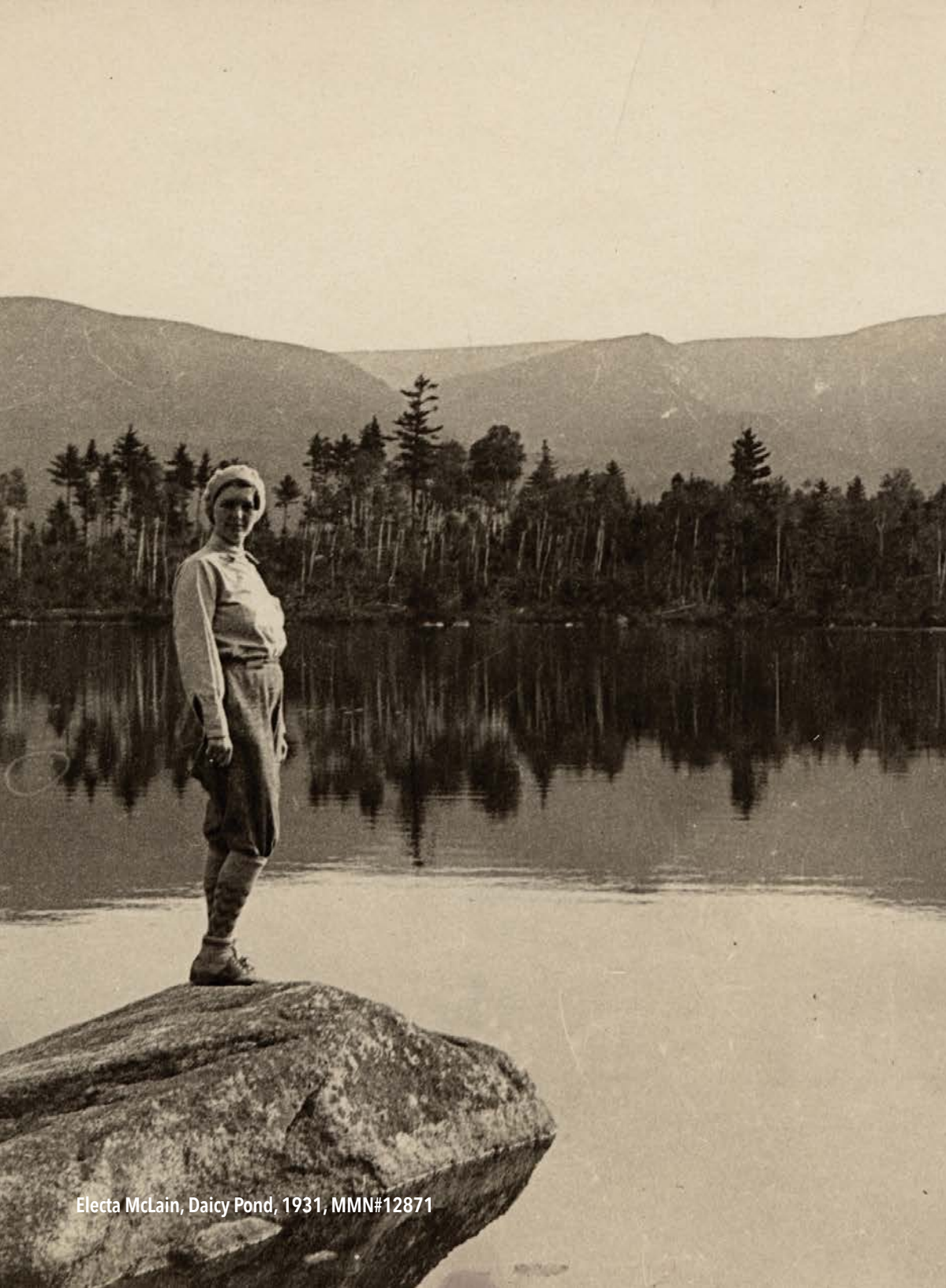




MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT





Electa McLain, Daicy Pond, 1931, MMN#12871



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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
489 Congress Street | Portland, Maine 04101

207.774.1822
info@mainehistory.org

Connect with us online at: mainehistory.org

Follow us!



