Aldermere Farm
Environmental and Social History

A Bowdoin College
Community Service Learning Project
With the MCHT

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**Introduction of Project and Partner**

My work on Aldermere Farm for the Main Coast Heritage Trust is compiling existing research, and expanding it with my own, to create the basis for an Environmental History of the Farm. No effort to do this has been undertaken as of yet, though Mr.
Chatfield Jr., the most pivotal and recent owner, occasionally wrote recent histories and overviews. A large part of this project is organizational and creating structure for future work, and awareness of important areas of history, which is little known. Because the Farm is in no way ordinary, this project is very diverse and important. Aldermere has a long history of community involvement, both locally and in the international Belted Galloway scene, cutting edge conservation and environmental farming ideas, is in an rapidly urbanizing area of great natural beauty and importance, and is now a part of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The history of the Farm is very rich and diverse, and is important, both for the communities understanding of its past and the Farm and Trusts understanding of the future.

**Basic Project Report**

Aldermere Farm in Rockport, Maine is a working Farm, breeding rare and celebrated Belted Galloway cattle, since 1953. It is the oldest continuous breeder of these cows in the US and led the international community in recognizing of the importance of the breed and furthering its cause. The farm operated for at least a century and a half before the arrival of the Galloways, though primarily as a mixed use and then as a gentleman’s farm. During these years the farm was owned and passed down through only two families, both of whom were progressive in their attention to conservation and actively involved the community. The second family, the Chatfields, introduced the cows and placed conservation easements on their farm to ensure its long life in an increasingly developed area. Over the years the Farm became both a landmark and an important part of the community.

It is 136 acres of saltwater farm and was acquired by the Main Coast Heritage Trust in 1999. The Trust keeps the Farm working, both as an active breeding farm and for educational outreach, although it is not yet self sustaining. Through the Farm the Trust teaches Conservation, sustainable agriculture and a general awareness of the environment. This year Aldermere is celebrating its 50th year of breeding the Belted Galloway and its important role in the communities of Camden and Rockport.

The Trust and Aldermere Farm are looking to engage the community even more then it has in previous years. Specifically they would like to share their celebration of 50
years with the herd. The Trust inherited many documents, articles and photographs which relate to the history of the farm, relating to the development of the farm, the conscious environmental choices, and the interaction with the community. They would like to organize this information and combine it with information gathered from Historical Societies and interviews with remaining members of the family to create an environmental and social history of the farm. Organized into the following report and bibliography, this information will ideally lead to further research and sharing with the public, for publicity and planning.

It was unclear how much information is in fact available for the environmental history, since no one had been able to take on the project due to the newness of the Trust’s stewardship. The available documents and texts are the build up of over a century of information, collected both intentionally for historical importance and some simply left in the pile, so to speak. The Trust is delighted to have the project started and will use it as a jumping off point for further research. For this the annotated bibliography, which includes texts, web sources, human contacts and organizations will be especially useful. This part of the project has been completed with the available information, but will continue to grow as future students uncover new sources. In the very least my research thus far provides the Farm with far more information then they have, and an awareness of what is available.
The farm was historically very progressive as the Chatfields were one of the first landowners to place their land under conservation easements, they “restored the land with innovative conservation methods and organic agriculture. It was a lifelong task, and the farm’s splendid condition today attests eloquently to the Chatfields’ devotion to the land they dearly loved.” (http://www.aldermere.org/about_the_farm.html) Aldermere was and remains special for it its sustainable agriculture practices and engagement of the local community. The conservation and sustainable agriculture combined with a strong and expanding history of community outreach and environmental education tie the farm's aims neatly into our classes focus. My environmental history of the farm and its practices enabled me to learn how to write an environmental history, examine specific practices which are relevant to our class, and indirectly partake in environmental education of the community of Camden-Rockport.

• Relevance an Environmental/Social History

In a circular sort of way, Environmental Histories of a region are essential to future preservation of the area, and expanding current works. Without knowledge of the role and importance of a site, particularly with attention to how humans interacted with it, people tend to forget the importance of the land. Environmental histories are an essential part of the environmental education movement and activism; just awareness of the US history is essential for nationalism and patriotism. Environmental aims must use a two pronged approach, action and education to stimulate future and expanded action. And because environmental histories create a portrait of a place, the readers come to understand the land more as it truly is a living, breathing identity with a vibrant and multi-dimensional history. The Farm and Community, and vice versa, are intertwined, thus by serving the Farm immediately I am aiding the community, and is true of most educational work, it will have future ramifications.

Aldermere Farm is inextricably linked to its community and the community in turn gains much of its identity from the Farm. A superficial history is known but a more in depth understanding would help to strengthen these bonds of ownership and responsibility. Contrary to what I had initially believed the research is not intended for the tourist public, as the community, Farm and Trust have no desire to popularize the
Farm, which would result in change and stresses to the land. Thus my research is for the already informed citizens and the Trust. From the research the Trust hopes to better understand past events and actions taken upon the land, both for a context for their own actions and to contribute to future plans. The Trust hopes to work within the old aims of the farm but needs more of an understanding of this past to inform their choices.

Simply put, the community would like more information to strengthen their bonds with an already old friend and to teach appreciation to the younger generations. And this research is especially relevant right now as many of the living contacts that remember now past periods of the farm are in their later years.

In the somewhat more distant future, once a more complete picture is created, the research will help the Farm to apply for much needed funding as they will be coming from a place of more self awareness and tradition.

• **Connection to the Coursework**

Because this project was in itself so specific, the relevance to the course is very specific as well, although the environmental concerns of the farm, the herd and the land had broad implications which related to the class as well. But the two specific subjects which we examined within our academic studies and which directly served to inform my research for the MCHT were the issue of urban sprawl and the importance of linking a community of people to the land.

The text which dealt with urban sprawl most specifically was the book of Daniel Faber, *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster*. Although Camden-Rockport appears to be the antithesis of LA, the issue of the urban development spreading into unique and important ecosystems is no less real there. As an area in which houses on the water with modest acreage’s are selling for millions saving open land is an essential and difficult. Maine is well aware of the threat of urban sprawl, particularly along its vacation coastline. Fortunately unlike in Faber’s LA, most of the community and authorities are working to protect land, both the farm and much more, because the area is so imbued with an awareness of the importance of history, and in New England the land is history. Thus, in Maine, there is hope.
The section of readings which most directly addressed the importance of organic farming and linking communities to the land to promote responsibility were those about Central America, and even more specifically the Greening of Cuba. The connection of the Barrett and Chatfield families to the land led them to treat it well, not abusing it with pesticides but protecting it and nurturing it. Without this deep bond, the land could have been subdivided, abused or neglected. My research and work at the farm served as a wonderfully uplifting case study for the importance of this link, so promoted in Cuba. The connection of the town to the farm and cattle is also important, although it is less tangible and more based in nostalgia. The farm has meant a lot to inhabitants, both for its nature, its herd, and the fond memories which they have of being at the farm since it welcomed them in. And now these citizens act as stewards themselves, watchdogs, making sure things are protected and kept as they were.

