

# *An Invitation to Our Tour Group Partners:*

“As soon as histories are properly told there is no more need of romances.”

~ Walt Whitman

## **Consider a Visit to the Museums of Old York**

The events, programs and exhibitions that will be presented by the Museums of Old York in 2010 are both engaging and informative. By sharing our history, we foster a sense of place and bring people together to experience and appreciate the heritage of our community.

## **Experience 300 Years of Life in Southern Maine**

Nine museum buildings, an archival library, a handicapped-accessible exhibition hall and education center, and a contemporary art gallery house an impressive collection that tells the story of more than 300 years of life in southern Maine.

## **Flexible Tours to Meet Your Schedule**

Our museum buildings are open to the public Monday through Saturday June through October 9, 2010 but off-season tours can usually be arranged. The administration offices, library, and contemporary art gallery are open year round. Our tour options are incredibly flexible and can be easily fit into an already-scheduled itinerary. A stop at the museum could be as simple as a visit to the 1719 Old Gaol (Jail) or as hands on as a hearth cooking demonstration with one of our costumed interpreters. Bring your bus group for as little as a half hour or plan on staying all day to tour our buildings and participate in our living history workshops.

## **See what the Maine Seacoast has to Offer**

The greater York region offers beautiful beaches, shopping, restaurants, fine art, antiques and one of the best museums on early American history in New England. I have enclosed more information on our tour options and encourage you to visit our website at [www.oldyork.org](http://www.oldyork.org) to learn more about the museum. If you have any questions, or wish to book a tour, please call me at (207) 363-4974.

**I look forward to seeing you at Old York!**

Sincerely,



Zoe B Keefer-Norris  
*Education Director*

*Museums of Old York*



## Museum Overview

The Museums of Old York collects, stewards and presents objects of historical and community significance from York, Maine and surrounding communities. The museum's collections are among the finest of their kind, showcasing an unrivaled spectrum of local architecture (including a National Historic Landmark), an archival library and outstanding furniture, decorative and folk art collections. In addition to its vast collections, the museum offers a vibrant schedule of exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and hands-on education programs along with a contemporary art gallery.

The museum campus features numerous period gardens and nine historic properties, including the Ramsdell House, a more than 250-year old house that once belonged to a farm laborer, and the Remick Barn, a fully-accessible visitor, education and exhibition center. The museum buildings are incorporated into our community. Each is within a one mile radius. Set aside an entire day if you wish to tour all of the buildings or make plans to join us for any one of our programs and established tours designed to fit your schedule. Free onsite parking is available in the parking area next to Jefferds' Tavern on Lindsay Road. Rates published herein are only valid for groups of twelve or more.

# Historic Buildings



## Remick Barn: 1834

The Remick Barn is *fully handicapped accessible* and offers visitor amenities. Our hearth cooking demonstrations take place in the downstairs program room while the upstairs gallery hosts changing exhibits.



## Jefferds' Tavern: 1754

Jefferds' Tavern showcases original colonial era elements, such as Georgian style doors and paneling, alongside romanticized notions of the colonial revival period, as seen in the exposed beam framework and refinished plank floors.



## Old Schoolhouse: 1745

Visit the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in York and imagine yourself taking part in an 18<sup>th</sup> century school lesson. Look closely and you will see the initials and graffiti of ships scratched on the walls by former students.



## Emerson-Wilcox House: 1742

Over the past two hundred and fifty years, the Emerson-Wilcox House has served as a general store, stage tavern, tailor shop, post office and home for two families.



## Old Gaol: 1719

Having served as a prison from 1719 ~ 1860, the Old Gaol is one of the oldest British public buildings in the United States and is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark.



## Ramsdell House: 1741

Originally two rooms around a central chimney, the Ramsdell House is in stark contrast to the large homes of the wealthy. It tells the story of a 19<sup>th</sup> century day laborer and his family.



## George Marshall Store: 1869

Having once served as a general store, the George Marshall Store is now a contemporary art gallery with rotating exhibitions that feature some of the region's best professional artists.



## John Hancock Warehouse: 1740

Experience York's seafaring past at its only remaining colonial warehouse, and the only remaining commercial building from the colonial era, once owned by the famous American patriot.



## Elizabeth Perkins House: 1730

Visit the riverside garden and relive the days of elegance at the Elizabeth Perkins House. Enjoy one of the finest examples of colonial revival décor in the region while hearing the stories of Elizabeth Perkins life.