Front cover: Woman enjoying the view of Jordan Pond
in Acadia National Park, Me. | Stock photo

Our Vision

Thank you for being part of MHS. It's remarkable that we have just completed our 199th year of service to Maine, and that we will be celebrating Maine Historical Society's 200th birthday next year.

The historic pandemic that has turned life as we knew it upside down churns on. This has been a year that will shape the consciousness of all who have been through it, much as the Depression did. This is also the moment in which we move beyond Maine's Bicentennial. As we enter 2022, MHS is focused on what comes next: preparing both Maine and MHS to thrive in our next, third centuries.

After a year defined by the health and economic crisis of the pandemic, urgent equity issues, and a political climate that has gone off the rails, Mainers and people across the country are eager to look ahead. MHS is uniquely positioned to help Maine move forward.

Despite the profound challenges of the pandemic, MHS has come out of 2020-21 with focus and momentum. It's been a hard year, but we've seen such strength, resiliency, and resourcefulness from MHS staff and Board members. We're pleased to showcase their incredible creativity, quality, and spirit in this 2020-21 Annual Report.

You have helped us build an adaptable



Jean Gulliver, Board Chair, and Steve Bromage, Executive Director
Photo: Patricia Cousins

and forward-looking organization through your membership, participation, and financial support. Many of you increased your giving significantly last year to help MHS through an especially challenging year. We are deeply grateful.

This was a year in which it would have been natural to be cautious and to avoid the risks that come with change and

new initiatives. Instead, MHS leaned in, developed a financial plan for weathering the pandemic, and found extraordinary opportunities: to serve the needs of Mainers, to advance the organization, and to lay the groundwork that will drive MHS' vitality in the decades ahead.

You'll see in the following pages how MHS sustained core programs and

expanded our impact in four key areas:


- Virtual programs and remote engagement;
- Major collections initiatives;
- Our Maine History Maker Award program honoring the L. L. Bean family; and
- Efforts to support dialog around race and equity issues in Maine.

Together, these demonstrate the remarkable dimensions of MHS, and the breadth and quality of work we manage to do with a very small staff and budget.

We appreciate your support and involvement, and look forward to the year ahead!

— Steve and Jean

Banner: Aerial Photographer, ca. 1930, MHS (MaineToday Media) / MMN #103888



200 Years of preserving and sharing Maine's story

MHS Member, Charles W. H. Dodge (1929-2021) at *Our Favorite Things* event, views a glass plate negative, 2017. Photo: Patricia Cousins

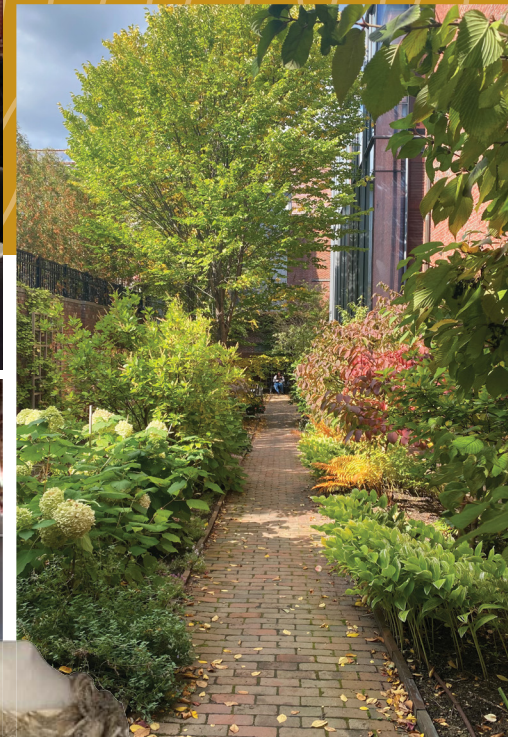
About MHS

Founded in 1822 as the third oldest state historical society in the United States, Maine Historical Society (MHS) preserves and shares Maine's story. We engage thousands of members, visitors, students, and researchers through a variety of digital and in-person offerings, including our Museum, Brown Research Library, Wadsworth-Longfellow House & Garden, and Maine Memory Network, our nationally-recognized digital history platform.

Since our beginnings, MHS has been collecting and preserving historic materials and promoting scholarship in Maine history. In recent decades, MHS has expanded toward greater community inclusivity, engagement, and equity, welcoming diverse voices, co-curators, and perspectives. Our exhibitions and public programs provide context for important, contemporary issues, support public dialog and learning, and celebrate Maine's special sense of place.