One of the subjects which we examined and which my research forced me to acknowledge is the debate of what are nature and the environment. Although almost every acre of the 136 acres of the conserved farm has been handled by man and even cultivated, the relevance and importance of the land is no less great. And in this instance the handling of the land by man is what gave it its historical importance which then led to it being conserved as nature.

Also, the discussions in class of ecosystems addresses the wild species, but not those of a cultivated farmland, used for produce. The Belted Galloway Cattle, are for all intensive purposes a crop, a product, albeit lovingly produced. And as such are no different from any other crop or plant which is running out of land to grow on and becoming threatened. The breed is rare and it is only because of the work of the Chatfields that the cattle exist in such large numbers in the US. Thus they have done conservation work in other ways as well.

Work Completed

One of the primary projects, which I have completed, is an annotated bibliography of the known texts, letters, documents, magazine clippings etc. on site. (See attached.) I have expanded this base of information by adding organizations, individuals, web sources, and outside texts, all included with their relevant information and relative
strength of the information itself. This will make future research significantly easier and more accessible.

Ron and I constructed an outline of the Environmental History, organized in terms of the importance to farm use, and I have filled it in the information as I recover it, noting where further research is necessary and what the source may be used. This outline addresses the Barrett and Chatfield family histories and relationships to the farm. As well as the choice of the breed and management, general management of the farm itself and its various enterprises throughout its 200 plus years as a farm, the role of the farm with the community, the role of the MCHT and the placement of easements of the farm and later donation to the Trust.

I have gone through the farm resources, outside texts and sources, bringing all of the information together in one document and in an organized fashion. At the end of the semester I had started looking to different types of outside sources such as Historical Societies, newspapers, and individuals to fill in the largest gaps in knowledge. This must be pursued by future students. All of the information is available in bits and pieces and must be joined together and often made sense of. The disparate pieces are come together to form a cohesive history, both lateral and linear. But this is only the start of this project as the history is rich and available, if challenging to find.

In my research I am discussing the land history under the two families. But because the MCHT understands the history of the easements and donation well, and because this information is in no danger of being lost, I have focused my research on unearthing information which will be new to the Trust and Farm. Also the early history of the farm is fairly unknown, though it is believed to have been of great importance locally. I have worked to piece all of this history together through dozens of resources in order to create a more complete picture of the farm’s multi-dimensional history, though at this stage the pieces have not all met each other.

For the immediate use of the farm and community I have distilled some of the extensive research into three column sized articles which may be sent to the Camden Herald this summer to inform the community immediately. The three articles are about the Barrett Era, the Chatfield Era, and the Herd and Breed. They are very short and superficial but will work as a nice hook to attract more interest.
I have made a list of contacts, many of them descendents of the Chatfields or the farm managers and compiled a list of questions. And have had the opportunity to chat with some of them in person, via email, and phone. Some of these questions have been answered and some I will leave behind as notes to look towards in future work.

**AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY**

**Context**

The Camden area was originally the site of a Tarratine Indian settlement called Mecadecut, then Megunticook and was renamed Camden, February 17 1791, in honor of Lord Camden. Camden and Rockport Villages were under the general Camden name until 1891 and both harbors enter out onto the Penobscot Bay. The first white settlers to the area, brothers James, Dodiphar, and James Richards, arrived in 1768 from New Hampshire to find timber for shipbuilding.

Camden is an area with families whose roots and names go back for centuries, people come and they stay, thus the community and sense of responsibility to place is strong. Aldermere Farm itself is very much a family affair, belonging to the Barrett Family for over a century, and then the Chatfield Family for another century. And the Farm Manager, Dwight Howard, who worked side by side with Mr. Chatfield Jr., was succeeded by his son, Ron Howard, who is now the Manager with the MCHT. All of the families have been linked to the land and its well being, even as far back as the first Barrett who stated in his will that he wished the farm to remain in his family’s care as long as the trees stood.

Much of the geological face of the region is the result of the glaciers moving through, leaving the drumlin of Mount Battie bare and digging deep harbors between the fingers of land. A classic New England coastal farm, the 136 acres of land at Aldermere does not make farming an easy endeavor. The acreage includes rocky shore, marshland and wooded areas, as well as fields and the Lilly Pond. Today this farm is owned and operated as a Belted Galloway Breeding farm by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The donation of the farm to the Trust, by Mr. Albert Chatfield Jr., the previous owner, ensured that “Aldermere Farm shall be operated as a wildlife sanctuary or nature preserve or as a working farm to test and demonstrate proper and innovative agricultural and/or
silvicultural techniques.” In an area which is being developed at an alarming rate and with land costs soaring, the protection of such an important historical and environmental site is essential.

BARRETT PERIOD

The Barretts are the earliest known farmers and owners of the property which time became Aldermere Farm. The family lived in Kent Co., England until Humphrey Barrett brought his wife and adolescent children to settle in Concord, MA in 1639. What occurred during the two generations following Humphrey Barrett Jr.’s, who arrived a young man with his father’s family, is unclear. But on April 12, 1767, Daniel Barrett was born in Concord, MA and in 1972 he purchased the land of Beauchamps Neck, a peninsula in what was then the region of Camden, Maine. (Rockport would not separate from Camden for half a century.) It is unclear what impact on the land, the previous owner, William Molineaux, had, if any. At the time the region was very sparsely settled and little industry was occurring. Although the turn of the century was marked by an accelerated arrival of many families who would become mainstays of the Camden Rockport communities. But Daniel Barrett purchased the land immediately his upon arrival in Maine in 1792 and soon after married Peggy Grosse, in 1794. The couple had 9 surviving children, many of whom remained in the area. (see “Portions of the Barrett Genealogy, from Mary Barrett Keefe, Jan. 1998”)

