

Camden
MAINE STAY
A Bed & Breakfast Inn

Welcome to the History and the Tradition of Maine!

Roberta and Claudio



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

Index

The Maine Stay	3
History of the Bass-Huse House.....	5
Genealogical Tree from John Alden to Alden Bass	12
History of Ownership	13
History of Ownership – Summary	21



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

The Maine Stay

A visit to the Maine Stay is like stepping into history. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Camden Maine Stay is the quintessential New England Inn. Alden Bass built this home for himself and his wife Rhoda in 1802. His uncle, John Adams, had just finished his term as president of the United States. Both were descendants of John and Priscilla Alden, two very early and famous American settlers who crossed on the Mayflower.

“The original dwelling comprised a Federal-style main house with hip roof and center chimney, a carriage house, and a four-story barn. Each of these wood-framed buildings was made of hand hewn timbers put together with whittled pegs, then finished with pine clapboard and slate roofing. In the 1840s and again in the 1870s, the house underwent extensive renovation, accounting for much of its present-day charm. Its owner, Dr. Jonathan Huse and his wife Amelia, added a third story, changed the hip roof to a steep gable with a porthole window at the peak, edged the roofline with large Italianate double brackets, replaced the existing front windows with six-over-sixes, and installed shutters. They later added the two-and-a-half story ell connecting the main house to the barn. This it became a classic New England farm building, a series of interconnected structures following the old children’s rhyme “little house, big house, back house, barn” One could move from the main house to the barn without facing the chill of those early Maine winters

Today the house appears as it did in 1860’s. The slate roof, shutters and pine floors are original, and in the main dining room, a photograph dating from the mid 1890’s shows how the architectural details of today, were in place over one hundred years ago. Part of the reason that the house is in such fine original condition is that it changed hands very few times. It remained in the Huse family for over one hundred years.

Old world charm is something guests feel as soon as they enter the Maine Stay. While it is spotlessly clean and in many respects appears to be new construction there is no mistake that this is a venerable piece of history. This home is both warm and inviting. Much of its appeal emanates from lighting. Two-hundred year old structures are often dark and cold, but the Maine Stay’s numerous, nearly floor to ceil-



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

ing height windows, bring in an abundance of natural sunlight light, which, together with brightly colored wall coverings, provide a warm and pleasing ambiance. The Inn's furnishings are best described as understated elegance. Quality is obvious but never imposing. You will never find a note saying "look but don't touch" at the Maine Stay. Guests regularly remark that feel especially welcomed and relaxed during their stay. Its old world charm continues today providing comfort and shelter.

There is an abundance of common space. There are two large parlors, one with a wood burning fireplace. Its mantel is cast iron with inlaid, reverse painted glass, a truly beautiful but lost art form. There are also two dining areas. For over one hundred and fifty years, breakfast in the Maine dining room has been a convivial experience. Couples who gather at this table may find themselves engrossed in conversation with people they had met only moments ago, that may last the entire morning. Guests may also dine in the Sun Porch which has wonderful views of the inn's well manicured, one-acre, garden. Meals are served with Ainsley china, Lenox and Villeroy & Boch glassware, and guests are welcome to use the Inn's Waterford crystal for that special glass of wine or champagne.

There is also a den with custom built cherry cabinets. A quite place to relax with a book, perhaps a selection from the one of the rooms two book cases. But the most delightful of the common areas is the kitchen (yes guests are welcome in the kitchen). Here the centerpiece is a century old cast iron *Queen-Atlantic* stove that is still used regularly during the winter season. It is a favorite gathering place for guests, especially after spending a cold January day at the Camden Snow Bowl.



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

History of the Bass-Huse House

Architectural Description

Exterior

December 11, 1620. When John Alden disembarked on Plymouth Rock as first passenger of the Mayflower he could not foresee that one of his direct descendant would have given birth to the mansion that now hosts the Maine Stay Inn (*view genealogical tree on page 12*).

The *Maine Stay Inn*, historically known as the Dr Jonathan Huse House, faces easterly on the west side of High Street (US RT 1) in Camden at the foot of Mount Battie. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the High Street Historic District - a district of dwellings representing a range of architectural styles from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The main part of the house was built in 1802 by Alden Bass, a carpenter and house-wright, as a two-story hip-roofed dwelling with a center chimney, typical of the Federal period. In the 1840s the house was remodeled by local physician, Dr Jonathan Huse, changing the structure to three-and-a-half stories high with a gable roof. He later added the two-and-a-half story ell connecting the main part of the house to a large carriage barn. The result is an eclectic and picturesque mixture of architectural elements from the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic and Italianate periods. All these buildings are wood-framed (post and beam) with pine clapboards and a slate roof.

