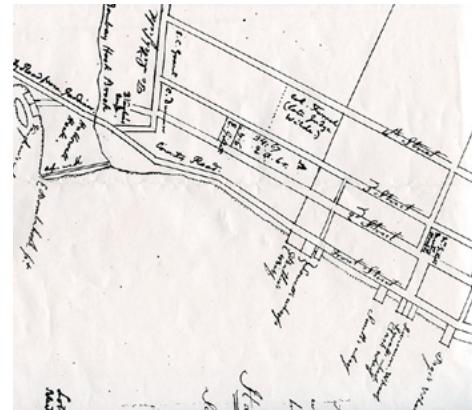
has been meeting monthly using videoconferencing to document existing conditions in areas such as housing, the economy, and transportation. This material will provide a good set of information to take to the community when the hard work on planning for the future of Hallowell begins.

Some things learned so far in this process:

- There are about 735 parking spaces in downtown Hallowell, an increase of about 30 spaces since 2010.
- Hallowell's median household income is just below \$60,000, slightly higher than the state median.
- The median rent in Hallowell is \$865, but over one-third of Hallowell renters are "rent burdened," spending more than 30% of their income on rent.

There is more work to be done over the summer, in areas such as natural resources, open space, public finance, and city facilities. The committee is also starting to think about next steps once the existing conditions report is complete.

The plan will continue to evolve based on public health concerns.



One of the first plans for Hallowell drawn in 1823 by Phillip Bullen, a surveyor who lived in East Hallowell (now Chelsea). This section of the map shows many of the wharves along the waterfront. The Page Wharf, last on the right, was at the foot of Academy Street

Numerous public events in the fall will provide opportunities to show what has been learned about Hallowell's growth and what has changed over the decade since the last plan was developed. Ideas for challenges and opportunities in the future are welcomed. Join a monthly meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Group, generally at 6 PM on the third Thursday of each month. A schedule of meetings and log-in details are available on the City's website. ~JL

On the Inside Looking Out

My new neighbors at Central Commons have moved here from Machias, Ellsworth, Winthrop, Lewiston, Augusta, and Portland. More are moving in in coming weeks.

Central Commons is the answer to the dreams of all of us. Quiet; beautiful apartments and grounds; friendly neighbors; extra storage;

state-of-the-art laundry facilities; security locks on all doors; a ramp for wheelchairs, walkers, dollies for moving furniture and boxes, and visiting children in strollers; and an elevator. There's even a small smoking section outside where smokers can get to know each other. No judgment, please.

Thank you, Community Housing of Maine and all the people who made this possible. Stevens Commons is a community within the larger community of Hallowell.



Maggie Warren at home in her new apartment

I am delighted to be here and to help connect the two.

Bicentennial Reflection

A View of Hallowell in 1823

The celebration of Maine's statehood is a perfect time to step into the time machine and see how Hallowell looked two centuries ago. J. E. Worcester of Boston published this view of our city in the publication *A Geographical Dictionary*.



Hallowell circa 1820
© Museum of Fine Art Boston

Hallowell is situated on both sides of the Kennebec, and has Augusta north, and Gardiner and

Pittston south, and contains 4 houses of public worship, 1 for Congregationalists, 1 for Baptists, and 2 for Methodists.

The principal village is situated on a fine basin on the west side of the river, and contains an academy, two circulating libraries, a bank, 4 printing offices, and 1,919 inhabitants. The village is built chiefly upon three streets, two of which are parallel with the river, and the other at right angles. The houses are primarily of wood, but the stores, especially those erected within a few years, are almost entirely of brick in a superior style.

There are 10 wharfs on the west bank of the river, and 1 ropewalk. To the westward a high hill extends from north to south, the whole length of the village, on the slope of which 3 new streets are laid out, which are intersected by two others at right angles.

Hallowell is a thriving town and has a flourishing commerce. It is situated in a tract of country which has a strong and fertile soil, particularly excellent for grazing. The exports consist of beef, pork, pot and pearl ashes, Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats, butter, hay, lumber, fish, etc.

Loaded vessels of 150 tons may come up the river as far as the wharfs. A large mill, on the plan of the southern merchant four mills, is a successful operation in this town. Beside the principal village, there are two other small ones within the township, one stretching along the road towards Gardiner, the other lying towards Winthrop to the west. The state of society in this town is reputed to be excellent, and here is the residence of Benjamin Vaughan, LLD.

