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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date! We can blame it on a very busy summer at the Museum.

As you may remember from our last newsletter, our Curator, Ashley moved out of the area. The amazing news is that we were able to hire a new Curator, Susan Reidy from Augusta. Susan worked at Ft. Western for twelve years and for the Camden Historical Society for three years and brings lots of ideas and energy to the Vassalboro Historical Society.

Although we tried to hold a couple of weeks of Living History Camp, we figured out that we were a little late to get on everyone's schedule. We'll try it again as Susan has experience running the camps. It was fun to watch her demonstrate history in action during Vassalboro Days (September 6-7, 2025).

We have been fortunate to have an intern who has made quick work of getting documents scanned. From diaries, to scrapbooks, to autograph albums, they have not only scanned but added to our PastPerfect museum software for anyone to browse.

Our volunteers continue to provide assistance with organizing, accessioning, building, shingling (ongoing at our Blacksmith Shop), cleaning, transcribing, and so much more. We would love to have you join us!!

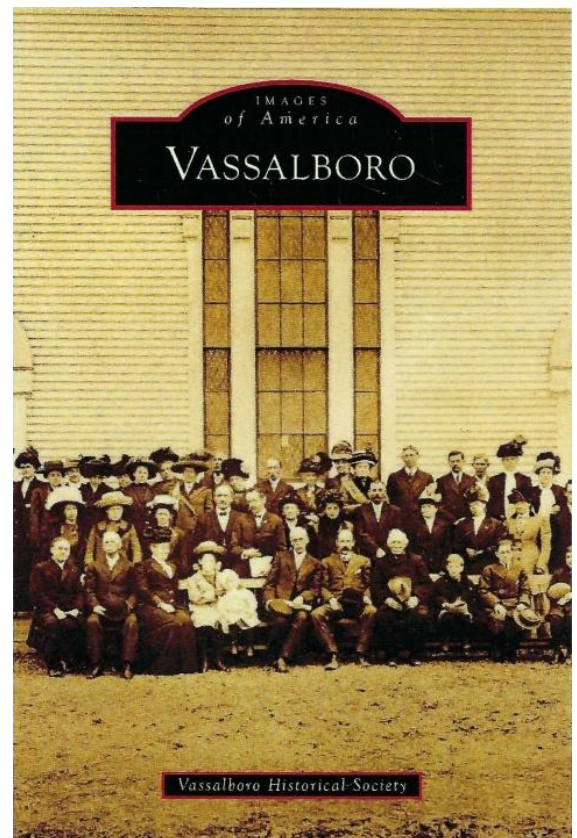
The Vassalboro Community School 8th grade came for a visit and learned more about the Civil War. From hearing diary excerpts, learning about hardtack, and what would happen if you needed medical care, the kids heard information that they may not have heard otherwise. In addition, they were encouraged to come back to the Society for a longer visit!

On September 28, 2025, the former East Vassalboro Grammar School where the Society now lives welcomed students from all Vassalboro schools. What a great opportunity to see what the Society has and share what treasures the former students have to share. A great time seemed to be had by all.

Jan Clowes, President



Over sixty former residents of Vassalboro schools came to the All Vassalboro Schools Reunion on September 28, 2025. Schools from Lowell Grammar to the Vassalboro Community School had students (and a teacher) in attendance. It was fun to catch up with old friends, look for photos (some were found, some weren't), and use the fun photo booth created by Curator, Susan Reidy. The Society is still missing some photos from graduations. If you find yours, please check with us to see if we are missing them. Thank you in advance!



Vassalboro Images of America books are available for \$20. They can be found at the Museum, library, town office, and the Mill.



Did you know that the Society has copies of the *Annual Register of Maine* going back to the mid-1800s? These fascinating books hold a wealth of information about all Maine towns, divided by county and town. Stop by for a look.

The 1872 Register shows the following:

Merchants—G.L. Randall, E. W. Bush, Josiah Prescott, Eben Frye, C. Crowell, Wellington Crowell, Sibley & Pope, J. E. Cates, E. Austin, H.A. Priest, L. Gardiner & Co., A.J. Weston, L.E. Getchell, variety; Miss H. Bassett, Mrs. W. P. Thompson, millinery; Wm. Hinckley, stoves and tinware; Rackleff & Mower, C. Simpson, meats; Isaac Jenkins, jewelry; W.B. Hinds, photographer; Fred. Wilson, apothecary; A.M. Varney, books and confection.

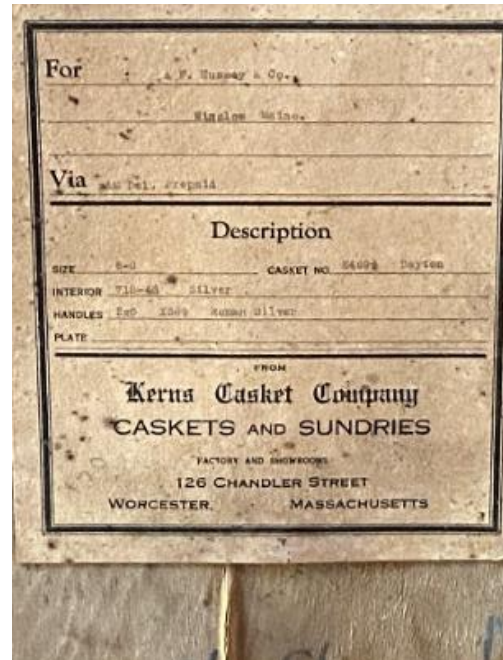
Oak Grove Seminary—R. Jones, Prin.

Asso'tns—**Masons**—Vassalborough, Tues. on or before full moon. **North**—I.O.G.T.—Loyal Band. C.W.T.—Union Band, Sat.