James E. Francis kapahse (sturgeon) drum, Indian Island, 2019.
MMN #104988



Jamie Rice with USM students,
ca. 2018.

Tour of the Wadsworth-Longfellow
house ca. 2018

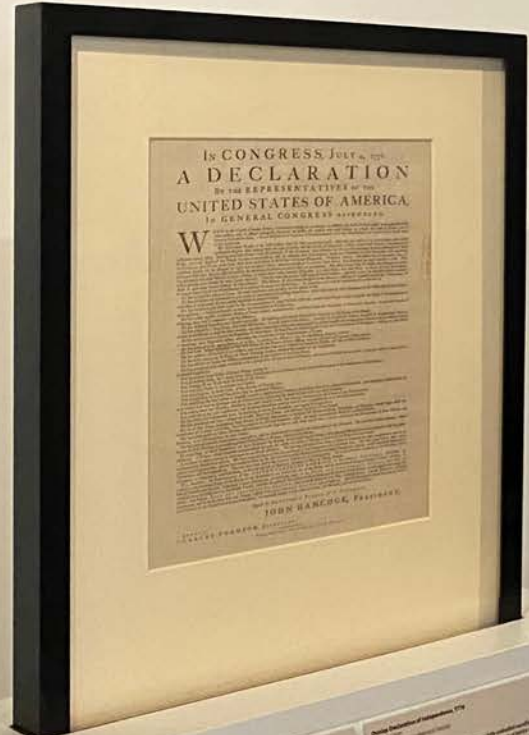
Holding Up the Sky Exhibit, 2019.
Photo: Patricia Cousins

Longfellow Garden, 2021.
Photo: Hilary Hendricks

Sally Holmes' embellished silk
gown, ca. 1824. MMN #105486

BEGIN AGAIN

reckoning with intolerance in Maine



A pandemic, political unrest, racial hatred, violence, and drastic economic inequities in 2020 have opened conversations about intolerance in America and Maine. During this crisis, many are asking, "How did we get here? The answer is controversial."

A year after Christopher Columbus's 1492 journey, Roger Alexander V. issued a Royal Bull that legitimized stealing Indigenous land in what is now known as the Americas. Justifying the genocide of non-Christians, a previous proclamation in 1492 approved the murder and enslavement of Aboriginal people. These "Doctrines of Christian Discovery and Domination" are the foundation of settler colonialist supremacy woven into all aspects of American life, and are at the base of our legal, economic, and social systems.

The Doctrines propelled English and European settlements through theft of Indigenous Homelands starting in the 1600s. The Doctrines shaped the ideologies of the Framers of the U.S. Constitution, who, while writing "all men are created equal," suppressed women's rights, lived on stolen land and profits from slavery. These ideologies remain present, and were cited in the U.S. Supreme Court as recently as 2005 in *City of Sherrill v. Native Vendors of the Nation of New York*.

The roots of why, in 2020, a White Mississippi politician was empowered to kneel on the neck of George Floyd, a Black man, in full public view for 9 minutes 29 seconds are traced to the fundamental intolerance in our society based in the Doctrines of Discovery. The question shouldn't be "How did we get here?" but rather, "Where do we go from here?"

