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Gloucester–Rockport Reunion

Sept. 21-24, 2023



Attendees of the Haskell Family Reunion gather in front of the William Haskell House at 11 Lincoln Street in West Gloucester, Massachusetts, on Saturday, September 23, 2023, before taking guided tours of the house and enjoying lunch in the backyard.

The predicted rain on Saturday, September 23rd, held off until mid-afternoon, allowing reunion attendees to enjoy lunch in the backyard of the William Haskell House in West Gloucester and tour the house where William¹ Haskell lived from the time when the house was built in about 1680 until he died in 1693 at the age of 74.

Vijay Joyce, Architectural Historian and Preservationist, led four groups of ten through the house for a personalized half-hour tour, pointing out tiny details one would miss on a cursory look around. Vijay also gave an informative talk the night before at the Rockport Inn & Suites on Historic Haskell Houses, where he showed photos of various houses in the area previously owned by a Haskell.

Destino's sandwich shop in Gloucester delivered trays of assorted wraps and finger rolls, which, together with a variety of chips and delicious chocolate-chip cookies, kept everyone from going hungry as they explored the Haskell house and grounds.

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Notes from the Chairman

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Richard Edmund¹⁰ "Dick" Haskell

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(Joseph Wayne¹⁰, Joseph Thissell⁹, Joseph Thissell⁸ Haskell, Peggy⁷ Thissell, Lucy⁶ Lovett, Josiah⁵ Lovett, Rebecca⁴ Woodbury, Mary³ Dodge, Mary², William¹)

After months of planning, I was pleased that the reunion in Gloucester and Rockport went very well, based on the many comments I received about how excited people were to explore the house their ancestors lived in three and a half centuries ago, how gracious the owners, Richard and Natalie Samuelson, were, and how Vijay Joyce made history come alive in both guiding the tours through the house and in his Friday after-dinner talk on historic Haskell houses.

The Friday weather was picture-perfect, and the threatened rain on Saturday held off until our bus driver, Connie, got us back to the Rockport Inn & Suites around 2:30. Some in our group (not me!) walked the mile to Bearskin Neck in Rockport, where they needed their umbrellas before the afternoon was over.

I met several people for whom this was their first Haskell reunion. Peter Goss from Australia had brought his wife Annie with him to the Plymouth reunion in 2019, but this time, he brought his mother Lori, who was delightful and enjoyed every minute of her first trip to the United States. See the article on page 7 she sent me about their visit to Salem on Friday with Carey and Loretta Haskell. Peter made a video of the inside of the William Haskell house and posted it on his [Facebook page](#). For those who



At the Friday night dinner, I presented a framed photograph I had taken earlier this year of the Haskell House to Natalie and Richard Samuelson as their two children looked on.

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Editor's Notebook

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Charles Thomson¹⁰ "Tom" Haskell III

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This is expected to be my last Editor's column for the Haskell Family Association Journal, but not necessarily my last written contribution. I often think about the encouragement from previous members and leaders of the organization who encouraged me to take the roles that others are now serving. Issue 20 was my first as a member of the Haskell Family Association, although I now have copies of all the HFA Journals, including the first four issues—some of the early ones were given to me by HFA members who had extra copies—including my parents for issues 6-19. Issues 1-5 were gifted to me during my first term on the HFA Board following the 2002 Board Meeting. I have enjoyed my experiences serving as a Board Member. I would encourage all members to remain involved and urge them to consider active roles such as board members, officers, reunion planners, and regular attendees of reunions.

I assure my future replacement as editor that the additional items and stories you receive from the members are interesting and worth reporting. While the in-person reunions and most journals are fun to read, none are possible without the members who submit information. We

rely on the readers and members for stories, and I can assure you it would be impossible to print a journal if there were not those who write the stories and those who send us your family experiences, accomplishments, and challenges. Keep in touch with the Haskell Journal regarding family and those of your ancestors and children who have interesting experiences to share. Include what services they have offered, what events they have witnessed, how they have inspired others, and how their lives and experiences have changed yours.

