



**Historic Hallowell Committee**  
 Bicentennial Celebration Committee  
 1 Winthrop Street ~ Hallowell, Maine 04347



**Minutes to Meeting December 4, 2019**  
**Corrections or additions to [historicahallowell@gmail.com](mailto:historicahallowell@gmail.com)**

Attending: Annemarie Kromhout, Hubbard Library; Maureen Aucoin-Giroux, City Council; Bob McIntire, Row House; John Bastey, Vision Hallowell; Kate Tremblay, Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead

After introductions Kate offered to share the ideas

**Hallowell 1820: Maine's Second Capital City & Birthplace of The Great State Seal**  
*Hallowell 1820* is a series of programs including lectures, tours, art shows and exhibits celebrating Hallowell's connection to Maine statehood and organized in honor of Maine's bicentennial. Project partners include Hallowell's premier cultural organizations and committees: Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead, The Harlow Gallery, Historic Hallowell Committee.

Hallowell's identity as the cultural hub of central Maine at the time of Statehood made it a prime candidate for the State Capital. It was also home to Benjamin Vaughan, a close correspondent of Benjamin Franklin and other founding fathers. Vaughan advocated for Hallowell and submitted an application to the legislature for it to become the Capital, and in 1827 the legislature passed a bill voting Hallowell the state capital! How Augusta ultimately won the title is an intriguing story!

Benjamin Vaughan also proposed the emblems for the Maine State Seal which were first crudely drawn by one of his daughters, reportedly at the dining room table that sits in Vaughan Homestead to this day. In his proposal for the seal, Vaughan argues that residents of Maine should take pride in their "northern situation." He wrote "we are the most northern state in the Union . . . yet what is an ordinary star for all other states becomes the north star for us." He continues "Then grow great not by the power of the sun, but by [our] habits." This northern identity is still alive and well in Maine!

*Hallowell 1820* programs will highlight the community Benjamin Vaughan was surrounded by in 1820, a community that must certainly have inspired his representation of Maine's identity through the State Seal and that even the legislature agreed, at least for a short while, was the perfect place for the Capital City!

## **Bicentennial Events**

### **Lectures:**

Hallowell Bicentennial Kickoff – Preparty Party! (Bicentennial Celebration in Augusta is the next day)

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 2:00PM

Old South Congregational Church

Earle Shettleworth

Benjamin Vaughan & The Maine State Seal

Hallowell - A Candidate for The Capital

Sponsored by Row House in cooperation with the Bicentennial Committee

### **Interpretive Tours:**

Summer - Vaughan Homestead in 1820: House Tour

Hallowell in 1820: Walking Tour – Old Hallowell Day July 18, 2020

### **Art Programs:**

State Seal Exhibit & Opening Reception

Reinterpreting the State Seal - Painting Commission

### **Historical Displays:**

March 13, 2020 Day at HallDale Elementary School – Hallowell Citizens Initiative Committee – Students will view Hallowell’s 1776 copy of the Declaration of Independence and learn of the City’s history.

March 14, 2020 Hallowell’s Declaration of Independence broadside on display  
HallDale Elementary School 10:00AM – 2:00PM

### **Theatrical Performances:**

Friday, March 15 Gaslight Theater opens a season of Maine playwrights with a performance of *Last Gas* by John Cariani, the first production of Maine’s bicentennial year, directed by Lucille Rioux. Gaslight will present plays by Maine authors throughout the 2020 season.

### **General Good Times:**

July 18, 2020 Old Hallowell Day - Bicentennial Parade, crafts, music, fireworks -

July 19, 2020 Old Hallowell Committee Maine Birthday Party – Vaughan Field – Old Hallowell Day Committee

Fall – Blue Stockings Society in Hallowell – Hubbard Free Library