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OLD YORK REOPENS FOR THE 2021 SEASON

York, Maine—Old York Historical Society is planning a phased reopening for the 2021 season. Outdoor walking tours will resume on May 31 (Memorial Day), and some of the historic buildings, including the popular Old Gaol, will reopen to the public on July 4.

The guided walking tours provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about historic York in a safe, outdoor setting. Tours range in topic from a general overview of the region's history to in-depth explorations of the Old Burying Ground, York's war memorials, and the 1692 Candlemas Raid. New this season are specialized tours focusing on slavery in York County, and the contributions of women to the local history. Held Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the summer, the tours last about an hour, and generally cover a three-square block area along York Street. Tickets must be purchased in advance: \$10 adults / \$5 children / free for members. For full descriptions of the tours, schedule, and ticket registration, visit oldyork.org.

After being closed for more than a year, the Old Gaol, Museum Center, and Remick Gallery, once again will welcome visitors. While the buildings were closed, staff worked to refresh installations, update and expand interpretive materials, and add new acquisitions. The Remick Gallery, home to the world-famous Bulman Bed Hangings, and the exhibition "The Best of York: Treasures from the Collection," has been rearranged to highlight some important new collection items. "We are delighted to have acquired several extraordinary pieces from descendants of the Pepperell family," says Joel Lefever, Old York's executive director. "These objects, including a rare 18th-century bombé secretary bookcase, and a portrait by Mather Brown of Sir William Sparhawk Pepperell, help us tell the story of a family that was pivotal in the formation of early York County—in fact, they shaped the region as we know it today."

The buildings are open Tuesday through Saturday, July 4 to October 30. Tickets to the Old Gaol and Museum Center must be reserved in advance online at oldyork.org. **Admission is free to all visitors for the 2021 season**, thanks to the generosity of several local businesses: Bangor Savings Bank, Coldwell Banker Yorke Realty, Eldredge Lumber and Hardware, and Kennebunk Savings. "We know that it has been a difficult year for many, and we hope that folks will come back to Old York, explore some old favorites, and discover something new," says Lefever, "There's no better time than now to plan a visit!"

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Old York is committed to the safety of its visitors and staff, and asks that all visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, wear masks while inside any of the buildings. Hand sanitizing stations are available, and visitors should respect social distancing guidelines.

ABOUT OLD YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OYHS is a vital part of the York, Maine, community. The organization maintains 16 buildings and 20 properties including the 17-acre Steedman Woods; employs 5 full-time and 25 part-time employees; houses more than 20,000 artifacts and 50,000 archival materials; and serves thousands of people year round through tours, educational programs, and special events. OYHS receives no Federal, State, or Municipal support, and relies on funding provided through private donations, a modest endowment, and a trust established by Elizabeth Perkins, as well as earned income from ticket sales, programs, memberships.

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