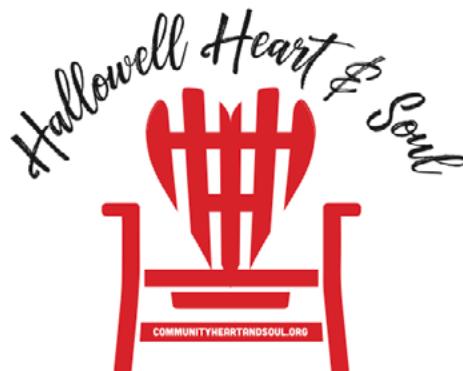
Searching for our Heart and Soul Your Stories Matter!

We each have a story, and we share many of them with friends and family. But there are stories about our City and how our living here has helped make us who we are today. The new Hallowell Heart & Soul group wants to hear these stories from every one of you!

The Orton Family Foundation community development process, Heart & Soul, has begun in Hallowell. A core group of volunteers, with unanimous approval from City Council, has done the groundwork and is collecting stories from Hallowell citizens of every description. The purpose is to

listen and discover what matters most to Hallowellians about our City. The stories are then gleaned for common values, actions, and concerns, with all findings shared with the Comprehensive Planning Group's public input effort. In this way, what is found to matter most can inform decisions made by our city government for years to come.

Please like the "Hallowell Heart and Soul" Facebook page. To contact us for a listening session, call Karen Tucker at (207) 530-2754 or email at hallowellheartsoul@gmail.com. We want to hear your story!! ~KT



Logo designed by Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama, Sighthound Graphic Design, Hallowell

Planting the Crane Garden at Granite City Park

Last summer a dedicated crew of Hallowell gardeners—friends and neighbors—gathered at Granite City Park to refresh and replant the garden at the Last Crane Standing exhibit. The original plantings installed by a landscaping company had begun to die back, and there were lots of empty spots. Plants were contributed from gardens and chosen because they were most friendly to insects, birds, and butterflies. The garden crew showed up with pots and buckets of beautiful plants. In a few hours, every spot was full, and the garden was on its way to restoration.



Granite City Crane gardeners in action

The garden is designed for pollinators because of growing public awareness that the insect population is declining dramatically due to habitat loss, increased pollution, and common use of pesticides. Since insects pollinate 75% of the world's flowering plants and 80% of our food crops, this design concept is critical. Every garden planted as a sanctuary for pollinators helps to maintain a diverse insect population. Native plants are especially important since they co-evolved with insects over the years and have the genetic



The Crane garden planted and mulched!

makeup to adapt to Maine's changing climate.

Every gardener knows that planting a garden is the easy part. Maintaining it is where the real work starts. Each crane gardener signs up for a week on the summer watering schedule to ensure that the garden gets sufficient moisture. Periodic weeding parties are scheduled, socially distanced of course. The Hallowell Conservation Commission has designed and sponsored an informational sign for the garden to help spread the word about gardening for pollinators. The new sign is expected to be added later this summer.

It is always a rewarding experience to work with fellow gardeners. It's fun to socialize while accomplishing a useful task. People walking by on their way to the Rail Trail or to the downtown comment on how lovely the garden looks and thank us for our work. It has been a pleasure to add this lovely space to

Granite City Park and to Hallowell.

For more information about native plants and which are best for Hallowell, check out www.nwf.org, click on Find Native Plants, and enter 04347. Maine's Cooperative Extension Service also has useful information. Bulletin #2500, Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid, is available online at <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/>. ~KS



The gift that keeps on giving

Hallowell's Maine Bicentennial Celebration

A Virtual Presentation with a Musical Delight

Step back in time to mid-March, which seems so long ago. Plans were in place for Hallowell's salute to the creation of the State of Maine. It was Thursday before the big day. The cake was ordered. Then came Covid-19. After a concerning conversation among the producers, the decision was made to halt the festivities.

So many plans were disrupted, put on hold, or cancelled outright when the pandemic first started. The Hallowell celebration was just one. However, all the components of the program were in place. After the dust began to settle from the upheaval cause by the disease, the producers: the Vaughan Homestead, The Row House, The Hubbard Free Library, and the Historic Hallowell Committee, decided to record the segments that would have been the live program and create a virtual celebration. There is, unfortunately, no cake.

