Your Satisfaction is our Standard for Success

Meet the team
Big enough to help, small enough to care.

We offer expertise in all price ranges. Servicing all areas of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Arundel and throughout York county.

#1 in sales volume in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel in 2017!
During my Wonderbread summers in the Kennebunks, riding my bike almost daily from Gooch’s Beach to Kennebunkport, I’d always steal a look for her— that ghostly face peering from the second floor window of the falling-down, fabulous Colonial mansion that was 1 Doane’s Wharf Lane. Though I so wanted to, I couldn’t look at her too long, because “that would be rude,” and she chilled me to the bone. But the invalided Miss Frances Treamer (1893-1968) was really a sweet person, however much she looked like a character straight out of a Nathaniel Hawthorne story. So often people, and houses, are misunderstood as the result of insufficient details.

My mother lived across the street from homebound Miss Treamer—already legendary for her window-watching—when she was a child. Only once did our family witness this startling creature move outside in daylight. The story goes, one fall day, my grandfather looked up from raking leaves to see none other than the frail Miss Treamer slowly but deliberately making her way across Beach Street, leaning on her cane. Clearly she was on a mission. “Young man,” she addressed my grandfather, though they were roughly the same age. “You have Indian shutters in your windows. I’d just like you to know.” Startled, he invited her in, but instead of taking an offered seat, she went over to the front window, pulled one of the Indian shutters out with a flourish, and then, refusing tea, left with a gracious smile, returning to her window with a face so indelible it seemed etched in the glass.

A FOR-SALE SIGN APPEARS
Well after her death, One Doane’s Wharf Lane went up for sale. Touring the house, I was Pip in Miss Havisham’s house in Great Expectations.

Here was ancient paneling and a floor plan that looked like three houses joined together across the centuries, each with a different story to tell, dating to 1765.

In the salon I found a giant hole, as if a meteorite had crashed through the rotten flooring. Looking down into the hole, I saw the remains a piano, its gleaming surface visible through patches of thick dust. I studied its frozen keys, its broken sound board, its mangled loud and soft

Salvaged Treasure
1 Doane’s Wharf Lane, Kennebunk.

BY COLIN W. SARGENT
pedals. After years of silently waiting to be played, had the piano crashed through to the basement in a cry for attention? An icy hand gripped at my heart as I wondered what last song had been played on it, and by whom? Could Miss Treamer’s fingers have danced across the ivory keys in her youth? Chopin, maybe? Was it after midnight when it made its final landing? What a jarring sound it must have made, lifting the crows into flight!

Today, in March of 2018, the house at 1 Doane’s Wharf Lane is making a lot of noise on its own. The eight-bedroom, 15-room landmark is for sale for $1.295M after a remarkable renovation. “I have pictures of the house before we worked on it,” says WorthPoint.com founder Will Seippel, the seller. “It was invaded by vines.”

If Miss Treamer was a Hawthorne creation, her younger brother and heir was straight out of E.L. Doctorow. A legendary pack rat, he collected all manner of ‘treasures’ inside (as well as the wrecks of four moribund autos outside, slowly sinking into the peat moss). “An old movie poster, Tarzan Meets His Mate,” was tacked to the wall. “The Treamer family went through a hard time in the Depression. You can find it in some of the letters in the house.” With the wolf at the door, the Treamers began “renting tenant apartments. The big staircase was divided in two” by a false wall, “and actually wrapped around to the third floor. It was just a honeycomb of rooms. But the floors are original. The staircases are original.”

“I’m just happy we were able to save this house,” Seippel says. Purchased for around $150,000, “we put $500,000 or $600,000 into it during renovations.” The CEO and founder of the colorful resource that provides comparable values for that priceless antique you’ve just bought at auction clearly loved this project. His flair for matching the old with the new is everywhere. Today, this house, with its authentic ochre exterior color (a Cabot’s stain) and fanciful installations isn’t just move-in-ready—it’s a showcase. All the fireplaces are working. It’s probably the oldest house left in the Port. Tom Joyal was the general contractor who saw the wave of improvements (with Jeb Bush, Jr., doing some of the carpentry work), with Seippel.

Angels list. A

Serving Southern Maine & the Midcoast for over 30 years.

Jack and the professionals at Black Bear Landscaping are committed to an unparalleled level of quality service. Their attention to detail, experienced practices, and commitment to excellence bring us back again and again. We very much look forward to working with them in the years to come. —Wayne G. Keller

M Y F A B U L O U S Y A R D . C O M
207-937-2024 • 207-233-0353 (cell) • blackbearlandscaping@yahoo.com

Photos by Michael Eric Berube of Maine Virtual Home Tours
Get up to $1600 by mail with purchase of select KitchenAid brand appliances
*January 3–July 18, 2018

KitchenAid®
YOURS FOR THE MAKING

APPLIANCES, BEDDING, SALES & SERVICE
Ask us about financing options.
Route 302 - 54 Bridgton Road - Westbrook
800-797-3621 - www.lpapplianceme.com
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm | Saturday 9am - 12pm

T he lot includes water frontage on that tidal inlet from the Kennebunk River. “There’s a retaining wall that’s stone on the property. It may have something to do with the shipping industry,” which makes sense, given the way the water approaches Beach Street. “That whole building was a warehouse. There’s a door that opens to nowhere. He had a warehouse here.” Ships were built and launched from the inlet.

T here’s another mystery for a new owner to ponder. “We found a tombstone in the tidal inlet. I had my workmen pull it up.” The date of the headstone, “1810 or 1820, predates a permit for the cemetery taken out on the adjacent lot, around 1830 or 1840. I could find no records of anyone being buried there. Besides, who would build a cemetery in a shipyard?”

T axes are $6,616.
AMERICANA HOME

Americana Workshop is a unique store offering a wide range of antiques and custom home furnishings. Set in an 1820 Maine Cape with attached barn, there are room settings to help inspire your creative mind. The showroom is constantly changing with new items daily!

Buying Gold & Silver • Delivery Available • Free Appraisals

111 York St. (Rte. 1), Kennebunk, Maine 04043
207.985.8356 • Toll free 877.619.0903
Open 7 Days 10-5
Shop Online At www.americanaworkshop.com