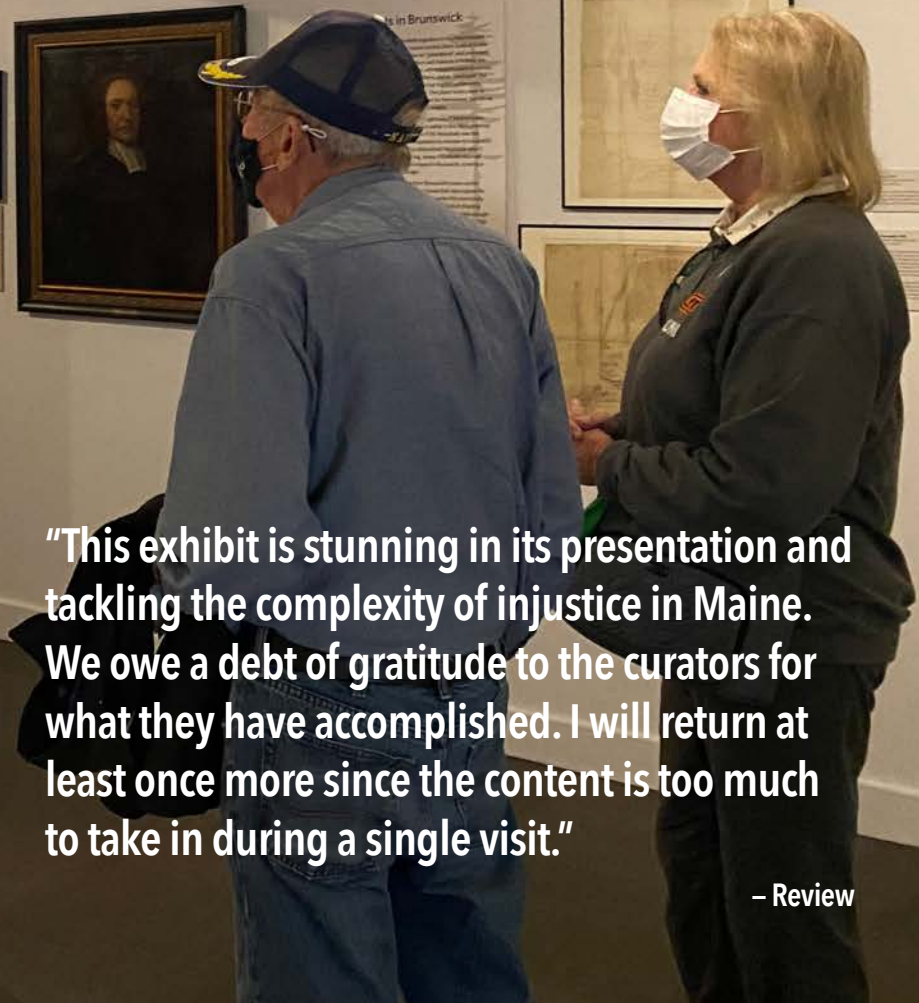
This exhibition examines the paths of experience in Maine. There are difficult histories to reckon with, and some truths might shock visitors. In collaboration with a network of advisors from around the state, we invite you to view Maine's history plainly, to work toward healing through truth, and "Begin Again," history plainly, a more equitable experience that we know is possible for all of Maine's residents in the future.

Choose your route. The pathways and the history will keep bringing you back to this point to reflect and consider who benefits from our past and present systems.

CO-CURATORS OF BEGIN AGAIN

Amy Hildreth
Sarah Hildreth
[Other names partially visible]

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness



"This exhibit is stunning in its presentation and tackling the complexity of injustice in Maine. We owe a debt of gratitude to the curators for what they have accomplished. I will return at least once more since the content is too much to take in during a single visit."

Begin Again. Photo: Hilary Hendricks

- Review

Exhibitions

MHS creates responsive programming, highlighting new voices and stories, to provide context for contemporary issues and concerns. Praised by the media, members, and the public, MHS exhibitions prompt people to examine and discuss the various impacts of history on life, and contemporary Maine.

STATE OF MIND: Becoming Maine

As the homeland of the Wabanaki people, a European province, and part of the District of Massachusetts, this Bicentennial exhibit explored Maine's formation as a state in 1820; the Missouri Compromise; and how the idea of "Maine" is perceived by people today.

Redact: Obscuring the Maine Constitution

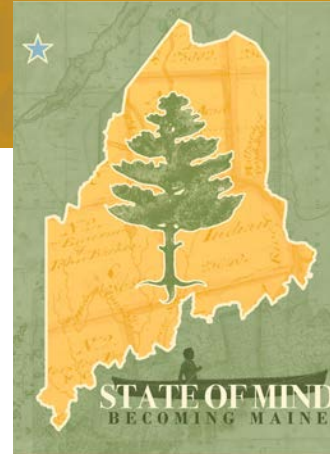
Working with James Francis (Penobscot), Darren Ranco (Penobscot), Donald Soctomah (Passamaquoddy) and Catherine Burns, we explored the ramifications that ceasing to print sections 1, 2, and 5 of Article 10 of Maine's Constitution had upon Wabanaki communities and public lands.