The Farnsworth Museum in Rockland owns two landscape paintings of Camden done in the first part of the 19th century. The first, painted by artist Alvan Fisher, is a view of Camden looking northerly across the harbor. In the distance one can see the row of houses climbing the hill along High Street at the base of the mountains. While the house at 22 High Street cannot be specifically identified as such in the Fisher painting, it is clearly seen in the second painting of Camden Harbor done c.1840 by the artist Jeremiah Hardy, a portrait painter of Hampden, Maine. The Hardy landscape shows a view taken from part way up Mount Battie, looking southeast across High Street towards the



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

harbor. Here we see the back of this house, still hip-roofed at that time, painted bright Federal yellow, with a red center chimney. There appear to be two small barns behind the house. Other houses and buildings in the neighborhood are also identifiable.

By 1850, remodeling of the main part of the house changed it almost completely from its first “incarnation.” Its hip roof was changed to a steep gable facing the street, and decorated along the edge of the roof with large double brackets in the Italianate style. The new gable added a third floor to the main block. (Raising and changing a roof profile was not unheard of - see clipping in the appendix on a similar hipped roof on a Federal period house of 1807 in Topsham which was changed to a gable roof in 1837.) The six-over-six windows with bracketed hoods on the front of the house were probably newly installed and framed at this time. Three of the windows went into the new gable space and a circular “porthole” window was installed at the peak. The shutters were probably placed on the windows at this time.

The 1856 wall map of Waldo County features a picture of the house as “Residence of Dr. J. Huse” showing a wooden fence in front and the new front portico in place. It is interesting to see, however, that this picture shows two chimneys - one on each side of the new gable roof - not the present configuration which has the two stacks tied together into a single “center” chimney. Observation of the interior surfaces of the roof in the attic of the main house confirms the prior existence of the two chimney stacks on either side of the roof (see sketch by Chris Glass).

The 1856 “footprint” of the house on the map shows only the main block of the house with two small detached barns behind it (perhaps the same as those seen in the 1840 Hardy painting at the Farnsworth Museum). The ell was certainly in place and connected to the barn by 1875, however, as its “footprint” clearly shows on the Camden map of that date. The present-day slate roofs were probably added to the main house and ell when this ell was built.

Probably it was when the slate roofs were installed (c.1870), that the two parlor chimneys (as seen on the 1856 map) were joined to emerge



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

at the peak of the roof as a “center” chimney, as noted above. Certainly this “center chimney” adds to the picturesque look of the house. But this change would have been done for practical reasons, such as a need to create a stronger draft for the flues by raising the top of the chimney. An even more likely reason is that this was an option for the slate roofers to cope with only one chimney, at the peak, not part way down the slopes of the main roof - flashing is very difficult to do on a slate roof. Similarly, the kitchen chimney emerges at the peak of the ell roof.

In his 1837 and 1838 reports, Charles T. Jackson, Geologist to the State of Maine, reported on the superior quality of slate in the Piscataquis region which was not yet being mined in any quantity. He noted that “argillaceous slate, for roofing, is an article of value, largely imported into our country from Wales...the (Maine) slate can be bought to Boston, at the cost of only \$8 (later estimated at \$11) a ton, while we now pay \$27 for Welsh slate of similar quality.” (1837 Report) And, from the 1838 report: “We observed that most of the houses in Bangor, and other cities of the State, are covered with Welsh slates, that were first imported into New York or Boston, and there purchased and transported to Maine. A few years hence this will appear equally absurd with the fact that our fathers used to send to Wales for Grave-stones...”

The 1862 Report of the Maine Board of Agriculture notes the fine quality of slate in Monson, “One would think that in this vicinity admirable quarries of roofing slate might be worked.” The report also mentions “good roofing slate” found, but not yet quarried near Moscow, Maine at Pleasant Ridge “precisely similar to that now quarried in Brownville.” It might be a very good guess, then, that the slates on the roof of 22 High Street came from one of the Brownville quarries, apparently the earliest opened quarries in Maine. No question about the quality, for as reported in Isaacson’s Length and Breadth of Maine: “Brownville slate won first prize at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia as the finest roofing slate in the country when it was used for this purpose.” By 1884 “Manufacturers of Roofing Slate” are listed from the Maine towns of Monson and Williamsburg, along with three quarries from Brownville. (Colby’s 1884 Atlas of Maine) A visit to Brownville is always rewarding, to see the houses there similarly roofed with slate - one still standing today has its exterior walls covered with



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

slate “shingles.”