Daniel Barrett’s interests were primarily farming, boat building and the manufacturing of lime. The Barrett farm is referred to history books as a sheep farm, but in a classically thrifty and wise New England, it appears the family raised vegetables, fruits, and animals during the agricultural seasons and built boats in their barn every winter. Shipbuilding was the main business of the Camden area until around 1856 when the coast suffered a temporary “commercial depression” and building slowed significantly. (Dyer, 1984, 4.) According to Barrett family legend, the schooner the Eagle was built on the farm. The date of its completion is listed in 1798, only six years after Daniel Barrett had purchased the land. (Dyer, 1984, 11.) But the Barrett’s are not listed as the builders. This may be because, coming from Concord MA the family lacked the skill, but leased out their barn for building or somehow oversaw the events. (See US
Coast Guard history on French American war, and the confusion with the ship the Pickering.) After building the large crafts, the Barrett’s launched them in the spring from the beach, taking them down Jenny Lane to the shore of the Penobscot waters, though the road is now closed. (interview, Mrs. Black)

Daniel is most remembered for his building of the turnpike around Mt Battie and it was said that “the characteristics most prominent about Mr. [Daniel] Barrett, were his scheming proclivities, his energy, industry and rectitude of character.” (Locke, 1859, 214.) On various occasions people tried to push him to public office but he avoided it, preferring to aid the community on his own terms, a similar position taken by the owners to follow.

In 1802 Daniel Barrett undertook the building of the four mile long Turnpike after receiving a charter from the General Court of Massachusetts, as Maine was not yet its own state. The building took three to six years, employing both free men and slaves, and was essential to easing the process of transporting goods around Mount Megunticook. He ran the road as a toll road until 1834 when it was purchases under somewhat scandalous circumstances for only $300. The tollhouse was later converted into the Do Drop Inn. Daniel barely made a profit, but he achieved what no one else thought possible. It is now turnpike 52, as referred to in Mary Barrett Keefe’s letter to Mr. Chatfield Jr.

The sixth child of Daniel Barrett, William, became legendary as an old man, both for his quirky character and knowledge of local history. He is specifically given a section in a tourists’ guide of this period. In 1886, T.R. Simonton wrote that “a ride over the turnpike would not be complete unless the tourist should call upon William S. Barrett, who is as unique and romantic as the wild scenery which he lives amidst.” (Simonton, 1886, 44.) William inherited the so called Turnpike property at the Maiden’s Cliffs, from his father, where he built an estate which would later burn to the ground.

When he died, on December 1, 1850, Daniel divided the Beauchamp Farm between his sons John, his fourth child (b. 1806 - d. 1859), and Amos, the youngest son, (b. 1819). (Robinson, 1907, 293.) Amos received the portion of the farm with the original farmhouse, which would be called Aldermere by the Chatfields, and his brother took the land farther out on Beauchamp Point. The date of Amos’ death is unknown, so
it is difficult to say if the Chatfield Family bought the farm from Amos or a descendant. Because it was a span of only 49 years from when Amos inherited and when the Chatfield’s purchased the farm from a Barrett is can safely be assumed that the farm was within the family for the whole period. The Chatfield family purchased the original Beauchamps farmland and houses in 1899, which then became Aldermere Farm. At the time of their purchase the farm was primarily a sheep farm, though the winter boat building was still occurring.

In 1886, the Rockport area was made up of about 1500 inhabitants, and “its business was lime-burning, ship-building, and ice cutting.” (Simonton, 1886, 42.) Due to the small size of Rockport it can be presumed that a large portion of this business was taking place on the Barrett farm, as these were some of the known early endeavors of the family on the land. By mid century ships would regularly head south with ice to Maryland, New York, and Philadelphia and return with coal. (Dyer, 1984, 21.) And specifically the Lilly Pond supplied ice to places as distant as the Caribbean and the West Indies. (Lambert) In 1916 it was said that Barretts “harvested from the Lily Pond some forty thousand tons of ice annually, which has the reputation of being the best ice cut in Maine.” (Prescott, 1916, 82.) Although the Lilly Pond was no longer owned by the family in 1916, this suggests that the harvesting went on all throughout their stewardship of the land.

And as a whole at the end of the century, the quarries of Rockport were estimated to “produce over three hundred and fifty thousand casks” of lime a year. (Prescott, 1916, 82.) Lime was excavated both for burning on site and for export for building use, some of which was used for the capital buildings in D.C and buildings in New York. Remnants of the laborious and time intensive process of burning the lime are still evident in the remains of lime kilns of the shore. Daniel Barrett’s sons John, Charles and Amos were involved, as well as an Ephraim Barrett who is also particularly noted in the burning business. (Dyer, 1987, 52.) (see also, Robinson, 1907, 607 - Lime Kiln)

Formerly the Goose River area of Camden, Rockport became an independent town on April 25 1891. Currently the town is 25 1/2 square miles, and was presumably about the same size at the time of the separation.
Chatfield (Sr.) Period

Mr. Albert H. and Helen Chatfield Sr. of Cincinnati, Ohio came to Maine in the summer of 1899, followed the family doctor, Doctor Forschimer, and his family to Camden. (Mrs. Black, April 27.) The young family stayed in a boarding house in Camden near Sea Street and swam in Camden harbor. Both the Forschimers and the Chatfields decided to buy property in the area which was becoming a popular wealthy summer retreat location. The Forschimers bought land on the east of the Lilly Pond and built a shingle cottage for their two sons and a daughter.

Mrs. Helen Chatfield was pregnant with Albert Jr. at the time of the purchase of Aldermere, causing her grandniece Mrs. Black, to speculate that the family may have followed the doctor to Camden in part for the medical aim of remaining near her doctor during her pregnancy. The family already had two son Frederick, born in 1890, and William born in 1893. Albert Jr. was born in January 1, 1900, immediately after the family acquired the farm which he would inherit the farm and make his passion.

Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield Sr. bought the 100 acre sheep farm in Rockport from Amos Barrett, or his descendant, in 1899. The family relocated and expanded the Aldermere house, using it as the center of the estate which included various other buildings. They turned it into a vacation estate, and Mr. Chatfield Sr. brought his family and nine horses from Ohio every summer. They joined the increasingly elite summer society of Camden, which in many ways, acted as a quieter Mount Desert Island esque retreat.

The outer portion of the peninsula, Beauchamp Point proper, owned by the Henry family, possibly from a descendant of John Barrett, thus what is Aldermere Farm today is only a part of the original Daniel Barrett farm. Chatfield family legend has it that the Chatfield family purchased the farm the day after the Henry family, of Philadelphia, bought Beauchamp point. But other sources also put the purchase dates as far apart as two decades.