A Convenient Soldier: The Black Guards of Maine

The Black Guards were African American army soldiers who protected Maine railways from terrorist attacks during WWII. This collaboration with artist/scholar Asata Radcliffe provided an intense look at the daily lives of these loyal citizen-soldiers who stood watch during a time of a racially segregated country and military.

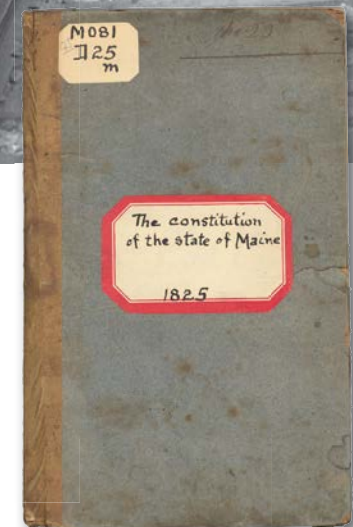
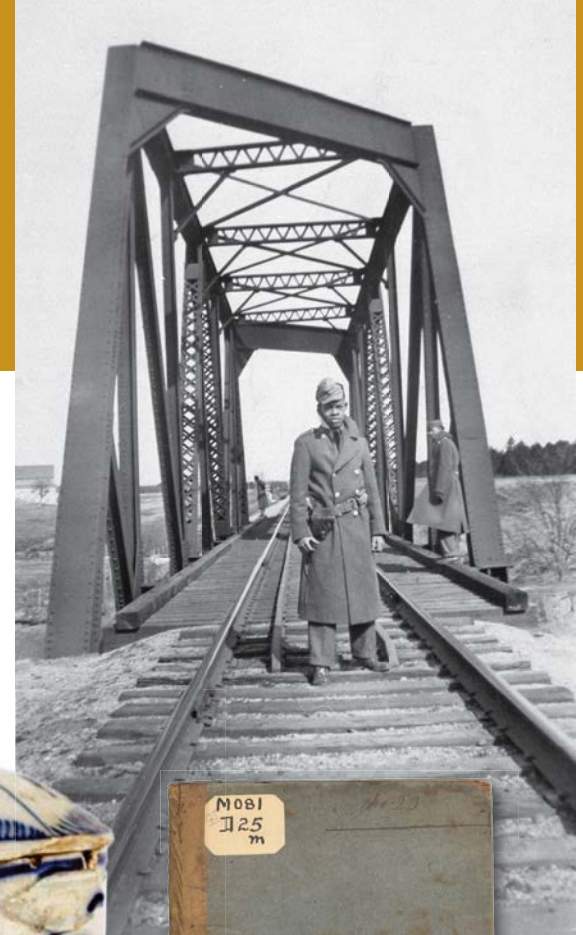
BEGIN AGAIN: reckoning with intolerance in Maine

The Black Lives Matter movement, political unrest, and COVID-19 converged into a societal crisis. Our powerful current exhibit and popular virtual program series examine the roots of social justice topics in Maine and aim to stimulate civic dialogue among Mainers.



State of Mind exhibition logo, 2020. Design by Ted Anderson

Pearlware sugar bowl, circa 1830. By 1860, Portland was a top American city in the sugar refining industry and complicit in the Atlantic slave trade. MHS / MMN #100171



Officer Leonard Parks, Pvt. Arthur Williams, and Pvt. Richard Sullivan on duty in North Yarmouth, 1942. MMN #18993

Maine Constitution, 1825. MMN #101558

Banner: Margaret Chase Smith at Republican National Convention, 1964. Margaret Chase Smith Library / MMN #25848.