One other house in the neighborhood of the Maine Stay Inn also has a slate roof, the Maria M. Fay House at 1 High Street. According to the National Register Nomination for the High Street Historic District, the Fay House was “constructed sometime between 1860 and 1871”, has “Italianate style details” which include bracketed hoods over the windows, and “paired brackets located below the eaves of the slate covered roof.” It will be interesting to do further comparison of the Fay and Huse houses, particularly as to the size of the slates, and details such as the paired roof brackets and hoods. There may be other houses in the Camden to Thomaston area with some of these features.

The carriage barn at 22 High Street has two twelve-over-eight windows placed vertically on the driveway facade. These two windows may have been recycled from the original 1802 Federal style house. A smaller window provides ventilation in the peak. The barn door on the side of the ell is said to have been for a carriage, but is not functional today as the space inside has been reworked to be a hall connecting to the barn. The front ell door, seen in a c.1900(?) photograph, has been removed and the side door moved back, because of kitchen remodeling within. Both former door locations have been replaced with windows. The portico which appears on the 1856 map still shelters the front door today but now has a plain and slightly pitched roof. It lost its decorative balustrade, perhaps original to the c.1850’s remodeling, at some time during the 20th century.

Interior

The rooms in the main part of the Dr Jonathan Huse House, with their square shapes and relatively low ceilings, retain the proportions of the Federal period, as the frame of this part of the house is one of the remnants of the 1802 construction. Corner posts are still visible in part. There is only one remaining trace of Federal period decorative woodwork - a continuous band of reeded molding which encircles walls below the ceiling of the north parlor. The rest of the woodwork in the house is of the Greek Revival period c. 1840-50. One suspects a major catastrophe, such as a fire, may have taken place for so little to remain



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

from the house's first incarnation in 1802. Save for those in the front rooms and hall, the doors and windows are topped very simply with flat lintels or shallow Greek Revival peaks. But, in the front hall and parlors, there are handsome, more elaborate, lintels over the doors and windows. These have extended flat cornices which include a curved molding inside, plus panelled aprons below the windows. The doorway frames in the hall are further embellished with Gothic peaks at the top of their posts, thus bringing in yet one more element to this melange of architectural styles.

The front hall staircase ascends in a series of straight runs to the third floor. Its simple curved hand railing is initiated in a spiral scroll at the first floor the railing runs without a break to the top of the staircase. The balusters are plain, and, as is typical in the Greek Revival period, the ends of the stair treads are unadorned. This staircase dates from the c.1850 renovation, and is located where the original center chimney was removed. There may have been an earlier staircase in the front hall, but it would have been composed of two or three short runs to the second floor because of the space taken up by the center chimney.

The front hall and most of the rooms today have wallpapers dating from c.1940 on, a few have painted walls. A search for early wallpaper scraps has been fruitless to date, but careful scrutiny may turn up some clues (such as under electrical plates) if and when any of the present papers are changed. At that time it will be possible to see if any of the rooms currently papered may have been painted at some period. The presence of tack holes around the perimeter of some of the floors indicate that once there were carpets in these rooms - no surprise, as this would be typical in the Greek Revival period.

The two chimney stacks in the main part of the house are centered behind the north and south parlors, and rise up behind the parlor chambers above. The chimneys' stove holes in the front chambers on the second floor once doubtless served small wood stoves. They have plain Greek Revival mantel surrounds, even though these are not real "fireplaces." Downstairs, the south parlor fireplace has a Greek Revival cast iron fire-frame. The north parlor's fireplace is embellished by a wonderfully ornate Victorian fireplace surround of cast iron and black



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

reverse painted glass which incorporates a mantel.

The kitchen is now in the ell, where no doubt it has been located since the ell was built, some time before 1870. Some of the walls in the kitchen have been removed recently, revealing the chimney stack; the back stair hall also now is incorporated into the room. The back staircase has a heavy newel post - such posts became available from millwork companies in the 1850's. This one is probably even later, reflecting the later date of the ell (1870). As part of the kitchen renovation, and also as previously noted, the two ell entrances (see exterior photo c. 1900) have now been changed to windows - the back door having been moved along the side of the ell, nearer to the carriage house.

