

80.155

MAINE STATE MUSEUM

Incoming Collections

Date 11/3/80

Source Mr. David Crockett

Address [Redacted]

- Gift
- Purchase
- Loan
- Expedition
- Exchange
- Salvage
- Other

Consignor Ida R. Rust

[Signature] Collecting Officer

Items	History, Remarks, etc.	Location
Chaise	Information on history of chaise to be provided by donor.	
Hat	<p>Historical note in box accompanying hat</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>great grand father Johnathan Rust's straw hat. Born 1761 Died 1820 Farmington Falls, Maine (Boy) Died at New Sharon, Maine.</p> </div>	

- Instructions
- (1) Complete form, including two signatures, at source of collection.
 - (2) Detach second sheet and leave as temporary receipt.
 - (3) On delivery of collection to museum complex complete Location column, forward form to Registrar with all pertinent papers, letters, invoices, etc. attached.



GIFT AGREEMENT

MAINE STATE MUSEUM COMMISSION

The following has been donated by me as a gift to the Maine State Museum without restricting or limiting conditions:

Date: Nov. 5, 1980

Museum Number	Description
80.155.1	Chaise
.2	Hat belonged to Johnathan Russ, born 1761, Farmington Falls, Maine, died 1820, New Sharon, Maine
N/a	Photograph of chaise and of man wearing hat that appears to be 80.155.2

Please sign one copy and return it to the Museum.

Name of donor
Mr. David Crockett

Address
[Redacted]

Date NOV. 19, 1980

Signature of donor David Crockett

80.155

Station 83

November 12, 1980

David Crockett



Dear Mr. Crockett:

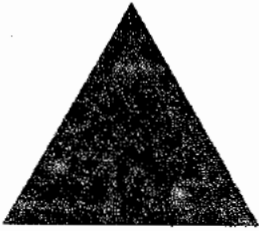
The Maine State Museum is very pleased to add the chaise and straw hat to our permanent collections, and thank you for your generosity to the Museum.

In order for our records to be as complete as possible, we would appreciate any additional information you might be able to provide about the chaise, such as place and date of manufacture, etc.

Again, we thank you for your donation to the Maine State Museum.

Sincerely,

Miss Jane E. Radcliffe
Registrar



MAINE STATE MUSEUM State House Station 83, Augusta, Maine 04333, Paul E. Rivard, Director (207) 289-2301

14 August 1980

Mr. David Crockett
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Crockett:

Thank you very much for bringing to our attention the one-horse chaise located in Sharon, Maine. Because of its long association with a Maine family and Maine town, this carriage is of more than passing interest to the Maine State Museum.

Although we do not often seek to acquire large vehicles because of the space required for their care, we would be certainly very grateful if we could secure the chaise from Sharon. It is a handsome vehicle which would add considerably to the Museum's exhibition potential.

If the chaise could be acquired it would be maintained by the State Museum and used intermittently for a variety of exhibit possibilities. If your family were to agree to this gift, for instance, I suspect that the carriage could first be used next January in conjunction with a new version of the "Curators' Choice" exhibition...which is reserved for our finest new accessions.

We are grateful for your interest in the Maine State Museum and look forward eagerly to your decision regarding this very interesting carriage. We sincerely hope for a positive decision to this request for consideration in providing a secure home for this vehicle. Thanks again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Rivard
Director

es

[REDACTED]
January 8, 1981

Mr. Paul Rivard, Director
Maine State Museum
State House - Station 83
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr. Rivard:

Long last I have cleared away a backlog on my desk and am able to supply you with some information on the chaise. Enclosed are some copies of genealogical and historical documents concerning ownership of the vehicle. We have no other information on who might have been the builder. Perhaps I should add that my grandfather had four daughters; Ada, my mother, Ida, Marion and Florence of whom Ida and Marion are still living.

Of the other items that attracted your interest in our barn, we wish to keep the sleigh and blanket chest for the time being. The shingle maker's bench is actually a harness maker's bench I believe. The boat you saw is actually a model of a larger open motor boat. It probably was used for instructional purposes in training boat builders during World War I. It came from a cellar in Massachusetts and had been there since the 1930's. It was too poor to use for anything but too good to throw out so it was relegated to the barn. If you still have interest in the bench and boat please let me know.

Sincerely,



David Crockett

Enclosures

RECEIVED

JAN 16 1981

MAINE STATE MUSEUM

Jonathan Rust { John Rust.
Joe "
Henry "
Mary "

Jonathan Rust or Russ born Monday Dec. 21, 1761 Co. Essex, Ipswich, Mass.
Died Wed. Aug. 30, 1820.

Married Mary Flint Tuesday Mar. 21, 1786.

CHILDREN.