Hotels—S. Gibson; **North**—*Murray's Hotel*, Wm. Murray; **East**, A.M. Bradley.



Our intern, Oliver Parker, has scanned an assortment of diaries. They were then put online in our PastPerfect museum program. If you haven't checked out our collection, please do. If you haven't found what you are looking for, please check back or reach out to us for help.



Have you heard about our Heritage Village buildings? They include Ina's Barn (*donated by Ina Hussey Weymouth*), Taylor's Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop (*donated by Betty Taylor*), and H.O. Lampson's Harness Shop (*donated by Margaret Annette Lampson Davis*).

Each one has its unique qualities and have been recently revitalized.

If you look at the ceiling and walls of Ina's Barn you'll see panels that were around the caskets that were shipped to A. F. Hussey Funeral Home.

The Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop showcase the wagon wheels that were made by Harold Taylor, horseshoes and farrier tools, and blacksmithing equipment.

The Harness Shop now holds a post office display, a doctor's office, and the harness equipment. Plans are in place to also showcase our printing press.

Our Heritage Village sites will be open by appointment. ***If you are interested in volunteering to greet people at one of the buildings*** on the second and fourth Sundays of any month, please call the Museum at 207-923-3505.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to our
REGULAR OPEN HOURS
9am-1pm on Mondays and
Tuesdays and on the
2nd and 4th Sunday from 1-4pm

We will also be hosting the
following events:

January 18, 2026
3:00pm
Vassalboro Historical Society

Bring a treasure or a mystery to share with the group. This annual event is very popular and is always a good time.

The A. F. Hussey Co. Funeral Home was located in East Vassalboro and operated from July 5, 1906 to September 18, 1955. We have the records from the business which includes the names of deceased.

Each page includes the date and time of the funeral; casket number and description of the casket (i.e. Casket No. 550 – size 6-0 – Iron Gray Plush). The metal vault style (Purity Metal); Cash Expenditures include: Flowers (Spray or pillow with relative titles) or “Formaldehyde candles”; Funeral Notices (KJ and MS or card of thanks); Clergymen; Hearse; Coaches; Transportation Expenses.

Also included is date and place of death; place of funeral; date and location of burial; age in years, months, & days; color; occupation; marital status; birthplace; last place of residence; how long they were a resident of Maine; husband’s name, father’s and mother’s names and country of birth; physician; cause of death and who was paying for it.

Causes of death include “apoplexy probably”; “paralysis of intestines, cause probably cancer”; “la grippe”; “angina pectoris”; and, “chronic nephritis” to name a few.

If you have an interest in finding out more, stop by the museum and view the books – if you are looking for a specific person the index will help.

Please consider joining as a member and supporting the Society financially. Send your payment and membership level to:

Vassalboro Historical Society
ATTN: Membership Secretary
PO Box 13
North Vassalboro, ME 04962

\$15 ACTIVE (Under 65)
\$10 ACTIVE (65 and Older)
\$25 Family
\$200 Lifetime
\$100 Business

WATCH FOR THE SIGN!

This wonderful sign was created by our Curator, Susan Reidy. As you can see it will be able to be changed as needed to reflect upcoming events. After Vassalboro Days it will be set up in front of the museum at 327 Main Street in East Vassalboro.



"Nothing Ever Happens in Palermo"

A comedy in Three Acts

by: Paul Cates

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Oliver Shambles: Latest in a long line of Shambles -
Edgar L. Richards
Dolorous Shambles: Oliver's wife - Sharol Hutchins
Percy Shambles: First born son - Titus Welliver
Liza Shambles: Daughter, goin' on 30 and still single -
Debbie Johnson
Sam Shambles: Long - lost son - Martin Cates
Uncle Tinker: Oliver's brother - Bill Forstchen
Neighbor: Patricia A. Richards
Play Director: Rachell Haskell
Harry Thespian: Retired Shakespearean - actor - Paul Cates
Amour Hood: Important man at the chicken factory -
Bob Gilbert
Ms. Greta J.: Chasing her fugitive husband? - Susan Sprague
Rusty Slammer: Kennebec County deputy sheriff - Kip Morris
Calamity Grubb: Kennebec County deputy sheriff -
Missy Sheean

Intermission after Act II
Refreshments are on Sale

This play is Sponsored by Vassalboro Head Start Parents
as a benefit for Oak Grove Coburn School and Southern
Kennebec Child Development Corporation - Head Start/Day Care

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Vassalboro Historical Society is primarily a volunteer organization. Our goals that we need help with include: Someone techy to take photos and connect them with a QR code to link with the Maine Archives and Museum; a cleaner for dusting, sweeping, and mopping; Grant writer; fundraiser coordinator and assistance; newsletter contributor; docent, and so much more!

Digitizing with the Bookeye Scanner, organizing, taking down displays and putting them into the correct boxes and locations, finding items for the new displays, completing research requests, helping visitors, identifying non-accessioned items and bringing them to the attention of the curator, and more!

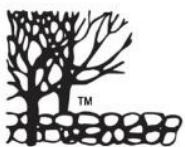
We also have fun! Volunteers who have been helping for years continually find "new" artifacts or read "new" information.

If you have time and you would like to help out, please reach out to Jan at (207) 660-2854.

Please note that *Bosch* star Titus Welliver may well have gotten his start right here in Vassalboro!

If you are interested in having a specific program or learning about something in the Museum, please let us know. Remember that this is **YOUR** Historical Society and we would love to have your input. Reach out whatever way is easiest, a visit, a phone call, a text, or email.

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Are you a business owner whose roots are in the Town of Vassalboro?

*Please accept this invitation to become a member of the Vassalboro Historical Society and have **YOUR** business highlighted in our quarterly newsletters!*