The kitchen in the 1802 incarnation of this house was most likely in the rear of the main part of the house where the dining room is today. There is evidence in the first floor framing (as seen in the cellar) that there was originally a fairly large chimney base to support the needs of that period, including a cooking fireplace and bake oven. It was located where the cellar stairs now go down. Although the cellar floor has been cemented over, thus obliterating any clue on the floor itself, the size of the original chimney can be determined as the first floor sub-flooring in this section is later and quite different than the subfloor in the rest of the cellar. The two chimney bases which hold the stacks centered each behind the east and west parlors, are piers with flat wooden lintels built c.1850 when the old center chimney was taken down. Close examination shows that the cellar beams were cut to allow space for the two new chimney stacks. The brick appears to have been recycled (some blackened by soot on the outside), probably from the original center chimney. The large cistern in the cellar may also have been made from leftover brick at that time.

The original kitchen behind the north parlor (the present dining room) was doubtless kept as a kitchen for the period between the destruction of the original center chimney and the building of the larger ell (c. 1850-c.1870). A cook stove probably replaced the former fireplace and brick bake oven of the old center chimney, and the small cast iron stove-hole cover in the chimney in the present dining room could have served such a stove. The space for the kitchen may have



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

been smaller, as a wall has been taken down fairly recently, opening the space to what seems to have been a back extension of the hall, enlarging the dining room at its present size. Evidence in the first floor framing also indicates that, at one time or another, there were two prior cellar staircases to the cellar in this area. One was in back, or west of the present staircase - the other came down in the southwest area of the cellar, near the present south chimney base. One of these, perhaps, was below an earlier back staircase from the first to the second floor.

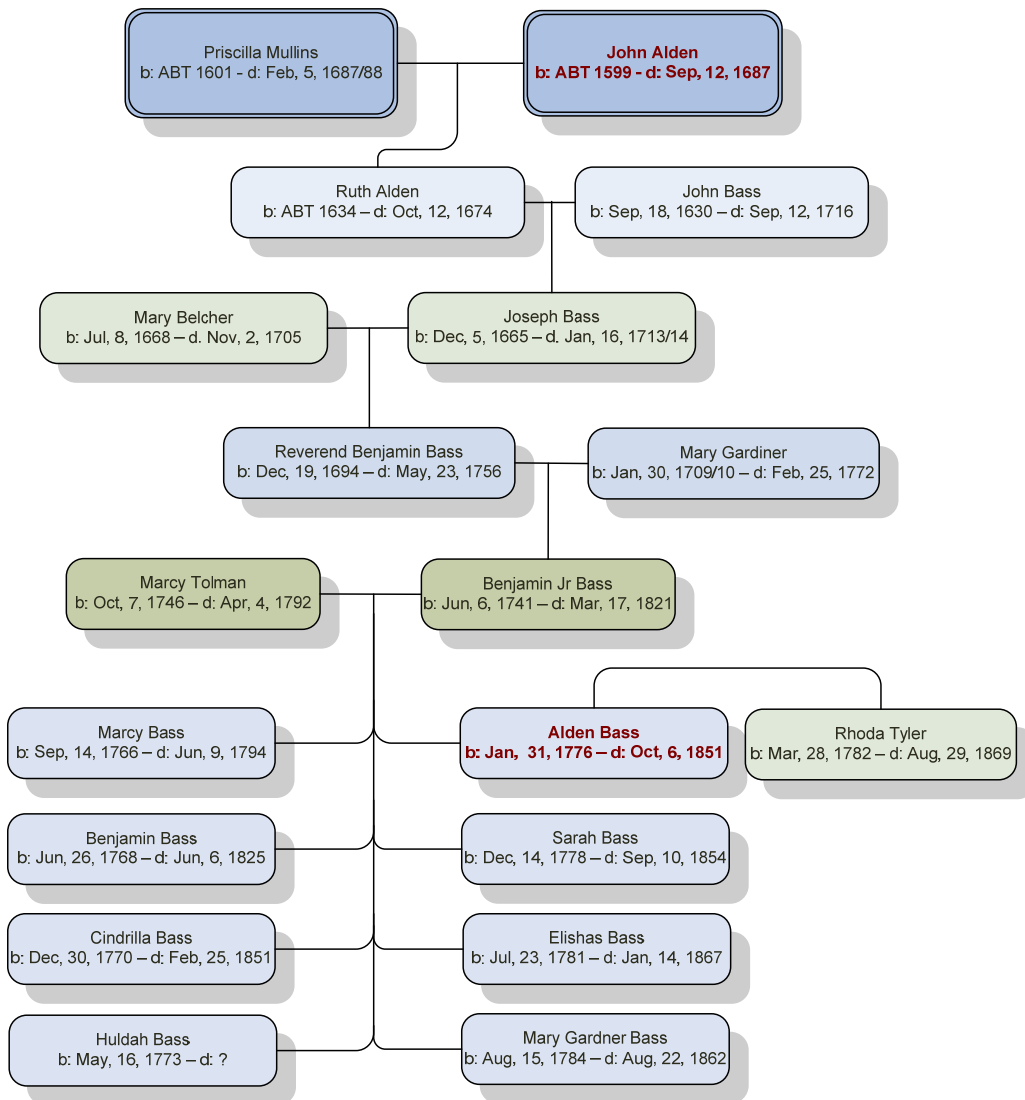
Prior to the building of the ell, there had to have been an outhouse, either freestanding, or in an earlier, smaller ell for which we have no evidence. The present ell probably also had an outhouse, as bathrooms in the 19th century did not always have a "water closet" included along with the tub and basin. The Old House Journal, December 1975, has a good article on historic bathrooms, as does Joyce Bibber's new book on the Greek Revival period in Maine, A Home for Everyman (a constant and unfailing source of reference), has several interesting pages devoted to the development of "newfangled conveniences" in the 19th century, including plumbing fixtures. Woodward's Country Homes, published in New York in 1866, has many designs and floor plans, but only two plans feature such "conveniences." At the back of the first floor of one of the "Country Homes" there is a "w.c." off the scullery, next to the sink room. The cistern appears to be outside the house in this plan. The other house plan has a "bath" with a tub, basin and a "tank" (for a w.c.?) in a room on the second floor. It would make sense that Dr Huse, in designing his new ell, would have included the latest in sanitary arrangements for his family, and for his office which may have been located here, but the present bathrooms in the house and ell are probably of an even later period.