Lydia Russ. born Wednesday, December 27, 1786.
John Russ " Thursday, August, 7, 1788, Died Aug. 27, 1838.
Henry Russ. " Friday, May 21, 1790.
" Sunday June 21, 1792.
Jonathan Russ " Wednesday Sept, 3, 1794, died Sept 15, 1800.
Mary Russ, " Wednesday August, 17, 1796.
Ebenser Russ " Wednesday June 27, 1778, died Sept 11, 1800.
Sally Russ, " Saturday April 12, 1800.
Hiram Russ " Sunday May 31, 1802, died Feb 12, 1803.
Jonathan Russ " Wednesday December 7, 1803 died April 13, 1882.
Hiram Russ " Sunday August 3, 1806.

1 Henry Rust was born in Essex county England and was an emigrant to this county in 1635
he was the father (2) Nathaniel born 1641 who was the father of (3) Nathaniel born March 16, 1667,
who was the father of (4) Joseph born March 22, 1696 who was the father of (5) Joseph born
Oct. 14, 1726 father of (6) Jonathan born Dec. 21, 1761 and changed the name to Russ. (6)
Joseph Grandfather of W.M. Russ Belfast) Jonathan (6) was the father of (7) Jonathan Russ
born Dec. 7, 1803 father of (8) (Harry Severy Russ born 1868 . (6) Parker Rust the son of Joseph
(5) became a doctor and was father of the celebrated Dr. Dennison Russ who did so much for
educational matters. Dr. Parker changed his name to Russ, he being a brother of Jonathan
I presume the arrangement was agreed upon.

Dr. Parker Rust was born 1768 his brother Jonathan your Grandfather was born 1761
Your grandfather was Jonathan and you give the same name for your great grandfather but it
was Joseph also the great grandfather of W.M. Rust of Belfast Me.

Journal of choice

Jonathan Russ →

"The shay belonged to father's
 grand father Russ, and was the
 first wheel carriage, or pleasure
 carriage that was brought into
 the town of New Sharon.
 As near as I can tell it was
 soon after 1800.

Uncle Hiram (Davis) used to have
 it and always took good care of
 it, and it was in good shape.
 After he died Frank Davis ran
 the farm up there and left the
 shay outdoors, and it sat in
 the sun and rain one summer
 and nearly ruined the top."

Copied from a letter my grandfather,
 Harry S. Russ wrote.

David B. B. B.

The Falls:
Where Farmington, Maine,
began in 1776



Farmington Historical Society

Pilgrimage No.6

July 4, 1976

by

Ben and Natalie S. Butler

MEMBERS: MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FARMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CITIZENS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

He was a loyal member of the Masonic fraternity, a fact that led to his being the butt of a joke among his friends. He was a large, portly man and when it was necessary for him to don his Masonic apron for the rituals, his fellow Masons invariably inquired whether he intended to tie it above or below his bulging stomach.

David Morrill suffered a tragic death when he was instantly killed by falling from the beams of his barn, December 28, 1842.

THE RUST OR RUSS FAMILY

Family Background

Henry Rust, the immigrant ancestor of the Russes and Rusts, came to Hingham, Massachusetts, from Hingham, England, around 1633. He was a glover by trade and was admitted as a freeman in March 1637/38. In 1645, he was the town clerk of Hingham.

He later moved to Boston, buying land at the corner of what is now Summer and Hawley Streets. Henry later deeded this land to his son, Nathaniel, who had followed his father's trade as a glover. Nathaniel and his wife, Mary, were the great-grandparents of Henry Rust, who purchased 6,000 acres of land in 1787 to become the proprietor of Rustfield, an early designation for the present town of Norway, Maine.

Nathaniel and Mary were also the parents of Nathaniel, born March 16, 1667, who married Joanna Kinsman. Nathaniel took part in the expedition against Canada in 1690. Five years later, in Ipswich, he was granted two acres of land for the loss and damage he sustained under Sir Edmund Andros' government.

Nathaniel died in 1711. One of his sons, Joseph, born March 22, 1696, became the father of Joseph, born October 14, 1726. Among the children of the latter Joseph were Jonathan Rust, born December 21, 1761, who became an early settler at Farmington Falls (see Russ House under "Buildings: Extinct and Extant") and Parker Rust. Jonathan and Parker later changed the spelling of their name to Russ. Parker became a doctor and father of Dr. John Denison Russ (1801-1881), a famous educator of the blind and a great worker for penal reform. He also invented the phonetic alphabet.

Jonathan Russ

Jonathan Russ and Mary Flint were married on March 21, 1786. Later they came to the Falls and settled in the Russ House, as it was soon called (see "Buildings: Extinct and Extant"). Jonathan soon became engaged in running the sawmill and gristmill which he sold to his sons in 1813. He took an active part in the Universalist faith and was one of those who signed the petition to incorporate the Universalist Society of Farmington, a petition that was granted in 1811. He performed some civic duties by serving as moderator for the town meeting in 1806 and as a selectman in 1809.