Mr. Chatfield’s sister, Mary Chatfield, was married to Frederick Gilbert, and family built the house close to shore called Kentmoor Cottage in 1904. The couple had four sons and a daughter. The Gilbert, Forschimer and Chatfield boys played together every summer, building a cabin near the Lilly Pond on Aldermere property, and fishing
and swimming in the still clean pond. No doubt, it was during these times which Albert Jr. gained his familiarity with and passion for his family’s property which would later guide his agricultural management of the land. Though as Mr. Chatfield Jr. admitted during the early years the only animals were the nine horses and a few milk cows. “Cows were incidental to us then, we had them for milk and cream.” (Lambert, farm document)

The church Our Lady of Good Hope was built in 1909 and the font and altar were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield Senior, who had the pieces imported from Rome in memory of a friend. (Dyer, 1987, 95.) On one occasion Mr. Chatfield Sr. heard a young Edna St. Vincent Millay read her poetry at Whitehall in and along with other residents, quietly contributed to her Vassar education. (Mrs. Black, April 27.) She would later win a Pulitzer Prize for Renascence, which references nature of the area. These are early examples of the Chatfields’s philanthropy and community involvement, an extremely important but often anonymous role which both generations took.

President William Howard Taft, a longtime family friend of Sr. and fellow resident of Cincinnati, surprised the farm with a visit one summer afternoon during his presidency (1909 - 1913). The Presidential yacht, the Mayflower, anchored nearby and the president and company spent the afternoon on the farm. Mr. Chatfield Jr. recalled chatting as a ten-year old with the approachable leader. Mrs. Chatfield Sr. had the President plant a spruce tree because, as Albert Jr. said, “Mother thought it would be nice to have a presidential tree.” (Lambert)

Trolley cars, which were a part of the increasing tourist role of the town during the first half of the last 20th century, took travelers on scenic routes out around the quarries and Lily Pond in 1916 and onwards. (Dyer, 1987, 110.) The community and its visitors were already recognizing the importance and natural beauty of the farm and the Lilly Pond.

Mr. Chatfield Sr. died in April 1919, while Albert Jr. was a freshman at Harvard and William was away in the WWI infantry. William returned home after the war, and his father’s death, to his wife whom he had married in 1916. Albert would marry in 1924. Mrs. Helen Chatfield Sr. maintained the estate, returning more and more frequently, making her summer stays last May through Thanksgiving and becoming a Maine resident. But the family was still based out of Cincinnati.
Another presidential visit came during the war eras of the 1900’s when the
shipbuilding reached a peak in the region, though long after the Aldermere had ceased
building boats or even keeping large ones for the family. Due to steel shortages, the US
Maritime Commission turned to wooden barges, very different from the elegant
schooners of the previous century. But because of the shipbuilding expertise and deep
water of the Penobscot, often used for military vessel testing, they turned to Camden.
The first of a series of barges was launched from Camden by the first lady, Mrs. Franklin
Delano Roosevelt February 8th, 1943.

After WWII Mrs. Chatfield again planted trees to commemorate individuals and
events. (The Farm state that the grove commemorates WWI soldiers, but Mrs. Chatfields
grandniece, Mrs. Black believes the trees celebrate WWII soldiers. It will be worthwhile
to determine the life span of such trees and also to consult archival records.) A circle of
Norway Pines were planted in a ceremony to honor the men of the Camden Rockport
area who served in the war, one tree for each soldier.

The property has and had various buildings and the buildings many names. Mr.
and Mrs. Chatfield Sr. lived in the house, set back from the road, which is now known as
Aldermere House, and remains in the Chatfield family today, as William inherited it.
Aldermere house was the center of the estate, with bowling green, rose gardens, a
goldfish pond and other key elements. There was also a large pontoon on the shore
shared by the Chatfields, Gilberges and others, until WWII when it washed out. A favorite
building, also now gone since the 1960s, was building was the bathhouse. An elegant
structure, the changing stalls were on the lower level and the upper level had glass porch
and kitchennette. Mrs. Black has vivid memories of her grandmother, Mrs. Chatfield Sr.,
sitting behind paneled glass watching the ships in the harbor, the Henry’s Wisahicett and
others, as the Chatfields didn’t have a yacht after Mr. Chatfield Sr died.

There is an art studio located off of Russell Ave, behind the Willows house which
was built during the Chatfield Sr. era. James H. Me(nc)ken was a landscape painter in
ME, many paintings, Mrs. Black owns one herself. She believes that the studio was built
for him, and not for Joseph R. DeCamp as is the general belief.

Joseph DeCamp was a family friend, and inhabitant of Cincinnati. He would
become one of the most famous American portrait painters. Mrs. Black recalls that there
is portrait by DeCamp of Albert Jr. as young man, at the Farnsworth Museum Collection. DeCamp lived between 1858-1923, though two fires one in Boston in 1904 and one later in a Maine studio destroyed most of his works.

The original Barrett Farmhouse, 70 Russell Road, became the home of Albert and Marion Chatfield Jr. when they retired to Maine. During their time it was called the Willows Homestead and is the building which Barrett family records refer to as the Amos Barrett house. Mr. Chatfield Sr. built the shingle style carriage house on Russell Ave, across from the Lilly Pond, just after the turn of the century for his horses, carriages, and eventually cars, the first of which he acquired in 1911. This building is now known as the Farmhouse and is the center of farm activity, and the cattle are housed in a series of buildings nearby, designed by Mr. Chatfield Jr. when he received the land. Today there are 36 buildings and five houses on the 136 acres of the Aldermere Farm property.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Helen H. Chatfield left the farm to be divided between her two living sons. Frederick had died in the 1940s and never married. The remaining sons divided the land according to their desires. Her second son William, who had married Bizzy Wolcott in 1916, inherited the main house, Aldermere, and 23 1/4 acres of land. Albert received the remaining 881/2 acres of land which would become Aldermere Farm. He specifically chose to inherit the farm and fields because of his agricultural and environmental interests.

**CHATFIELD (JR.) PERIOD**

Mr. Albert Chatfield Jr. was born in Cincinnati January 1, 1900, just after his family purchased his beloved Aldermere Farm. As a young man he attended St. Mark’s School in Southborough, MA and then enrolled in Harvard to study economics and English spending the winters holidays in Cincinnati and the summers in Maine. It was during his freshman year Harvard that his father passed away.

