

**Maine State
Museum**

83 State House Station
Augusta, ME
04333

80.155
Phone: (207) 287-6606
Fax: (207) 287-6633
E-mail: Douglas.Hawes@state.me.us

Thursday, August 21, 1997

Dr. Harold Kearney
New Sharon Historical Society
P.O. Box 69
New Sharon, ME 04955

Dear Dr. Kearney,

We are currently disposing of a chaise (MSM acc. # 80.155.1) with an excellent New Sharon history. It has already been deaccessioned and we are seeking other repositories for donation who may be interested in acquiring it. It is currently stored in barns on Cony Road here in Augusta. We have to be out of them by the end of September. Regretfully, we do not have adequate storage space for the chaise and are seeking its preservation in another institution.

It is from the prominent Russ or Rust family of Farmington. It belonged to Jonathan Russ (1876-1820) (see Ben & Natalie S. Butler, The Falls: Where Farmington, Maine, began in 1776 (p. 27). After his son took over the Russ House as a tavern, Jonathan moved to New Sharon and died there. In a letter written by Harry S. Russ, grandfather of the donor, the "chaise belonged to father's grandfather Russ [Jonathan Russ], and was the first wheel carriage, or pleasure carriage that was brought into the town of New Sharon." This would have been c. 1802.

If interested, please contact me as soon as possible. We would need your institution to move the vehicle. We must be out of the barns by the end of September. If I don't hear from you in the next two weeks, I will assume you have declined the offer.

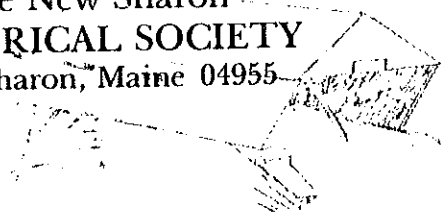
Sincerely,



Douglas F. Hawes
Curator of Historical Collections

cc: J.R. Phillips, Director

The New Sharon
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
New Sharon, Maine 04955



September 10, 1997

Douglas F. Hawes
Curator of Historical Collections
Maine State Museum
83 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. Hawes:

In response to your letter of August 12, 1997, the New Sharon Historical Society is most happy to accept your offer of the Russ chaise (MSM acc.# 80.155.1) for our collection. We have already secured a safe place to house it. It will, no doubt, be the centerpiece of our collection.

Dr. Harold Kearney has been down to see the vehicle and he has made arrangements for members of our local fire department to pick it up before the end of September.

Thank you for thinking of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Bill Reid". The signature is written over the typed name and title of the sender.

Dr. Wm. L. Reid III
President, NSHS

Bill Reid

778-2325 - Peter Mather 778-3186



MAINE STATE MUSEUM

State House Station 83
Augusta, Maine 04333-0083

(207) 287-2301

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

This is to acknowledge that I, Peter Mantel, representative of the New Sharon Historical Society, have received the object(s) listed below from the Maine State Museum on this date: 9/26/97. The object(s) have been deaccessioned and are permanently transferred.

Catalog #

Object

80.155.1

Chaise, belonged to Jonathan Russ (1761-1820)

Received by:

Peter Mantel

Date:

9-26-97

Released by:

Douglas Hawes

Date:

9-26-97