The History and the Tradition of Maine

GENEALOGICAL TREE

FROM JOHN ALDEN (PLIGRIM, CAME OVER ON MAYFLOWER) TO ALDEN BASS





Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

History of Ownership

The town of Camden, Maine was incorporated on February 17, 1791. Her first settlers had moved here following the close of the French and Indian War. Land titles in the original town of Camden came from two sources: lands derived from the Muscongus Patent to a group called the “Twenty Associates” and the portion of the Waldo Patent inherited by General Henry Knox. The dividing line between these large grants lay to the north of the original village. The Land that would become Camden Village was first sold to settlers by the “Twenty Associates” in 1768. General Knox began to sell his lands in the northerly part of the town in 1798, and in 1800 he sold a property from which the 22 High Street lot was later set off.

As other Maine communities, Camden really began to flourish in the Federal period following the American Revolution. The town was described in 1796 by the Reverend Paul Coffin as:

“a place beautiful for situation and promising for trade. The harbor, a mill for boards and corn, on a fresh stream and the adjacent gently rising lands make a good appearance and are quite convenient. One ship and a schooner have this year been launched here and six or seven heavy vessels are on the stocks. About fifteen neat houses, some large, with other buildings, make the appearance of a compact town. The harbor is full of pleasant islands.” (Robinson, Reuel, *History of Camden and Rockport Maine*, Camden Publishing Company, 1907)

By 1800, the census recorded 872 residents in Camden. The village included a post office, a school and a meeting house. A water company was formed in 1800 to bring water to the village. A County Road had been laid out on November 10, 1790, from Thomaston (now Rockland) to Camden Harbor and then to Little Duck Trap -- or across the whole length of the town from south to north. “A plan of the Town of Camden” as surveyed and drawn in May 1795 shows this road, a bridge over the Goose River, plus a bridge and a saw & gristmill at the Megunticook River. The road would later become known as the “Road to Belfast” and is today part of US Route 1.



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

The Eatons (1800)

In 1800 General Henry Knox sold a considerable amount of his land along the Country Road north of the village to William and Joseph Eaton Jr. Their father, Joseph Eaton Sr., had moved to Camden in 1785 and built a house on the northeast side of Camden Harbor. He became half owner of the gristmill on the Megunticook and was the first postmaster and first customs officer in Camden.