Mrs. Chatfield Jr., whose maiden name was Marion Wallace, was the daughter of Robert Bruce Wallace and Blanche Kinney Wallace, daughter of Adelbert T. Kinney of Shaker Heights Ohio, outside Cleveland. (“Five Generation Photograph…”)

The couple met on a Mediterranean cruise in 1923 aboard the vessel, the Rotterdam, off the coast of Spain. Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield Jr. had three children, a son
Robert Bruce Wallace, named after his maternal grandfather, a middle daughter Marion and the youngest, Anne. Robert Bruce died in the 1950’s and was the father of Nano Chatfield Higgins. The daughters currently live in Seattle and Maine, respectively. The couple was married for 69 years and had a partnership which extended to all aspects of their lives. Mr. Chatfield gave his wife the highest praise, saying that “she was a good judge of cattle, too.” (Lambert)

Chatfield Jr. worked for the U.S. Playing Card Company factory, rising in the ranks, and then left to work at an investment counsel firm. Up until then the couple had lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Indian Hill. When they retired to Rockport in 1950, they inhabited the old Amos Barrett Farmhouse, called the Willows. Mr. Chatfield may have brought his investment firm with him for a time.

Mr. Chatfield Jr. had a sailboat called the Godofin, which he designed, probably before WWII, Mrs. Black believes, and which the couple sailed for pleasure. As boats were his other passion, Albert was the Commodore of the Camden Yacht Club in the early ‘60s. But the farm management and sustainable usage was the couples main project after the 1950s. Through intense work and focused planning the Chatfield’s built the name of Aldermere Farm and the Belted Galloway a strong reputation. Judy Powell, Executive Secretary of the Maine Beef Industry Council, pointed out that Mr. Chatfield had so much clout because of his stellar business and agriculture reputation. “…he really believes in productive use of the land, when it is managed well and for the best use…” (Lambert.)

Mr. Chatfield designed the series of farm buildings, using timber grown on site and designed for fire resistance and efficiency. But like his father before him, he was determined that Spars woods be protected. Jean Freedman, with whom he worked in the Bay Chamber Concert Organization knew him well, saying that “his love of his farm and the livestock is evident whenever you speak to him. It always amazed me how he knows the names of each cow… he is indeed a man of the land.” (Lambert.)

Mr. Chatfield was extremely involved in the community, though most of his philanthropy work was done anonymously and little of it is even known to his own family. His niece, Mrs. Black recalls that he bought the Simmontown Quarries and gave them to the Nature Conservancy so that the type of dumping which occurred in the
Camden quarries, severely polluting the Lilly Pond, would not occur there as well. (Mrs. Black, April 27) “He gave and cared deeply about the Camden hospital” as well as the being a member of the Camden Concert Series committee, as treasurer for many years. (Mrs. Black, April 27) After her death the Marion W. Chatfield Memorial fund at the Rockport library continues to enable them to buy fiction books, expanding their collection. The couple was extremely involved in activities and giving throughout the community, but generally kept a low profile or complete anonymity.

Mrs. Chatfield Jr. died in 1993 after which time Mr. Chatfield Jr. began quietly preparing to donate Aldermere to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the holder of the three binding easements which they had already placed on the land. But Albert was an extremely private person and did not discuss the process with anyone, as Mrs. Black who was “as close as anyone” to him put it “he kept his cards close.” (Mrs. Black, April 27) Thus it is difficult to do more then infer the obvious reasons for his work for the preservation of the farm.

**THE BREED**

The Galloway is a old Scottish breed, with possible references to the belted cattle in writing dating back as far as the 11\(^{th}\) century, though the Belties are definitively noted as having developed in the 16\(^{th}\) century. The herd originated in what was called the Galloway district in southern Scotland and where bred hardy to withstand the difficult conditions there. A poetic quote in the Belted Galloway Breeder Handbook states that the cattle are,

> “As rugged as buffalo
> As thrifty as a Scot—
> The Cattle for God’s thousand hills
> And the places God forgot!” - H. Gordon Green

The Belted Galloways are closely related to the Galloway breed at large, which includes red, dun or black cattle colors, without the notable Beltie white sash. The Galloway breed is believed to be descended from an early Celtic breed, placing the origins of the cattle still further back in history. It is believed that the Belted Galloway are the result of breeding between the Black Galloway and the Dutch Belted Cattle. But belted cattle have existed in various parts of the world for many centuries.
The Belted Galloway cattle are so sturdy because of a double coat of hair, both soft and dense, which allows for warmth with little fat underneath, resulting in a very high quality beef. The mature bulls are around 1800 – 2000 lbs, placing them as a fairly small beef cattle breed, but because of their quality they are often referred to as husky. The cattle also graze in sustainable manners, aiding the land by their ability to forage rather than pull up all of the grass. Thus they can be raised on rougher land than many cattle. They are “thrifty, medium sized animals [which] more than earn their way in any beef herd.” (Belted Galloway Breeders Handbook) Because of their small size, good beef and sustainable grazing the breed is extremely economical.

**THE HERD**

Three years after inheriting the farm and beginning the soil replenishment the Chatfields decided on the Belted Galloway Breed of the Scottish Highlands, based on extensive research and having turned down the Hereford and Angus breed. The couple knew that they wanted to raise beef cattle, as the Maine climate is good for this and with increased urbanism the Maine land was becoming cheaper. They required a breed, which would not undo their hard work to restore the land, but rather would work with the tough land of the Maine farm and seasons. And as the Maine land is similar to the Galloway region of Scotland and the breed produced high quality beef, the fit was natural. The Chatfields knew from the beginning that because of the size of the farm and with their aims at sustainability and high quality they could not create a financially self-sufficient beef cattle farm, but that creating a solid breed stock would be more profitable and manageable.

Prior to his own herd the Belties did not have a strong history in the US, although Galloways in general were less uncommon. As Chatfield notes in his farm documents, circa 1977, one shipment of Galloways arrived in the 1920’s but whether they were belted or not is unclear because customs did not note this. Another herd created in 1939 in East Kortwright, New York was lost in the post WW II black market beef crisis. Galloways existed in western ranches but were little known out east. The only other Galloway herd in the Northeast was blacks, and slaughtered before Aldermere’s time.
Chatfield deemed himself both breeder and keeper of the history, such was his fondness for his chosen herd.