This issue reflects the experiences of those who attended the reunion and visited Haskell heritage sites as part of their stay. Had I attended the reunion, it would have been the third or fourth time I had seen some places that were viewed. I thought skipping this year's reunion would be better due to some health issues I experienced at the start of this year. It was a pleasure, however, to see the sites again, as pictured in this issue. I am sorry that I could not meet the new people in person who attended this reunion for the first time.

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continued from page 2 **Notes from the Chairman**



L-R: Peter Goss, Dick Haskell, Edie Haskell, Lori Goss at the Friday night dinner at the Rockport Inn & Suites.

could not attend the reunion, and even those who did, it is well worth watching. Peter did a masterful job.

Following a catered buffet dinner Friday night in the Sea Glass Room at the Rockport Inn & Suites, Vijay Joyce kept the audience spellbound with a splendid talk about Historic Haskell Houses in the area. His knowledge of old houses is remarkable, and he led four groups through the William Haskell house on Saturday. You can learn more about Vijay at his website, rekindledhistory.com.

Tom Haskell

As mentioned in his column beginning on page 2, Tom Haskell is stepping down as editor of the *Haskell Journal* after many years of service to the Haskell Family Association.



Peter Goss and Vijay Joyce following Vijay's after-dinner talk Friday night on Historic Haskell Houses.

How many years? Tom and I attended our first Haskell Family Reunion in Danvers in 1989 (see photo at right). Tom started serving on the HFA Board in 1996 and became Chairman in 2000. He served as both Chairman and Editor from 2007 to 2009 and has continued as editor to the present issue. As Chairman and Editor, Tom wrote, edited, printed, and mailed Issues 52 through 80 from 2000 to 2009.



Marlene and Tom with Elisabeth and Ben – 1989

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continued from page 2 **Editor's Notebook**

I continue to hope for attendance at more reunions in the future and assure you that going to reunions is better than just reading about them. As the journal editor, I find it gratifying to read the contributions, and I've enjoyed every issue, even when I've been one of the last to submit my portion.

Fortunately, the formatting and structure of the Haskell Journal since issue 81 have been under the direction of Richard E. Haskell, and he neatly coordinates and edits the format. He still allowed me to use the title "Editor." Working as the editor has been a pleasure, and Richard has been a great leader as Chairman.

Hearing and reviewing the interesting histories, stories, pictures, and visits with the HFA members has been a pleasure. I look forward to remaining a member as long as possible and reading about the Haskell Family Association's experiences. I encourage readers to recruit new members for the reunions and share their family stories.



Left to right, Daughter Elisabeth, grandson Lumen, Mary Haskell (Ted's wife), Tom Haskell, Ted Haskell (brother), Marlene Haskell (Tom's wife).

My brother Ted and his wife Mary were here in Omaha for a three day visit in early October. We were joined by my daughter, Elisabeth, and grandson, Lumen for a nice restaurant dinner. Some of you have met everyone in the above photo at previous reunions, except Lumen!

continued from page 1 **Gloucester-Rockport Reunion**

The new owners of the William Haskell House, Richard and Natalie Samuelson, were gracious hosts and joined us for dinner at the Rockport Inn & Suites on Friday and Saturday nights. Richard told how they came to buy the house and their desire to make sure it is perpetually preserved. He shared their vision of developing some of the land into gardens and restoring the barn, making it a focal point for preserving and promoting Puritan history.

Natalie had several Haskell House items for sale in the barn, including tote bags, mugs, water bottles, wine glasses, and T-shirts. You can purchase these items on [Etsy](#). The Haskell House is now available as a Bed & Breakfast, and if you would like to stay overnight there, you should check out their new [website](#) and Natalie's [William Haskell House Facebook page](#).



Lunch Gathering at the William Haskell House



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continued from page 4 **Gloucester-Rockport Reunion**

Peter Goss and his mother Lori came all the way from Australia to attend the reunion (see page 7). Peter and his wife Anne had come to the reunion in Plymouth in 2019. Peter made a video tour of the William Haskell house, which you can view on his [Facebook page](#).



Lori Goss, Richard Samuelson, Peter Goss



L-R: Andy Turner, Peter Goss, Carey Haskell, Loretta Haskell, Lori Goss, Edie Haskell, and Dick Haskell enjoy a Thursday night dinner at the Fish Shack Bar & Restaurant in Rockport.