# *Featured Tours and Presentations*

## **History and Highlights**

Learn about the museum's buildings, the history that they represent and view some of the museum's most noteworthy treasures in this overview tour held in the fully-accessible Remick Barn. This is a good introduction for first-time visitors and a nice option for those with limited mobility. It includes a tour of the current exhibition and a slideshow presentation. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee; approximately one hour.

## **Historic Buildings**

Each of the historic buildings is available for tours lasting from 30 to 45 minutes. Groups can choose to tour all of the buildings or select those that are of the greatest interest. Guided tours through the historic buildings are limited to 12 people per group. Multiple groups may tour a building at the same time. Large groups are encouraged to select additional buildings or activities that can allow participants to rotate. Some buildings are self-guided. \$5 for one building; \$8 for two or more buildings. An additional \$1 discount is available for groups of 20 or more.

## **Walking Tour of York Beach**

Join us for a one hour walking tour of York Beach. See the sights, view the architecture and learn about this very distinct beach community. \$4 per person with a minimum \$48 fee.

## **Walking Tour of York Village**

Join us for a one hour walking tour of York Village. Learn about the historic sites, folklore, and architecture unique to one of the community's traditional town centers. \$4 per person with a minimum \$48 fee.

## **Walking Tour of York Harbor**

Join us for a one hour walking tour of York Harbor, the prestigious summer community of southern Maine. The famed *River Walk* will take you past some of the grandest homes, built in York Harbor's heyday. \$5 per person with a minimum \$60 fee.

## **Step-On Guide**

Old York will provide a *step-on guide* to accompany your group for a one hour tour through York, York Harbor and York Beach. Learn about the historic sites, folklore, local history and architecture of this seacoast community. \$75 per motor coach. Transportation provided by tour group.

# Custom Tours: Experience by Design

These activities can be added to tours of our historic buildings. For larger groups, please select two or more activities to allow participants to experience each activity in turn. Choose from the following menu of hands-on activities:

## Hearth Cooking

Observe as our baker prepares some 18<sup>th</sup> century desserts. Help mix ingredients as you learn about the various cooking methods and common food products of the colonial era. Enjoy the cookies you helped bake! \$3 per person with a minimum \$36 fee.

## From Fleece to Fashion

Unravel the mystery of colonial clothing. Try on hats and petticoats, card and spin wool and learn about clothing through the centuries. \$2 per person with a minimum \$24 fee.

## Games of the Past

Try your hands at some old-fashioned games such as Nine Men's Morris, dominoes, ball and cup, and for the bravest ones, why not try walking on stilts? This brief introduction to games of the past will feature dolls and other toys from our extensive museum collection. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this activity! \$2 per person with a minimum \$24 fee.

## Colonial School Lesson

Learn the *three R's* in our 1740s one-room schoolhouse. Practice writing with a quill pen, learn about punishments and other fun educational techniques of the 18<sup>th</sup> century! \$2 per person with a minimum \$24 fee.

## History of Laundry

In this engaging demonstration, Old York airs its dirty laundry! Learn about the history of this sudsy endeavor and view a demonstration of the process using our original set kettles. \$2 per person with a minimum \$24 fee.

# *Lectures and Presentations*

The following lectures and presentations are perfect additions to any tour and well-suited to groups whose members have limited mobility. Each presentation lasts approximately one hour. Call us to discuss the needs of your group.

## **History and Highlights**

Learn about the museum's buildings, the history that they represent and view some of the museum's most noteworthy treasures in this overview tour held in the fully-accessible Remick Barn. This is a good introduction for first-time visitors and a nice option for those with limited mobility. It includes a tour of the current exhibition and a slideshow presentation. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **History of Zoning**

Enjoy a slide presentation as you learn about the economic development of York Harbor and York Beach. The discussion will focus on the early twentieth century and will touch on subjects such as prohibition, the arrival of the trolley and train in York Beach, and the tensions between these two distinct parts of town. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **Seabury: A Tricky History**

Take an armchair tour of Seabury and learn about Tricky the Pirate and the rumors of witchcraft that plagued the area. Through slides and stories, Old York Registrar Cindi Young-Gomes will tell the story of her hometown. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **Introduction to New England Architecture**

Using photographs of local and regional houses, Education Director Zoe Keefer-Norris will present a chronological history of architecture in Southern Maine. This presentation will give a clear understanding of major architectural styles in our area and will teach the audience how to identify key elements in their own homes. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **The John Hancock Warehouse and Customs Practices in York, 1790~1830**

This presentation on the John Hancock Warehouse investigates the customs practices in York between its creation and 1789, when the maritime economy was booming, and the late 1820s when the shipping industry had fallen into decline. After 1830, the situation remained largely static for the rest of the century. This talk will question the significance of the John Hancock Warehouse in the customs system as recent research indicates that the warehouse may have been used for different purposes. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **Unraveling York Myths, Legends and Lore**