Segments were recorded in various locations around town. Mayor Mark Walker welcomes viewers. Larry

Davis, President of Row House, begins the program. Kate Tremblay, Executive Director of Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, introduces Ron Kley who describes the process of designing the state seal. Bob McIntire, the chair of the Hallowell Bicentennial Committee, introduces Earle Shettleworth, Jr., who explains how Hallowell was almost the state capital.

With more time available to consider production plans, thought was given to the musical soundtrack. A hand-bound volume of handwritten musical scores was found among the collections of the Vaughan Homestead. The flyleaf of this 74-page volume is inscribed with the name of Harriet Manning Vaughan (an invalid daughter of Benjamin Vaughan and Sarah Manning Vaughan). Harriet, along with her parents and siblings, arrived in Hallowell in September 1797 to become the first year-round residents of what is known today as the Vaughan Homestead.

Kate Tremblay, Executive



Marcia Gallagher

Director at the Homestead, carefully scanned some of the pages of the document and sent them to Marcia Gallagher, a recognized musician and lecturer in the Department of Contemporary and Popular Music at the University of Maine at Augusta. Marcia brought the pieces to life from musical scores that probably haven't been played in over 200 years, much to the delight of the staff at the Homestead.

The bicentennial program, when complete, will be uploaded to the Maine State Library Digital Archive (mainememory.net). Viewers will be able to access the recording by visiting any of the sponsoring organization websites.

Harlow Gallery Reopens!

After a 4-month closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Harlow is excited to finally announce that the gallery has reopened to the public. Art lovers and gifts shoppers are invited to come in and see the expanded Craft Shop with exciting works from over 30 artists. The shop has also expanded the online offerings. Visit our new craft shop online at www.harlowcraftshop.org.

The Harlow's new open hours are Wednesday–Saturday, 11AM–4PM. Exhibitions are free and open to the public.

All visitors are asked to wear a mask, sanitize hands, and practice 6-foot social distancing. (Hand

sanitizer is available at the door as soon as you enter.)

8×10×100, a fundraiser exhibition on view through August 29, 2020

During this special show, each artwork measures 8×10 inches and is priced at \$100. Proceeds from this fundraiser exhibition are split 50/50, with half supporting The Harlow and half supporting the artist. Artworks can be purchased right off the wall and brought home the same day.

8×10×100 features work by both Harlow members and non-members and offers a dynamic selection



of medias including painting, printmaking, quilting, drawing, encaustic, and more.

Visit the website at www.theharlow.org to view our first online art exhibit, this year's ART2020. You can see all the pieces selected by juror Erin Hutton along with top prize winners.

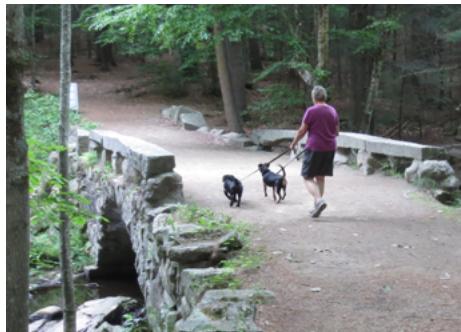
Trails Open: Vaughan Woods, The Res, Jamie's Pond, and the Berry Conservation Area

When the Covid-19 virus pandemic descended on Maine in mid-March, many gathering spots closed and people in search of recreation outlets began using public and private parks and preserves in large numbers. Many wanted only to get outside for fresh air and a bit of exercise. Quickly the regular haunts of hikers and walkers, like the trails at Vaughan Woods, became overcrowded.

Late in March the staff at Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead made the difficult decision to close the trails, much like the trails and facilities at most other public and private recreational areas. People were congregating on the Corniche Trail and at the Hallowell Trailhead causing concern for public health given the possibility of transmitting the Covid virus.

Pedestrian safety had become an issue as well. Parking is not allowed on Litchfield Road and on neighboring streets. When the parking lot is full, hikers are encouraged to consider using the ample parking behind Hall-Dale High School at 97 Maple Street in Farmingdale. The trailhead is located on the west side of the tennis courts. This area is available after school hours and on the weekends.

Trails at Vaughan Woods have been reopened since mid-July on a trial basis. Please help keep the trails open by maintaining appropriate social distance and parking only in designated spaces. Follow the CDC safety guidelines and have a backup plan, with alternative destinations in mind in case the parking area is full, and the trails are busy. There are several great opportunities nearby.