Marion and Albert purchased their first bull, called Dandie, and six females Belted Galloways in 1953 from the farm of Harry A. Prock in Pennsylvania. In 1956 they purchased two more heifers and a bull from the famous Scottish champion of the breed, Sir Ian Hamilton. This friendship would later bring Chatfield back to the U.K. to judge many shows, including Scotland’s Royal Highland and Agricultural Show, and the Royal Show in England, among others. In 1960 the Chatfields bought the champion Beltie bull from the Royal Highland Show of 1959, Burnside Great Scot, from the Rutherford family of Kelso, Scotland. Two heifers were acquired in 1966 from the Whittinghame herd in Scotland, and a bull, Sleepy Creek Mackay, in 1967 from the Sleepy Creek Summitcrest Farm in Ohio. Rolling Range Aristotle was imported in 1971 from Frank Selke’s Farm outside of Montreal and Mochrum Jamie came from Scotland in 1974. The last bull which Chatfield speaks of in this detailed account, intended to act as a record of the breeding stock, was Boreland Paramount of Sproat Farm at Borgue, Scotland, in 1977. (Chatfield, c. 1977.) Chatfield kept meticulous records of the herd’s bloodlines, both because he cared about it deeply and because breeding was his business.

Like Mr. Chatfield, breeders of Belties are notoriously fond of their herd and reluctant to sell unless they are certain of the circumstances into which the cattle will be brought and the abilities of the manager and buyer, thus sales built lifelong friendships. The Chatfield herd became the longest continuous herd of Belted Galloways in the US, and one of the highest quality due to very intentional and scientific breeding. The small Oreo cows, are both sustainable for breeding and aesthetically pleasing enough for the gentleman farmer to exhibit on his property. Chatfield once said that “To put together a fine herd of breeding cows is as much of a job as making a collection of paintings, or a library.” (Lambert.)

In the early years, Mr. Chatfield was aided by Mr. Samuel Dorrance, the Assistant Chief and Livestock specialist of the Maine Bureau of Animal Industry in Augusta, and by Dr. Harry H. Brugman, a professor of Animal Science at the Agricultural College of the University of Maine at Orono. (Chatfield, 1960-1963.) Both worked to scientifically
produce a better herd with each generation. As of the late 1990’s over 1,000 calves had been born on the farm.

Aldermere sold stock for breeding purposes selectively and showed the herd at certain fairs to spread awareness of the unique breed. Mr. Chatfield judged multiples shows all internationally and Aldermere put forth some of the best Belted Galloway time and again in Fairs around the country. The cattle even won interbreed competitions quite often. Even while working as a business the farm was engaged in breed education and community work nationally. Mr. Chatfield and Dwight Howard aided other breeders and producers, selling and giving key animals to farms and education programs all over the country. The editor of US Beltie News and the Breeder’s Handbook, Jane Faul, said that “Mr. Chatfield’s [Jr] consuming interest in the unique Belted Galloway breed of cattle has provided U.S. breeders with 50 year’s progress in both development of the animal and advancement of the breed society. This exceptional gentleman has brought his intelligence and resources to bear on the advancement of this countries breed population from a handful in the 1940’s to well over 6,000 today.” (Lambert)

And in spite of his love of the herd, Chatfield was ever a businessman noting that “Belties…are now increasingly recognized as providing the modern type carcass, without excessive waste…Truly it may be said that ‘Belties Breed Better Beef.’” (Chatfield, 1977.) Mr. Chatfield was a key player in the Belted Galloway Society of America and Scotland for almost fifty years and whenever the breed is mentioned his name soon follows.

The Kelmscott Farm in Lincolnville focuses on the preservation of rare breeds. The name Chatfield is on the wall of “Our Heroes,” underneath which it states “These breed stewards are models of what can be done by individuals with a passion for preserving our agricultural heritage.” (Lambert) Not only did Chatfield desire to save the land and use it to its best sustainable potential, so too was his aim for the Belted Galloway breed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT**

The state of the land, which Mr. Chatfield Jr. inherited in 1950, was explained accurately in the words of real estate appraiser, J. Hugh Montgomery. He said that “most
of the fields have been mowed, but not recultivated and therefore they are pretty well run out. The woods are in their natural state. Much of this land is valueless, some has considerable value.” (Chatfield 1964)

In 1964, Mr. Chatfield Jr. wrote that he had added about 30 acres of land to the 88 1/2 acres which he had inherited in 1950 from his mother. Most of these purchases were made to “straighten lines or round fields or pastures for more efficient operation.” (Chatfield, 1964) He estimated that the farm was made up of about 50 acres of pastures, 55 acres of woodlands, 6 acres of ledge lands and 9 acres of marsh, abutting the badly polluted Lilly Pond. (Chatfield, 1964.) Although the pond was clean during his childhood and pristine decades before that, by the 1940’s the Lilly Pond was badly polluted by runoff from dumping in the nearby quarries. The former lime quarries became the town dump of Camden and were in the watershed of the famous Lilly Pond.

Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield Jr. were extremely progressive, reading the theories of Louis Bromfield, using rotation land use, and eventually placing three land easements on their farm to protect it permanently. Albert wasted no time, starting to heal the land as soon as he inherited the land. “Commencing in the spring of 1951 an extensive program of soil improvement was adopted to restores fertility to the fields and pastures similar to that which had proved so successful at Louis Bromfield’s Malabar Farm in Ohio.” (Chatfield 1964.)

Well aware of the importance of historical records, Chatfield typed documents regarding farm details including equipment acquisitions, hay harvesting, and soil quality. He worked to replenish the soil, following a plan of the Soil Conservation Service of the US Dept. of Agriculture, using various animal manures, ground limestone and phosphate rock. Chatfield also planted soil rebuilding crops such as soy beans, hubam sweet clover and winter rye, plowing them under. A gifted businessman, Mr. Chatfield Jr. saw the wisdom of purchasing manure, primarily from the growing chicken farm industry, as the cost was little more then the price of moving it and the manure was extremely nitrogen rich. The soil types varied greatly from field to field, thus process for the replenishment of the soil was different for each.
And the choice of type of breed was extremely relevant to his work to rejuvenate the land. Many breeds of beef cattle destroy the fields by overgrazing and trampling, but the hardy Belties forage allowing the grass a chance to grow.

The Chatfield Jr.’s also divided the pasture land into four sections, with subdivisions, to enable rotational grazing for the growing herd. Historically the farm had produced its own hay, but as the herd spread to use more fields, Albert rented outside farmland to produce most of Aldermere’s hay. In 1964 Chatfield estimated that the farm harvested 8 of its own acres twice a year and 50 outside acres once a year, using special equipment bought in Scotland. He made sure that the equipment was treated with special care to prolong its life span in the wet New England environment. (Chatfield 1964)

Through a combination of their success with the farm and generosity the Chatfields and Aldermere became important in the Belted Galloway world and the small farming community in Maine. With their hard work on the farm itself, the Chatfields decided to take their work to protect the farm a step further. This was probably done both out of specific concern for their land and their awareness of the relatively high profile which the farm had, hoping to lead by example once again. In 1976 the first of three land easements was placed on Aldermere Farm with the help of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust as the holding organization. Another was soon after put in place in 1983. These two easements were aimed to protect the woods, restrict building and prohibit commercial development on the farmland. The third easement was placed in 1986 and was the most important insofar as specifying and limiting the uses of the land.