Witches, ghosts, mixed up statues, secret tunnels – York has more than its share of local lore! Where do these stories originate? How can we tell fact from fiction? Join our own myth buster, Executive Director Scott Stevens as he examines several popular stories and discusses the ways historians explore the past for fact and fiction. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **Those Who Call Themselves Christians: Scandals in 19<sup>th</sup> Century York**

Executive Director Scott Stevens will relate two scandals that rocked York churches in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and what they may reveal about religious movements and social changes. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **Civil War Letters**

Executive Director Scott Stevens shares excerpts from the letters of two York men who served in a Maine cavalry regiment during the tumultuous final year of the Civil War. The common trooper's experiences and changing perspectives come to life through the words written to the loved ones of these men. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

## **York Beach Then and Now: Duck Traps to Tourist Traps**

Join Education Director Zoe Keefer-Norris for a slide presentation featuring photographs from Old York's archives on the history of York Beach from pre-Victorian Days when the Nubble was used primarily for duck hunting. Continue the story through York Beach's heyday at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the devastation of the Great Depression. \$5 per person with a minimum \$25 fee.

# *Exclusive Tours for Larger Groups*

In addition to our regular tours, the Museums of Old York offers special programs **exclusively for groups of twenty or more**. Reservations are required. *Please note the additional fees.*

## **Jail Break!**

Enjoy a forty-five minute before or after dinner theatrical tour of the Old Gaol by lantern-light with the jailor and his wife. Visit the dungeons and hear the stories of the jailor's interactions with some of the prisoners. \$8 per person.

## **Tavern Time**

Spend an hour with the Tavern Keeper, sip some apple cider and participate in a hands-on open hearth cooking demonstration in true colonial style. Tour includes an 18<sup>th</sup> century style school lesson in the Old Schoolhouse. \$6 per person.

## **Victory Garden and House Tour**

Spend an hour and a half at a riverside estate. Begin your visit by strolling through the flower garden, rose arbors, victory garden and orchard overlooking the York River. Next, tour the estate house, which features an eclectic array of collectibles, decorative arts and rare antiques from around the world. Finally, retire to the riverside porch and enjoy a glass of lemonade or tea with your fellow travelers. \$7 per person.

## **Voices from the Grave**

Join us for a one hour walking tour of one of the oldest burying grounds in town. Your guide will discuss the different gravestone styles and explain the evolution of the symbolism of death from the early settlers until the mid-nineteenth century. The discussion, epitaphs and monuments will tell the story of events that shaped the history of York. \$5 per person.

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

## **When is the museum open?**

The museum is open Monday~Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from June 5, 2010 until October 9, 2010. The education and exhibition center are open year-round and tours can be scheduled in the off-season. For more information, visit our website at [www.oldyork.org](http://www.oldyork.org).

## **How do I get to the Museums of Old York?**

From Interstate 95, take exit 7. Follow the spur road, taking a right onto Route 1 South. At the next traffic light take a left onto York Street (Route 1A). Follow for approximately 0.7 miles to York Village. Turn right onto Lindsay Road. Jefferds' Tavern, our visitor center and the Remick barn are located on the corner of Lindsay Road and Route 1A. A large parking lot is located on the right, immediately past Jefferds' Tavern and the Old Schoolhouse.

## **Where can I park?**

Free parking is located adjacent to Jefferds' Tavern on Lindsay Road. The parking area accommodates motor coaches and personal vehicles. Two spaces are reserved for handicapped parking. Please do not leave the motor running during the tour.

## **How do I make reservations?**

Contact Education Director Zoe Keefer-Norris at (207) 363-4974 to book your group tour. Please book tours at least two weeks in advance. Any changes to the agreed upon itinerary must be made at least two weeks prior to arrival. The tour group coordinator and bus driver are admitted free of charge.

## **What are our payment options?**

A \$25 payment is required to reserve space for your group. The balance is due on the day of arrival. You may make payment by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. No refunds are available for cancellation with less than two weeks notice.

## **How does our group check-in?**

All groups check-in at the Visitor's Center next to Jefferds' Tavern on Lindsay Road.

## **Are the buildings handicapped accessible?**

The Remick Barn, the museum's education and exhibition center, is fully handicapped accessible and provides full visitor amenities. Many of our historic buildings have limited access: wheelchair access to Jefferds' Tavern, the Emerson-Wilcox House, the George Marshall Store Gallery, John Hancock Warehouse and the Elizabeth Perkins House is limited to the first floor.