Enjoying a walk on the Corniche Trail in Vaughan Woods

The Res

Just a few minutes away is another outdoor recreation area: The Res on Town Farm Road. The name comes from the reservoir on the property, which used to store drinking water for Hallowell. The Res covers 165 acres of quiet forested space. The area is located approximately 1.5 miles west of downtown with walking and mountain biking trails, two ponds, a ball field, a beach, and picnic shelters. There is a non-resident parking permit fee of \$25 per season in effect May 15 through September 15, 9AM–4PM, for the beach parking area at the end of Reservoir Road.

Effie L. Berry Conservation area

The Effie L. Berry Conservation area is the newest Hallowell hiking venue. The trailhead is at the end of Coos Lane off Winthrop Street. Turn by the new fire station and follow the road up past the Cleveland Building at the top of the hill. Effie Lampson Berry donated additional land to the campus of the Stevens Industrial School for Girls in 1927, including a large field near the present-day Howard Hill property line with Augusta. Mastway Development

purchased the property, and it became Stevens Commons, a mixed-use development. In July 2017, Matt Morrill, CEO of Mastway, donated the conservation area to the City of Hallowell. The City of Hallowell donated a conservation easement to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2018, in order to guarantee its preservation as a haven for both people and wildlife. The Berry Conservation Area's quiet trail wanders up to join the interlocking trails of the Howard Hill Historical Park, offering visitors a diverse natural environment to explore.

Jamie's Pond

Jamie's Pond was the public water supply for many years. As a result, the area around the pond is undeveloped. This 840-acre conservation area, now managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, is less than 4 miles from downtown. There are several hiking trails and canoe and kayak access to the pond.

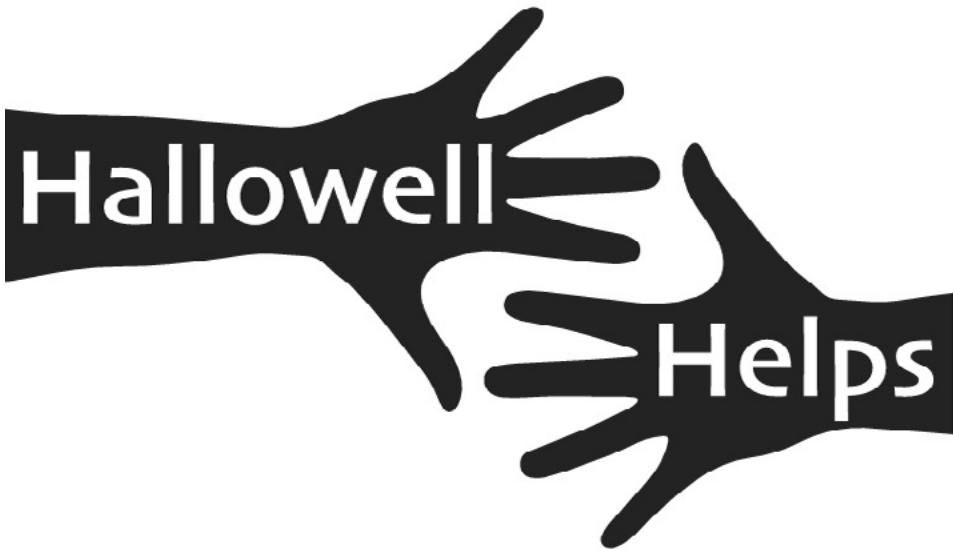
Trail maps for Vaughan Woods are available for download at the website.

Trail guides for The Res, Jamie's Pond, and the Berry Conservation Area are available on the City website at www.hallowell.govoffice.com. Click on "Community," then "Parks and Recreational Resources."

Thank You For Practicing Social Distancing



- Vaughan Woods Management



Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed! Cohen Center and Spectrum Generations

When the Covid pandemic started, many people had time on their hands, and the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program provided by the Cohen Center in Hallowell was running smoothly. Fortunately, many businesses have restarted so drivers are now in short supply. Routes are available on Wednesday and Friday. You can also assist in packing healthy meals for delivery.



Charlotte Warren Meals on Wheels Delivery

Other opportunities:

- State Medicare Patrol: Share your knowledge of insurance programs (training will be provided).
- Healthy Living for ME trainers: Share your love of arts and crafts and creativity.

Contact Jessica Bucklin, Spectrum Generations, Cohen Center, at 620-1684.

