

A Brief History of the Hathorn/Olson House

In 1743 Samuel Waldo gave 100 acres each to William Hathorn VII, Samuel Hathorn I, and Alexander Hathorn of Salem Massachusetts. The land is located on a point bordered by the St. George River and Maple Juice Cove in Cushing, Maine.

Alexander's son, Samuel Hathorn II, built a frame house on the site in the 1780s or 1790s. This house is the original structure for the present house and is believed to have replaced a log cabin that was built by William Hathorn in 1743.

Samuel (c. 1750-1820) was a sea captain, married twice, and had six children.

Capt. Aaron Hathorn, son of Samuel, lived in the house until his death in 1859. Aaron married twice and had eight children.

Mary Louisa Hathorn, Aaron's widow, sold the house in 1859 to the dismay of the Hathorn family, but in 1865 Aaron's son, Samuel IV, was able to repurchase the house.

Capt. Samuel Hathorn IV (1822-1892) lived in the house with his wife Tryphena; they had four children, three of which died at a young age. When Capt. Samuel retired from the sea in 1871 he added the third story creating the addition of extra bedrooms that were rented to summer visitors.

Samuel's daughter Kate married John Olson in 1892. John took over the running of the house as a farmer and fisherman. The Olson's had four children, Anna Christina (1893-1968), Alvaro (1894-1967), Sam (1900-1980), and Fred (1904-1987). Christina and Alvaro lived in the house until their deaths. Andrew Wyeth, a friend of the Olsons, painted Christina and Alvaro and the house from 1939-1968.

In 1972 Joseph Levine purchased the house and opened the house briefly as a museum exhibiting works by Wyeth from Mr. Levine's collection.

During the 1970s the house was featured widely in magazines, newspapers, and a video documentary.

In 1986 John and Lee Adams Sculley purchased the house.

In 1991 the Sculleys donated the house to the Farnsworth Art Museum.