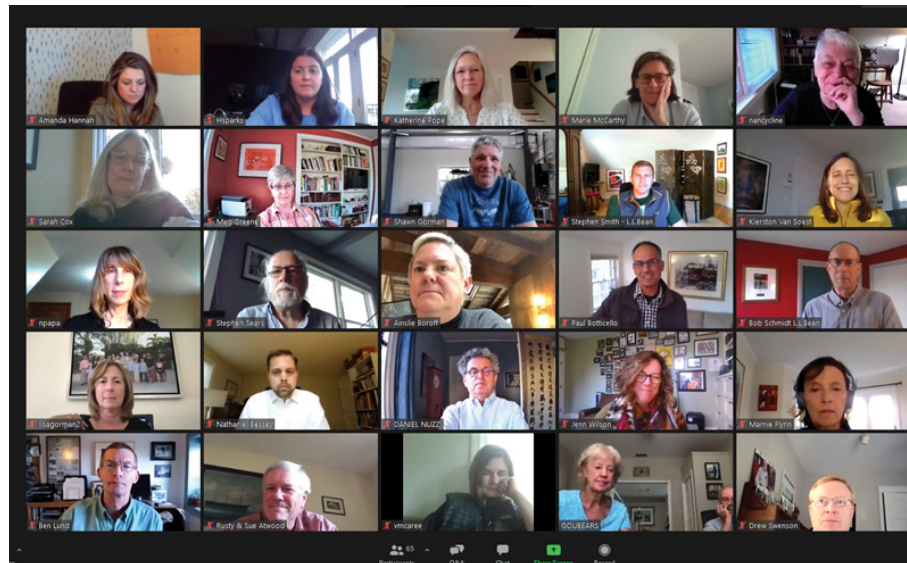
Leon Leonwood Bean serving a customer at the L.L.Bean flagship store. Photo courtesy of L.L.Bean.

Maine History Maker celebrates the L. L. Bean Family



Over 300 people tuned in live May 5 for our virtual 2021 *Maine History Maker* event honoring the L. L. Bean Family. The program highlighted what so many love and appreciate about Maine: authenticity, quality, joy of the outdoors, and community core values that resonate more than ever in these challenging times. MHS told their story with over 300 archival images, tributes, and conversations with multiple generations of family members. L.L.Bean chairman Shawn Gorman accepted the award on the family's behalf and shared the current generation's vision for the company and what Maine means to the family.

MHS' most significant fundraising event of the year, this *Maine History Maker* raised over \$100,000, which will support public programming, exhibits, and operations.



MHM Family Toast via Zoom, May 5, 2021

Roochie Toochie and the Ragtime Shepherd Kings, 2021

Bill Green and Shawn Gorman in Brown Library, 2021





4,267 Online Program attendees 49 Programs offered online
 4,800 views of On-Demand programs 2,740,937 pageviews on MHS sites

**A Map of
 NEW ENGLAND
 AND
 NEW YORK**
*Sold by Tho. Basset in Fleetstreet, and Richard
 Chiswell in St Pauls Church-yard.*



F. Lamb Sculp

History Online

During the pandemic, MHS provided numerous opportunities for the public to engage with Maine history online. Our Zoom programs and growing digital content collapse geographic barriers and enable MHS to reach new audiences.

Online Programs

Continuing our online programming through Zoom, MHS launched two new virtual series — *Maine at 200* and *BEGIN AGAIN: reckoning with intolerance in Maine*. These series provided the opportunity to engage with dynamic scholars, historians, community leaders, writers, and fellow citizens.

Our on-demand programs are available to watch online or to listen to as a podcast.

Maine Memory Network

MHS' statewide digital platform, Maine Memory Network, provides access to thousands of exhibits, stories, and historical items from over 280 organizations across Maine. Usage and page views increased substantially last year.

Map of New England, New York, ca. 1676.
MMN.net #7494

An Apple History of Maine a Talk with John Bunker, October 14, 2020

Synagogue Chaim Yosef, Calais, 1974. MMN #102727

Banner: Lincoln's death bed scene, 1865. MMN #13236

My Maine Stories

Within Maine Memory Network, *My Maine Stories* provides an easy online platform for individuals and organizations to share their stories.



In 2021, MHS' *Begin Again* series hosted dynamic scholars, historians, community members, and nationally known authors for a wide variety of programs.

All programs are available, for free (unless otherwise noted) via our website at www.mainehistory.org/onlineprograms.

Below are a list of highlights from the *Begin Again* series.