Following the purchase of the Knox land, William Eaton (1775-1844) built a substantial two-story Federal style farmhouse on the old County Road. The house still stands on the corner of Sea Street at 15 High St., not far from where his father's house once stood on the harbor. William, as well as being a farmer, was involved in the saw and gristmill business in the village. (His house appears on the 1856 & 1875 maps of Camden, marked by Joseph Eaton for his son who inherited the farm). William's elder brother, Joseph Eaton Jr. (1773-1846), was a successful sea captain. About 1805 he built the handsome two-and-a-half story house (now 30 High Street) just up and across the County Road from William's house. Joseph Jr.'s house was altered by Eldridge G. Knight who purchased the property in 1858.

The Basses (1802 – 1805)

In April 1802 Joseph and William Eaton sold a small lot out of their Knox lands to Alden Bass, a "carpenter" for \$100.00. The lot was described in the deed as "standing on the County Road leading from Megunticook harbor to Ducktrap and measured one hundred and eleven square rods." Only seven-tenths of an acre, this was truly a "village" sized lot - not meant to be a farm.

Alden Bass was born in Hanover, Massachusetts on January 30, 1776. He was a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of the Mayflower settlers, thus the name Alden, and also a second cousin of John Adams, whose grandmother was also a Bass. It appears that Alden came to Camden about the year 1800. On March 5, 1802 he married Rhoda Tyler of Methuen, Massachusetts, just one month before he purchased the lot from the Eatons. Their first two children were born in the house, which he built at 22 High Street. Alden Jr., born February 8, 1803, died on September 19, 1803. Their second son, Hiram, was born on April 23, 1805, just before Alden and Rhoda sold the



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

house. Their other two children, born after they moved from 22 High Street, were Clarrisa who married Jonas Howe, and Mary who married Joseph G Mirick. In later years Mary lived in the brick house immediately to the north of the Maine Stay.

In 1805 Alden and Rhoda Bass sold “to William Parkman, Esquire of Lincolnville, for \$1,280 a certain piece of land or house lot, with a house on the same, bounding on Joseph and William Eaton’s land on the County road Westward of Captain Eaton’s house.” Alden Bass is styled in this deed as a “housewright” -- a promotion from his appellation “Carpenter” in the purchase of the lot three years previously. Working as a carpenter and housewright all his life, he was called an “industrious and finished workman.” He later built and owned a house on Elm Street, eventually owned by Captain Isaac Coombs, and then by C.W. Babb. He was elected a Representative to the General Court in 1814, and served as a local temperance committee in 1817.

In the fall of 1814, Alden Bass, Captain Oliver Pendleton and three other young Camden men were captured offshore while they were observing operations of a hostile British fleet. Held on trumped up charges of espionage, they were carried off to Castine. They were released after a few days of negotiations. (Dietz, Lew, *Camden Hills, an Informal History of the Camden. Rockport Region*, Camden Herald, 1966). Alden Bass died on October 26, 1851.

The Parkmans (1805 – 1808)

The new owner of 22 High Street, William Parkman, was a native of Concord, Massachusetts. He came to Camden about 1800 from just up the coast in Lincolnville, where he had previously resided and where he married Sarah Tanner. He was a “joiner” by trade and as such, in his youth, had sailed in the ship Massachusetts on a voyage to Canton, China. For many years he was an agent for the “Twenty Associates” - the original land owners and developers of land in Camden west of that which the Eatons had purchased from General Knox. Parkman served as a selectman of Camden and in other official capacities.

William and Sarah Parkman had seven children in all, twins Mary and Sarah being the first, born in 1798. Daughter Eliza, born September 5, 1803, would later marry Colonel Joseph Hall and own this house



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

from 1830 to 1843. Two of the Parkman's other children were born while they owned this house: William Henry on the 4th of July 1806 and Frances on May 15, 1807. Like the Basses, the Parkmans owned the house at 22 High Street for only three years.

In 1808, William and Sarah sold the property "on the County Road westward of Joseph Eaton Jr.'s house" for \$1,590 to Thomas Cochran. Parkman is listed as a "Joiner" in this deed and the increase in the price may relate to his having done some improvements to the house and property during his ownership. The deed lists "other buildings" for the first time as well as "a house." Those were doubtless the barns -- perhaps built by Parkman, himself. However, the change in price may equally apply to Parkman having added a small piece of land to the lot, enlarging it from the original 111 square rods to 153 square rods -- still not quite an acre. Parkman, described as an "old and respected citizen of the town," died at age 70 on December 24, 1839. His wife survived him for 16 years, dying in 1855 at the age of nearly 84.