After his son, John, took over the Russ House as a tavern, Jonathan moved to New Sharon where he died on August 30, 1820.

Henry Russ

One of Jonathan and Mary's 12 children, Henry, born May 21, 1790, served as a private in Captain Daniel Beale's company of militia of Farmington that was called out for the defense of the seacoast and was in Hallowell from September 12 to 16, 1814, awaiting orders. Henry was one of the privates ordered to Bath from Hallowell, and where the militia remained until November 8.

Henry, who had his gristmill at the Falls, served as a town selectman in 1845.

John Russ

John Russ, another of Jonathan and Mary's sons, was born August 7, 1788. Besides running the Russ House and a sawmill at the Falls, he also did some bridge-building. In 1828 he rebuilt the bridge at the Falls, and he also worked on the Fairbanks bridge.

John was one of the committee, including Joseph Fairbanks and James Butterfield, that was appointed by the town to number and define the limits of the several school districts. At the time, 21 districts were established. In 1832, John was elected a trustee of Farmington Academy, a position he held until his death August 27, 1838.

John also signed the petition for the incorporation of the Universalist Society, as did his father. In 1832, the state agreed to return the ministerial funds that had accumulated through the years to the various religious societies in the town. These were the tax payments the state had collected to

owner of cheese

was where brought cheese circa 1802

support a minister to watch over the spiritual needs of the inhabitants. Because one minister never could have satisfied Farmington's populace, the funds had not been expended. The Universalists selected John Russ to receive their share of the total, a sum amounting to \$686.17. They kept the amount and used the income, plus some voluntary contributions, to support preaching for the society.

Russ was also active in civic affairs. He was town moderator in 1835, a selectman in 1819, '20, '25, '26 to '30, and again in '34. He served as a representative to the legislature in 1830.

Jonathan Russ, Jr.

Still another of Jonathan and Mary's sons, Jonathan, Jr. was born December 7, 1803. He lived for awhile in New Sharon, but at the time of his death on April 13, 1882, he had been a resident of the Falls for some years.

While in New Sharon he was a representative to the state legislature and was the county treasurer in 1843 and '44. He served as county commissioner in 1848, '49, '50, '51, '52.

After moving to the Falls, he was a selectman in 1854, '55 and '69. In 1854, he took part in the famous convention at Strong when the Morrill Democrats, of which he was a member, the Whigs, and the Free-Soilers all united to form the Republican Party. It is believed that Maine was the first state in the east to form a complete Republican organization. In 1856, Russ attended the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia that nominated John Fremont.

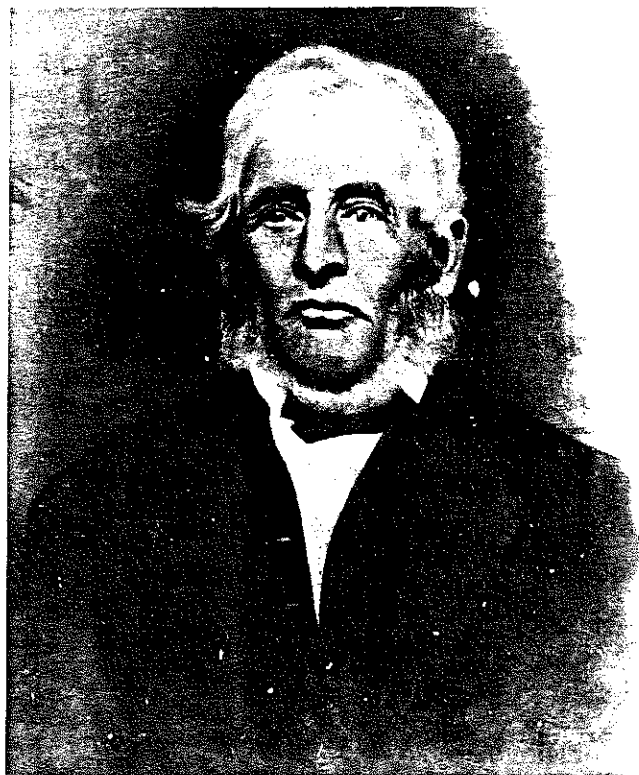
Jonathan was married twice. His first wife, Sarah E. Bragdon, died in 1854, and in 1867, he married Sarah's sister, Ellen N. Bragdon.

My Harry and Annie Mae Russ

g grandfather Jonathan Russ, Jr. had a son, Jonathan, by his first wife, and two children, Harry and Annie Mae, by his second wife. Harry went into the carriage-making business in Mt. Vernon, where his daughter, Ida R. Russ still lives.