SOME OF OUR FEATURED PRESENTERS:

May 12
BEGIN AGAIN: reckoning with intolerance in Maine, exhibit curator panel discussion
Anne Gass, Tilly Laskey, Darren Ranco, Krystal Williams

May 20
Talk with Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.
(author of *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*)

May 26
Talk with Edward Ball
(author of *Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy*)

June 10
Maine Black History/Heritage
Bob Greene

June 17
From Chinese Laundress to Mother of the Year: Toy Len Goon
Dr. Andrea Louie (granddaughter)

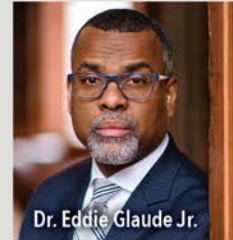
June 24
200 Years of Jews in Maine
Dr. David M. Freidenreich

July 20
Wabanaki History/Heritage
Dr. Darren Ranco

August 19
Maine's Irish Community
Matt Barker



Anne Gass



Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr.



Edward Ball
(photo credit Nina Subin)



Bob Greene



Dr. Andrea Louie



Dr. Darren Ranco



1,492 Volunteers attributed to transcribing manuscript pages 5,000 Manuscript pages transcribed



Hannah Adams' embroidered dress, ca. 1880, MMN# 105512

Library and Collections

During the pandemic, MHS staff supported remote research requests, while safely scheduling limited, in-person Library visitation. Major grant awards also have enabled MHS to implement important and exciting new initiatives to increase public access to our expansive collections.

The Historic Dress Collection

Staff completed an exhaustive three-year project that conserved, cataloged, rehoused, and digitized MHS' costume collection. Partly funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, this initiative provides public access to never-before-seen Maine-based historic clothing via our Collections database, and a new Maine Memory Network interpretive portal. The Collection, one of the richest and most varied in Maine, consists of 3,000 pieces from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century.



Architectural and Landscape Design Database and Portal

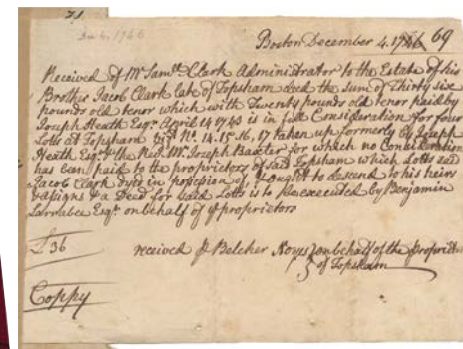
In January 2021, MHS received a grant from the Leon Levy Foundation to launch a major initiative that will care for and provide extensive access to MHS' signature architecture and landscape design commissions. This will include the collections of noted Maine landscape architect Patrick Chasse.

Crowdsourcing Colonial Land Records

MHS received a grant in summer 2020 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fully digitize three of our most significant collections: *The Kennebec Proprietors*, *Pejepscot Proprietors*, and *the Barclay Collection*. Additionally, MHS is dedicated to transcribing at least 50% of these collections for easier access to their historic content. Volunteers from across the country have assisted with transcriptions using a new volunteer crowdsourcing platform, *Zooniverse*.



Elizabeth McNeil Butts wool cloak, Lewiston, ca. 1903. MMN#105694



Banner photo: Jamie Rice with Brown Library intern Kiana Clark, ca. 2018.
Photo: Patricia Cousins.

Hannaford Building presentation drawing, John Calvin Stevens, Portland, 1920. MMN #15413

"Receipt of funds from Samuel Clark" in the Pejepscot Proprietors Papers (Coll. 61, Vol. 4, pg. 69.)