L-R: Doug Haskell, April Haskell, Penny Allen, Susie Wilkinson, Barbara Magnusson, Courtney Cleveland, Dave "Wiskers" Haskell at the Fish Shack.

They all stayed in the Air B&B shown below at 40 Broadway in Rockport, about half way between the Rockport Inn & Suites and the Fish Shack.



On their way to Salem, Carey Haskell and Lori and Peter Goss stop at Haskell Street in Gloucester.

Many of those staying at the Rockport Inn & Suites arrived Thursday afternoon and found their way down to the Fish Shack Bar & Restaurant in Rockport, where they could enjoy seafood on the water. The Fish Shack was a popular venue where some had lunch on Friday, and others battled the rain for drinks at the bar on Saturday afternoon.

"Wiskers" and his family group visited the Paper House at 52 Pigeon Hill Street in Rockport. You can check out this unique house made of paper on their [website](#).



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continued from page 5 Gloucester-Rockport Reunion



L-R: Dave “Wiskers” Haskell, Susie Wilkinson, Courtney Cleveland, Barbara Magnusson, April Haskell, Doug Haskell.

The Fish Shack is located at the head of Bearskin Neck, where pedestrians crowd the narrow streets lined with gift shops and various eateries.



By Saturday afternoon, it was raining outside the Fish Shack, but that didn’t stop Debbie Young, Jeff Haskell, Suzanne Gadreault, and Rosine Mazzaglia from enjoying themselves inside.



Suzanne Gadreault, her husband, Wade, and her father, Dick Fisk.



L-R: Barbara Magnusson, Will Haskell, Susie Wilkinson, April Haskell, Doug Haskell, Penny Allen, Dave “Wiskers” Haskell



The rain didn’t stop Debbie Young, Rosine Mazzaglia, and Suzanne Gadreault, from checking out Rockport harbor.

One of the Haskell houses Vijay showed in his Friday night talk was the [Edwin Bradbury Haskell mansion](#) in Newton, MA, which dates to the 1870s. Edwin Haskell was an owner of the Boston Herald.



**The Edwin Bradbury Haskell mansion
53 Vista Avenue, Newton, MA.**

A Visit to Salem

Lori and Peter Goss

Lori Goss (nee Haskell), retired Office Manager and Company Director, and son **Peter Goss**, Consulting Engineer, came from Australia to attend the Haskell Reunion at Gloucester, MA.

They spent a very enjoyable day at Salem with **Carey and Loretta Haskell**, viewing the presentation of “The Trials of the Innocents” at the Tourist Centre. They were very impressed with all the Halloween decorations and witch themes throughout the town. Australia doesn’t celebrate Halloween as much as in the States, but it is gradually becoming more popular.

Peter especially enjoyed the after-dinner talks with Vijay Joyce, Architectural Historian and Preservationist, as he deals with many Architects in his line of business in Adelaide, Australia.

They both enjoyed listening to Richard Samuelson, the present owner of the Haskell House and also a descen-

dant of William Haskell.

The visit to the Haskell House was very special and moving, walking in the footsteps of their ancestors. Natalie Samuelson was very gracious and generous, letting everyone take photos inside. Peter made a video of his visit inside the House, which he posted online. The commentary by Vijay was terrific (he is very dedicated and passionate about this House and its surroundings and preservation)

It was very fitting that Dick Haskell made Vijay an honorary Haskell Family Association member, for which he was notably touched and overcome.

A fantastic day and time spent with our distant American cousins and was well worth the 15-hour flight from Australia to attend the Reunion.

Well done to Dick, Carey and all the other people who made this occasion so special.



Scenes in Salem



A Tour of the William Haskell House

Guide: Vijay Joyce



Vijay Joyce, Architectural Historian and Preservationist, standing on the millstone at the entrance of the back door.



Vijay started each of four separate tours in the backyard, explaining the history of the house.





The hallway entered from the back door was added after the original house was built in about 1680.

The parlor, to the right of the front door, was the main living area in the house...



...with a well-built beamed ceiling,...



...large fireplace,...



...table and chairs,...



...and three windows to let in light.



The large fireplace in the parlor was the only source of heat, except for the sun coming through the windows on the front of the house, which faced south.