Hallowell Food Bank

Help is also needed at the Hallowell Food Bank for a number of tasks, from picking up food to stocking shelves. Help with monthly food deliveries, second Monday of the month. Food shipment arrives 7:30AM in the Ice Vault parking lot on Whitten Road. Food bank helpers are needed Friday mornings and throughout the afternoon pick-up period. Call Jeanne Langsdorf at 992-6899.



Hallowell Food Bank - unloading trucks

Hallowell Conservation Commission

Lend a hand with trail maintenance and help control invasive species.

You Are Needed!

Many opportunities. Contact Rosemary Presnar at 512-0311.

All-Age-Friendly Drivers and Companions

Do you have time to drive a neighbor to an appointment, to sit and visit a spell, or make a check-in call? Contact Lynn Kidd at SEARCH in Augusta at 530-0137, a program of Catholic Charities, for information on opportunities and volunteer options.

Hallowell Fire Department

There are some boots to fill at the Hallowell Fire Department. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. The only requirement is that you be physically able to do the job. Contact Chief Jim Owens at (207) 754-2518 or email firefd29@aol.com.

Hallowell Helps Needs Helpers

As the Covid pandemic descended on the world, people in Hallowell wondered how they could help. A call went out through the Hall-Dale parents' group and over 70 people responded that they could do shopping, deliver food, provide emergency child care, and a host of other tasks. Consider adding your name to the list. Visit the website www.hallowellhelps.org and fill out an application. You can also email hallowellhelps@gmail.com or call 207-370-1406.

Historic Building Survey—Site Surveyors and Data Entry

See Story on page 4.

If you have the time, energy, and interest, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Hallowell's Musical History

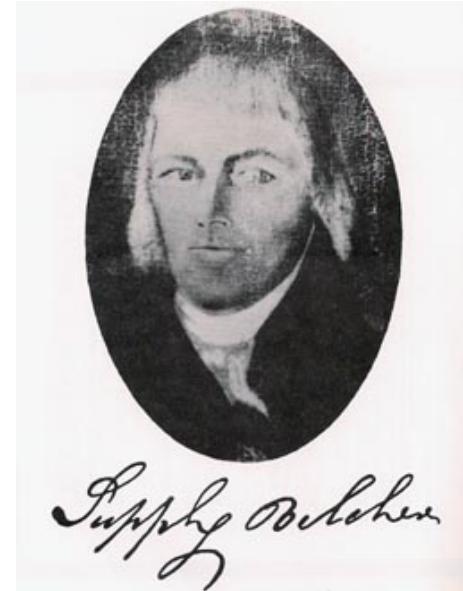
Supply Belcher, Maine's Handel

After the American Revolution, Hallowell developed as an important commercial and cultural center for Central Maine. In 1791 Hallowell Academy was founded to educate the town's children, and the academy building opened in May 1795. A year later the school held a public exhibition to show the educational progress of its 40 students in English, Latin, and Greek. The program also featured "vocal and instrumental music, under the direction of Mr. Belcher, the Handel of Maine," according

to the May 10, 1796, issue of *The Tocsin*, an early Hallowell newspaper.

Born in Stoughton, Massachusetts, Supply Belcher was an early American composer, singer, and compiler of music books. Between 1775 and 1778, he fought in the Revolution. After the war, in 1785, he moved to Hallowell in the part that is now Augusta. He lived there with his family for 6 years. In 1791 he relocated to Farmington, where he spent the rest of his life, dying in 1836.

Three years after moving to Farmington, Supply Belcher published a book of his musical compositions. Entitled *The Harmony of Maine*, the volume was printed in Boston in 1794. Belcher's music book paved the way for similar volumes to be printed and/or published in Hallowell in the first half of the 19th century, including: *The Hallowell Collection of Sacred Music*, Hallowell, 1817 (second edition, 1819); *The Wesleyan Harmony*



Portrait of Supply Belcher (1751–1836), American composer, created during his lifetime; and Belcher's signature

by Henry Little, Hallowell, 1820 (second edition, 1821); *The Temple Harmony* by Japheth Coombs Washburn, Hallowell, 1826; *Songs of Zion, or Maine Collection of Sacred Music*, Hallowell, 1830; and *The Instrumental Director*, Hallowell, date unknown.

Copies of these publications are found in the extensive collection of pre-Civil War Hallowell imprints at the Hubbard Free Library. They reflect the active cultural life of Hallowell from the end of the Revolution to the beginning of the Civil War. ~ES, Jr.

The Champion Publishing Partners:



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