When Mrs. Chatfield Jr. passed away in 1993, in his quiet and determined manner, Mr. Chatfield asked the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to take over operation of the farm when he died. MCHT considered it carefully as they run no other operating farms and Mr. Chatfield desired the farm to continue and the cattle be bred, such management would require intense attention. But the Trust agreed, and Mr. Chatfield Jr. continued to be active in running the farm until he passed away June 14, 1999 and bequeathed it to MCHT.

MCHT
Today the Farm is run by the Trust, maintaining the land sustainable farming practices and the average of 90 head of Beltie cattle of Mr. Chatfield Jr.’s time. Ron Howard, son of former manager Dwight Howard is now the farm manager. The farm is still active in the international Beltie community, showing, breeding, and selling cattle, as well as beef. Aldermere is continuing its important support role in the community of breeders of the rare cattle, to promote the rare cattle, the beef, and to aid other producers as well. Both the protection of the farmland and the herd are important historical conservation work. The farm and the Trust are in an important position to promote responsible and productive local agricultural practices as well.

But Aldermere has also extended its operations to education, of both the young and old, working with the 4-H Club, Girl Scouts, and running their own programs such as Cow Whisperers, internships, and art shows. The community of Camden-Rockport is well aware of the value of Aldermere and its appeal but MCHT is working to engage the community more actively and to provide environmental and agricultural educational benefits. The non-cultivated conservation areas also provide a series of trails which are used in all seasons.

Although Aldermere and its owners were always extremely welcoming and supportive of the community, the new role of overtly working with and for the community, both local and international, is a new and important one. Examples such as Aldermere are extremely influential to other landowners and to the individuals which the farm outreach and nature directly affects.
Project Assessment for Future Students

Aldermere Farm and the Trust need student assistance on the further work for the Environmental Report, as my research has only been the beginning of what needs to be done. This work will be a continuation of the history which I have started, as the research required is extensive. I have set the framework, often noting future work which should be done.

An important future task will be compiling articles written about the farm, its owners and events over the centuries in various periodicals, both local and international. Most notably will be the Camden Herald and the Belted Galloway Society reports. The Camden – Rockport Historical Society, the Shore Village Museum in Rockland, and the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath may already have some documents and articles compiled.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Howard, the Farm Managers under Albert Chatfield Jr. probably knew him and the workings of the farm better then anyone. They are the best source on recent farm history, events and anecdotes and will be extremely helpful. This interview or series as the information is extensive, should be a significant part of the next step in the farm history.

Another important element of the report is creating a digital family tree of the Barretts and Chatfields, particularly in relation to how the farm was passed down through the families. Mrs. Howard (Sr.) and Mrs. Black are especially knowledgeable about this subject. Mrs. Howard has in fact started a Barrett tree which is in one of the farm folders.

It will also be useful to meet with Jane Arbuckle and discuss the easements on the farm and finally the donation to the Trust, as they will both have the documents with scientific specifics and perhaps some more personal sense of Mr. Chatfield Jr’s intent.

In terms of the land specific research it will be important to know more about the Victory Grove planted by Mrs. Chatfield Sr. as the Norway pines are nearing their time. The pollution of the once pristine Lilly Pond in the first half of the 1900s, caused by runoff from the town of Camden’s use of the old quarries for dumping, is an important environmental part of the farm history.
It is also believed that the Farnsworth Museum has a portrait of Mr. Chatfield Jr. in its collection, painted by DeCamp while Albert was a young man, during one of the artist’s visits to the farm. It would be very interesting to get the information about this image and a digital photograph of it for the Farm records.

The artist Me(nc)ken, for whom the studio on the grounds was built would also be an interesting lead to follow up. He was a landscape painter, it would be interesting to find if he had done any of the farm as he was in residence for so long.

These are a few of the specific elements of the research which I have become aware of, but unable to do myself as the semester has run out. All of the above, as with my own work, will help to fill in the gaps, and create a fluid history and picture of the farm, its owners, and their intentions. The farm hopes this research will lead to a large formal history and also an easily digestible history to be written in articles to be published in the local paper. I have written some brief articles, in the form of letters to the editor, but a more lengthy series would be very useful.
Farm Documents

   The reports put together for the MCHT and public when the farm was acquired by the Trust. Very brief overview of history. More information on current activities and aims of the farm.

“Chatfield Family Tree.” Mrs. Nancy Howard
   A handwritten document of the Chatfield tree, starting with Chatfield Sr. Is a work in progress.

“Aldermere Farm: Background and History.” c. 2002, Ron Howard (?)
   A good starting point with more basic overview info than the website and brochure. May be taken from the expanded (private) Report. Includes very basics of Bartlett, Chatfield Sr. & Jr. info., historical farm developments, excerpts from C Jr.s Will, and current assessment of farm usage’s.

•Folder – “Barrett, Genealogy etc.”
   Includes letters, family trees, and contact info for the Barrett family, which is now over 100 years removed from the farm. Extensive family research was done by Montague Wintherspoon Barrett, son of Randall M. Barrett, who lived in Maine before moving to VA. The information was shared with Chatfield Jr. by M.W. Barretts daughter, Mary Barrett Keefe in 1992.

“Portions of the Barrett Genealogy, from Mary Barrett Keefe, Jan. 1998”
   This is a useful family tree with informative history notes on Daniel Barrett and ancestors.

•Folder – “Chatfield Genealogy, Children Addresses.”
   Collection of articles, letters, documents pertaining to family history, primarily descendents of Chatfield Jr. onwards, not much pre-dating this generation.

“Five Generation Photograph…” Shaker Heights Ohio; May or June 1949.
   A photocopy of a photography of A.T. Kinny and male descendents/ inlaws and an attached explanation. This is the side of the family coming through Mrs. Chatfield Jr.
The folder contains the most diverse contents, relating to both Barrett and Chatfield land usage and history. Three of the documents are written by Jr. regarding his herd, including public statements, histories and letters. The file also includes various short articles from publications regarding the breed and farm.

Chatfield Jr., A.H. “Aldermere Farm, the Herd.” c. 1960-1963
   A brief history by Jr. of his reasons, choices and actions in forming the Belted Galloway herd in Maine.

Chatfield Jr., A.H. Aldermere Farm Rockport Maine. February 10, 1964
   In this document Jr. records specifics about the land inherited, and acquired, how it was revitalized, haying processes and equipment used.