Annie married Edwin S. Longley, a minister. Both Annie and her husband played important parts in the life of the Union Meeting House at the Falls (see "Meeting Houses and Churches").

Hiram Russ (See Herbert C. Mosher Home under "Buildings: Extinct and Extant").



(Courtesy, Ida R. Russ)

JONATHAN RUSS (1803-1882)

THE STINCHFIELD FAMILY

Jeremiah Stinchfield

Jeremiah Stinchfield was a nephew of Thomas Stinchfield, the man responsible for saving the little settlement at Sandy River Lower Township from the wrath of the Indians (see "Facts and Fancies").

Jeremiah's grandfather, John, born in Leeds, England, in 1715, came to Gloucester, Massachusetts, on a small sailing vessel in 1735. Twenty years later, John and his family moved to New Gloucester, Maine. It was there that Jeremiah was born on December 5, 1774.

Whether his uncle's tales of Farmington Falls inspired the younger man to settle in that village is hard to know, but he was there at an early date. In an old account book kept at Zachariah Butterfield's store, which later became the Russ House, is the brief entry for March 14, 1799: "Major Stinchfield began boarding with me." Evidently young Stinchfield who was then sole owner of the fulling mill he had bought as a partner in 1797

Jonathan Russ House (This is designated as the Alden Hilton House on Map B; also shown as dwelling house #515, Map E)

The old Russ house was one of the most historic places at the Falls. Although it was torn down years ago, its story deserves to be told.

According to Parker's *History of Farmington*, 1846:

Thomas Whittier and Nathaniel Bishop built a store at the Falls, furnished it with goods about 1796; in 1798 or 9 they sold to Zachariah Butterfield, who continued trade and the making of potash until 1802, at which time he sold to Jonathan Russ, who continued the business some time to considerable extent.

Later, Russ' son, John, kept a tavern there, and finally the house became a tenement. By 1914 only a small part of the ell was still standing. Today, nothing remains.

The house was built on the site of the old Indian fort. Near the house was the road that led to the ferry, the only means of crossing the Sandy River at that point until the bridge was built in 1808.

Description

The Russ home was a two-and-a-half story building with a one-story ell. Outside were two mammoth chimneys and a finely-carved door frame at the front entrance.

Inside, one first entered a small hall containing the staircase, with a landing halfway up. A large room opened off from the hall which was undoubtedly the office when the house was used as an inn. Under the stairs was a curious closet and in this was the bar. In those days rum was as much of a necessity for a store as it was for a tavern.

There were two large rooms in the ell, two in the main part of the house, and several other small rooms. The four large rooms had fireplaces, and all the walls were painted with murals by Jonathan Poor. Poor was a nephew of Rufus Porter, a man who, with his nephew and another painter known simply as "Paine," has since become famous as the artist responsible for many of the murals done in Maine and other states from about 1824 to 1845.

John Russ and the Tavern

Early in the 1800's, when John Russ took over the house and store from his father, the entire building was used as a tavern. At that same time, Jonathan



(Courtesy, Miss Ida R. Russ)

OLD RUSS HOUSE

Built before 1800; torn down in 1914.

moved his store into the Williams house, which was on property adjoining his own.

In a *Farmington Chronicle* of 1906, Isabel Sewall wrote this account of the Russ house when it was run as a tavern:

John Russ kept the house as a tavern for many years. His wife was Martha Hamblin of good Quaker stock, but she became very eccentric before her death. It is said that often, much to her husband's annoyance, she would dress for some especially gay social event in Quaker costume, although she usually wore worldly clothes. During her last illness Mrs. Russ ordered her shroud prepared and then insisted upon trying it on. She called for a mirror and lay back in her pillows with her eyes partly closed, trying to see how she would look at her funeral.

After Mrs. Russ' death, John Russ' sister, Mrs. Hamblin, came to the tavern to keep house for him, bringing with her two children, Pamela, aged 11, and Sarah, aged 8. John Russ, himself, had five children: Marthy Ann, 11, George, 9, John, 8, Charles, 5, and Rosamond, 3 years old. Such good times as those seven children did have — double cousins as they were. The days were very busy ones for all the grown-up folks and so the children were left very much to themselves. There were hair-breadth escapes from the second windows and many a perilous climb to the very end of the swaying willow branches over the river.

There were times when the tavern was crowded to its utmost capacity. Then the children had to sleep anywhere and everywhere — in the attic over the ell, which at that time could only be reached by a tiny opening through the main building, in chests, and even on the closet shelves. During one muster the house was so full that the children were entirely crowded out and a "field bed" was made for them on the floor of the spinning and weaving house which stood in the dooryard. [This reference to a field bed refers to an obsolete definition meaning "a portable bed, usually folding, suitable for use in the field or open air."].

After John Russ sold the property around 1830, it had many owners among whom were John Seavey,