The Cochrans (1808 – 1812)

Thomas Cochran and his wife Mary owned 22 High Street for four years after purchasing it from the Parkmans in 1808. The Reverend Thomas Cochran had preached in Camden several times prior to being called by the Town and ordained as the first settled minister on September 11, 1805, with a salary of \$500 yearly for his support. On the day of Cochran's ordination:

"There was an unusual stir about town. Many had come by sea and land from not only all the neighboring towns, but some from as far away as Brooksville, so it may be seen that the occasion was regarded as a 'great day' in this section. Besides being a 'high day' to the moral and religious part of the community, it was improved by 'the baser sort' in horse racing, drinking, and carousing."

There had been a "lively discussion" over Cochran's acceptance by the town. The reason for the protest was doubtless due to the fact that Thomas Cochran was a Congregationalist and the dissenters belonged to other sects. They wanted the money raised by the Town for support of the Gospel divided among the preachers of the different denominations. This was a not an uncommon "discussion" in New England



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

towns during the Federal period as old bonds were loosened under the freedoms of the new government. Cochran resigned as minister in Camden in 1816, after two difficult years of wrangling with the Town over grievances. Cochran demanded a Council of Ministers from the area to make the decision on his dismissal, not to have "...my character tested by enemies, as well as Friends." (See Robinson's History for a most interesting and extended recounting of this episode.)

On January 11, 1812, Thomas and Mary Cochran sold the house for \$1,400 to William Carleton, Merchant, of Camden. The price was \$190 less than the Cochran's paid for the place in 1808. This may reflect its condition, but may well have reflected the depressed state of the economy because of the Embargo of 1808. The description of the property is identical to that of Cochran's purchase four years previously. The Cochrans later owned the old cape, which stands on Mountain Street. There is a photograph of that house called the "Cochran-Fay House" on page 205 of Robinson's History. When the Cochrans left town that property was sold to Silas Fay. No information was found on the Cochrans in the Camden Vital Records (Births, Deaths and Marriages).

The Carletons (1812 – 1829)

William Carleton moved from Methuen, Massachusetts to Camden about 1806. (Grindle, Quarry & Kiln says 1804) He was a merchant in Camden village until 1838 when he moved to Goose River (now Rockport) where he went into the lime business. A portrait of William and a photograph of his later residence in Goose River are to be found on pages 258 and 259 of Robinson's History. "He was married twice, his first wife being a Miss Mirick and his second wife, Betsey Crowell, both of Princeton, Mass. He was the father of eight sons..." During the war of 1812, Mr. Carleton was adjutant of the fifth regiment. "A county commissioner, he was enterprising, active and far-seeing and in whatever position he was placed, discharged his duties with tact and ability." He was President of the Megunticook Bank at Camden Harbor." William Carleton died on March 4, 1841 - his second wife, Betsey, died at age 70 on March 31, 1876.

Over two years after buying the house at 22 High St., William Carleton purchased an adjacent narrow strip of land on the northeast side of the lot in May, 1814 from Joseph and William Eaton for \$23.30, enlarging the lot by "fifty-three feet and 11/12." He sold the property



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

in 1829, apparently to Thomas Bartlett (see reference in later deed from Joseph & Elia Hall to Jonathan Huse and Joshua Norwood in 1843). Since a copy of the deed not available, the price is not known.

According to a modern surveyor's plot, William Carleton owned several parcels in this area between 1812 and 1836, in addition to the house at 22 High Street. It is interesting to note that William Carleton and Joseph Hall were cousins and that Carleton and Joseph's older brothers had all come to Camden from Methuen in 1806.

Thomas Bartlett (1829 – 1830)

It appears that Thomas Bartlett held half interest in the 22 High Street house until 1843 but only lived in the house for one year. He moved to Hope and died on April 12, 1860 at age 70.

The Halls (1830 – 1843)

On December 16, 1830, Thomas Bartlett, for \$350.00 sold to Eliza P Hall, Married Woman of Camden, "one undivided half interest" in the original lot, plus the adjacent narrow strip of land which Joseph and William Eaton had sold to William Carleton in 1814, "together with one undivided half of all the buildings thereon standing and one undivided half of all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging." In January, 1827, Eliza was the second wife of Colonel Joseph Hall of Camden. Eliza was returning to her childhood home. She was the third daughter of William Parkman who had been the second owner of the house at 22 High Street (1805-1808).

Joseph Hall was born in Methuen, Massachusetts on June 26, 1793 and followed his brothers Frye and Farnham Hall to Camden in 1809. Hall, who would spend his life in public service, worked as a clerk until he attained his majority. He spent his life in public service, starting as an officer in the militia. He was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Lincoln County in 1821 and in 1827 and after Waldo County was formed, he was appointed Sheriff. Robinson reports that Colonel Hall and Nathaniel Hawthorne "maintained a strong friendship and a voluminous correspondence" for many years.