Chatfield Jr., A.H. The Aldermere Herd, circa 1977, a speech given in the U.K. to a Galloway breeder audience.
   In this, the second, typewriter document, he discusses the specific bulls and heifers acquired, how, from where, when, and often even why. As well as a very brief history of the breed in the US before and after Aldermere. He also refers to his land revitalization work and the economical beef produced by Galloways.

Hansen, Betty Fulton. The Poet and the Pond Known as Lilly.
   An amateur poem written for pleasure about the farm pond written both as a reflection and with an awareness of the history. An example of the masses of arts of all forms inspired by the farm.

   Written during Jr. last years, the piece, either for a newspaper or a speech, eloquently shares the personality and actions of the humble man with many specific quotes and anecdotes. It is a very useful portrait.

**Onsite Texts and Articles**

   A great collection of sources. Excerpts on many other farms which may have worked with or been aided by the Chatfields, to contact or research in the future. Great histories and lists of awards and judges.

Fetscher, Lisa.”The way we live: The Beltie Society is in Town and Things are buzzing.” Farm and ranch Living. (Magazine.) December/January 2003 p. 54-59.
   A summer intern writes a diary about her experiences, community.

An interesting narrative of a British gentleman farmer, pre WWII, part a history and party a how too. Some useful explorations of the origins of the breed and the war time history, and sales.


A good source for basic information and statistics on the breed. p. 70-73.


  This dense historical text is useful, with detailed pieces of information but finding the bits is challenging. It is best to approach the text with known dates as it is organized chronologically.


**Outside Texts and Documents**

- Camden Herald archives

  The local paper which was first published in 1869.


  A detailed look at shipbuilding in Camden. She provides details but not the context so without extensive prior research it is difficult to discern what relates to the Aldermere property.


  This postcard image based history of the area has bits of applicable history, frustratingly typical of the spotty histories in general, and written with the kind of insiders pride which must be doubted a bit.

- The Farms of Maine.  Center for Research and Advanced Study, University of Southern Maine ; the Land and Water Resources Center, University of Maine at Orono, Portland, Me.: University of Southern Maine, 1986.

- Locke, John L.  *Sketches of the history of the town of Camden, Maine; including incidental references to the neighboring places and adjacent waters*.  Hallowell, Masters, Smith & company, 1859.

- Maine Coast Heritage Trust documents – The Three Land Easements placed on the
Like Simonton’s text, this is lightly historical, but is basically trying to sell the appeal of the Camden area to the ritzy summer set. By now Camden and Rockport are separate towns, but he does touch on Beauchamps Point occasionally. The book contains useful turn of the century architectural photographs, including the Chatfield’s house.


Although not terribly descriptive or specifically relevant, the brochure describes the appeal of the vacation image which the greater Camden area was developing. The Lily Pond, still owned by the Barrett’s is alluded to as a pleasant drive. There is a black and white print of William S. Barrett and brief discussion about the son of Daniel Barrett, builder of the turnpike.

Websites

• http://www.beltie.org/
  The official website of the Belted Galloway Society Inc. with newsletters, links, stats, articles (many of which are about the farm, will print out copies for new files) and other very useful information.

• http://www.malabarbelties.com/faqs.html
  A site run by Malabar Farm, formerly owned by the famed writer and farmer, Louis Bromfield, whom the Chatfields read extensively. It is a broad but useful overview of the Belted Galloway, its uses, history, and how to breed them sustainably. A very like minded farm to Aldermere, thus parallels can be drawn.

• http://www.sare.org/
  The Sustainable Agriculture Network.  Great links.

• http://www.albc-usa.org/links.htm
  The American Livestock Breed Conservancy.

• http://www.mcht.org/
  The Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

• http://members.aol.com/vsena/knox/Rockport.html
Rockport, Maine, USGenWeb, On Line Genealogy Page. The site is a great jumping off point for Rockport specific research, even noting specific individuals who are notable sources.

Contacts

• Arbuckle, Jane
  207-729-7366
  website is http://www.mcht.orh/our_org.html
  She is the contact at the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the person to contact about the easements and donation of the farm.

• Mrs. Black
  Albert Chatfield Jr.s niece, matriarch of family
  (513) 561-8705
  FAX (513) 527-4934
  She was very helpful when I interviewed her April 27 and offered to be available to future students. She has many more anecdotal stories which would be very useful to the project.

• Chatfield, Nancy (Nano).
  Jr.s granddaughter, very willing to provide information.
  nano@ramtrust.com
  Rams Head
  15 Ram Island Farm
  Cape Elizabeth, ME, 04107
  (207-799-9205)

• Howard, Dwight and Nancy.
  Parents of Ron Howard, current Farm Manager, and former managers themselves. They will be the most useful sources on Farm history and Mr. Chatfield Jr., who was successfully very private. They should definitely be interviewed at length.

• Howard, Ron.
  (207)236-2739,
  FAX (207)230-2582,
  rhoward@mcht.org
  www.aldermere.org
  The current General Manager, and community service partner for the project. He oversees community and farm activities, is very helpful and knows a lot of history of the farm and breed as well.

• Fernald, Sally. As of 1998, President of the Camden Garden Club.
Maybe Mrs. Chatfield was involved, or they might know about the Victory Grove. Also, she speaks about the involvement of the 1940’s Olmstead Brothers town planning, may have visited Aldermere? (11/19/1998 Camden Herald “Guest Column.”)


Organizations

- The Camden Herald  
  207-236-8511  
  FAX 207-236-4245  
  cherald@courierpub.com

- The Camden – Rockport Historical Society  
  Conway House Historical Museum, Rt. 1, Elm St., Box 747, Rockport, ME, 207-236-2257 (Tues-Fri 10am - 4pm in July and August)  
  chmuseum@mint.net  
  They are closed during the school year but might be accessible via email, this is key for the future research documents and images.

- Maine Maritime Museum, Bath  
  207-443-1315  
  http://www.bathmaine.com  
  Archives which may be useful for the 1800 boat building period on the farm.

- Maine State Archives  
  LMA building, State House Station, Augusta, Me 04333,  
  207-287-5795,  
  Hrs Mon-Fri 8-11:30 12:30-4

- Shore Village Museum, Rockland  
  207-594-0311

- Rockport Town Clerk  
  Box 10, Rockport, ME 04856  
  207-236-9648  
  This is the most direct source for public documents, land ownership and sales, marriages, births and deaths.

Environmental History Texts


Town, Brian Donahue.  *Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farms and the Forests in New England.*