The red paint and curved molding on the parlor beams indicated that this was the most important room of a fairly wealthy family.



This bible box owned by William¹ Haskell was recently purchased by Richard Samuelson and returned to its original home.



To the left of the front door was the kitchen, containing a huge fire-place.

This shelf in the kitchen holds some very old pieces.



Stairs leading from the kitchen to the basement.

Kitchen window looks out to Lincoln Street.





This bedroom is entered from the kitchen through the door on the far right. It is in the ell that was added to the original house at a later date.

The bedroom has its own fireplace and bathroom.



You can sleep in this bed by making a reservation on the William Haskell House [website](#).



**This large bedroom is
above the parlor...**

**...and has its own fire-
place, table and chairs...**



**...plus three windows
looking out to the fields.**



You can sleep in this bed by making a reservation on the William Haskell House [website](#).

A newly-restored bathroom adjoins the bedroom shown above.



Steep stairs lead from the front hall to the two bedrooms on the second floor.





This second upstairs bedroom is above the kitchen and has no separate bathroom...

...and is therefore generally not a B&B rental.



It currently stores an old spinning wheel.



As you leave the parlor into the back hall area, you will step on a threshold worn down over the past 350 years by ancestors from William¹ Haskell to the present day stepping on the same threshold.



Vijay describes some of the features of the back hall area. He is standing in front of the door into the parlor. In the background, Wade Gadreault stands in front of the door leading to the room shown below, part of the east wing ell, a more recent addition to the original William Haskell House.



Peter Goss and his mother Lori explore the rooms in the east ell addition. The stairs in the background lead to an upstairs bedroom, and behind Peter in the north end of the ell is a modern kitchen.

continued from page 3 **Notes from the Chairman**

I want to personally thank Tom for his many years of service to the Haskell Family Association and for all the help he has given me in putting out each issue of the Haskell Journal since 2010.

Rockport

The Rockport Inn & Suites was the perfect venue for the reunion. The large Sea Glass room on the lower level provided plenty of room for our catered dinners and programs on Friday and Saturday nights. The outdoor fire pit was a welcome location to rest and visit in the late evening.



Suzanne and Wade Gadreault and Dick Fisk on the left, and Dick and Edie Haskell on the right enjoy the outdoor fire pit at the Rockport Inn Saturday night.

The Inn was only a mile from downtown Rockport, with its many gift shops and places to eat on and around Bearskin Neck. Edie and I had a Salmon BLT sandwich at the 7th Wave Restaurant on Bearskin Neck on Friday. The unique combination was delicious. Edie couldn't resist picking up some items at the Glass House on Tuna Wharf.



Edie and I had lunch on Friday at the 7th Wave Restaurant on Tuna Wharf on the Bear Skin Neck in Rockport.

Haskell Daughters

In the article on page 19, I describe how the vast majority of descendants of the three Haskell brothers will be descended from one of the many Haskell daughters. Most



For all his hard work guiding four groups through the Haskell House and for his dedication to Haskell history, demonstrated in his after-dinner talk on Friday night, before he left on Saturday afternoon to give more tours at the Daniels House in Salem, on behalf of the board, I granted Vijay Joyce honorary membership in the Haskell Family Association.

are unlikely to know they have a Haskell ancestor. They represent a reservoir of potential members of the Haskell Family Association. The Haskell daughters represent a rich supply of stories for the *Haskell Journal*. If you have stories about Haskell daughters, please write them up and send them in. See Richard K. Hascall's *Genealogy Column* on page 27 for a list of more Haskell daughters. Richard has done yeoman work in building our Haskell genealogical database. He has increased the number of names in the database from under 50,000 when he took over in 2010 to over 340,000 names today. This Haskell genealogical database is available [online](#).

Haskell Reunion – 2025

The Gloucester-Rockport reunion was such a success it was decided to plan the next reunion for 2025 in Beverly-Salem. A planning committee, including Bev Pierce, Rhoda Briggs, John Everett, and Natalie Samuelson, will begin looking at potential venues and activities. If you have any ideas for this 2025 reunion, please share them with Bev Pierce at baprn29@gmail.com.

Board Vote

A ballot to fill three HFA board positions is enclosed with the print version of this issue. A link to the online ballot is included with the email containing the PDF version.