In 1830, Hall was appointed Postmaster of Camden and in 1833



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

Maine's first Representative to Congress. In 1835, he was reelected and remained in Washington during the closing years of President Jackson's exciting administration. After a brief return to Camden as Postmaster in 1837, Hall moved to Boston as Measurer in the Boston Custom House from 1838 to 1846. He was appointed by President Polk as Navy Agent for the port of Boston from 1846 to 1849. In the fall of 1849, he was the Democratic candidate for Mayor of Boston but did not win the election. In 1850 the family returned to Camden (to a different property known as the Norwood Farm), but in 1857 they returned once more to Boston.

The Huses and the Norwoods (1843 – 1939)

On April 1, 1843, Joseph and Eliza P. Hall of Boston sold the property at 22 High Street for \$800.00 to their sons-in-law Jonathan Huse (physician) and Joshua G. Norwood (merchant) both of Camden. How long the joint ownership lasted is not certain, but presumably not very long. In 1839 Joshua Norwood had gone into business with Samuel D. Carlton, a son of William Carlton, who had owned the property from 1812 to 1829. The Carleton-Norwood partnership was based in Rockport, and was successful in the lime burning and ship-building, becoming the largest builder in Rockport and one of the most successful businesses in eastern Maine. They constructed over 45 vessels, some very large, which made the firm's name a familiar one in all points of the world.

But the Huse family, who would own the property for nearly 100 years, is more important in this history. Jonathan Huse was born in Warren Maine in 1811, the son of the pastor of the local Congregational church. He studied medicine in Camden with his uncle, Dr. Joseph Huse, and then pursued medical studies at Bowdoin College, graduating in 1832. In 1839 he married Amelia Hall. They had six children. "As a physician he was skillful, discreet and successful. In many ways he was ahead of his time, strongly advocating the modern ideas of out of door life, ventilation and diet, even under vigorous opposition. His genial and affable manners and broad common sense way of advising his patient accomplished as much for the sick as the medicine he gave". While his main interest was medicine, he was also active in politics and was a postmaster of Camden and a Deputy collector of Customs during the Pierce administration. According to a neighbor: "Pre-eminently was Dr. Huse a man of domestic tastes. He took delight



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

in his grounds, his trees, his rocks, his brook, his house, his open fire, his pictures – all that makes home pleasant in a material point of view. Not only in these, but in the affections of a devoted and loving family he found and appreciated a lovely home. Jonathan Huse died in 1883, but his family lived in the home until 1939.

Today, the buildings and grounds that Dr. Huse knew and loved appear very much as they did in his lifetime. And the striking appearance of the *Maine Stay* is the result of improvements that he and Amelia made, including the third floor to the main house with its wonderful gable roof line, the ell, carriage house and barn all of which transformed the modest home of Alden and Rhoda Bass into an elegant and distinguished landmark.

The McKays (1939 – 1983)

The Maine Stay was owned by the Huse family until 1939, when the property was sold to Thomas and Rita McKay. In 1914 McKay went to work in the local drug store on Maine Street, which eventually became the *Boynton-McKay* pharmacy. The name carries on today in the same location as the *Boynton-McKay Food Company*, but there is no connection between that business and the McKay family. The McKay's had three children; Thomas, Janet, and Gwendolyn.



Maine Stay Inn
22 High Street, Camden, ME 04843

The History and the Tradition of Maine

History of Ownership - Summary

1802 - 1805

Alden and Rhoda Bass

1805 - 1808

William and Sarah Parkman

1808 - 1812

Thomas and Mary Cochran

1812 - 1829

William and Betsy Carlton

1829 - 1843

Thomas and Sarah Parkman Bartlett

1830 - 1843

Joseph and Eliza Parkman Hall

1843 - 1939

The Huse Family

Dr. Jonathan and Mary Amelia Howe Hall Huse

Mary and Amelia Howe Hall Huse

Marion and Amelia Huse, and Dr. Benjamin Huse

1939 - 1983

The McKay Family

Thomas and Rita McKay

Janet McKay

1983 - 1989

Robert and Sally Tierney

1989 - 2002

Captain Peter and Donny Smith

Diana Robson

2002 - 2008

Robert and Juanita Topper

2008 -

Roberta and Claudio Latanza