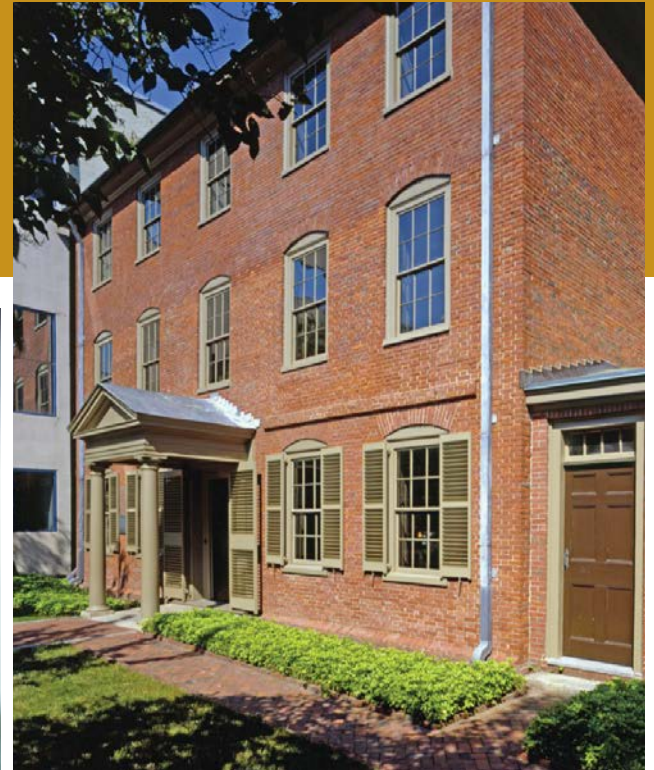
1,561 Gallery and House visitors





Wadsworth-Longfellow House

The Wadsworth-Longfellow House re-opened to strong visitation in May 2021 after being closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

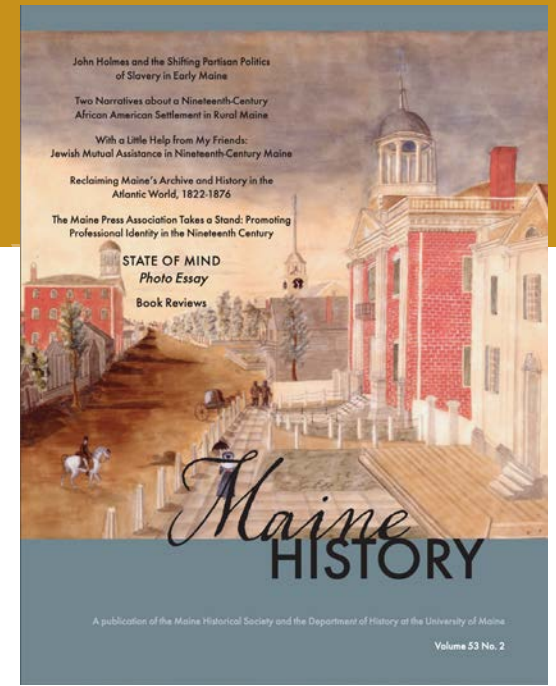
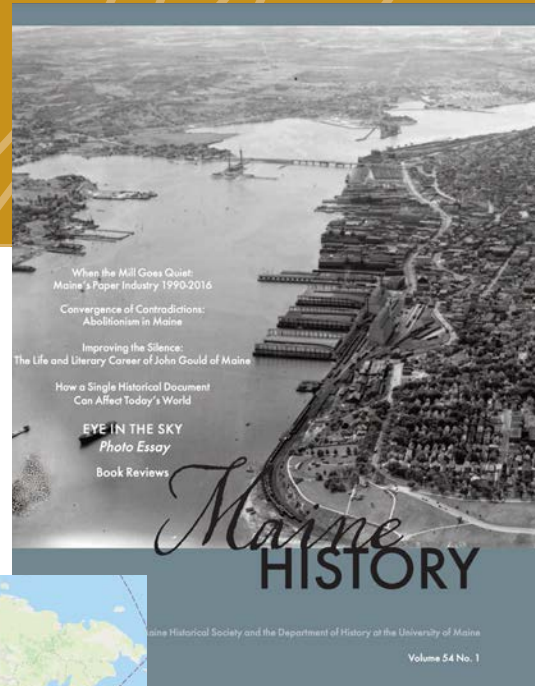


Photos of tours and interiors of Wadsworth-Longfellow House.
Photos: Patricia Cousins and Hilary Hendricks

Publications

Maine History Journal

Maine History, a peer-reviewed publication, is the only periodical devoted to scholarship on the history of Maine. Maine History is a partnership between the University of Maine History Department and the Maine Historical Society.



The Maine History journal was downloaded over 13,000 times from 133 countries through the University of Maine's Digital Commons platform.

Maine History Journal imagery, designed by Ascensius Press. Digital Commons readership dashboard.



John Holmes, circa 1840. Collections of Maine Historical Society, MaineMansory.net #22394

JOHN HOLMES AND THE SHIFTING PARTISAN POLITICS OF SLAVERY IN EARLY MAINE

By Matthew Mason

The longevity and shifting partisan allegiances of the political career of John Holmes illuminate many of the issues animating Maine politics in the broad statehood era. None of these issues dogged Holmes or revealed the intersection of Maine and national politics better than that of slavery. His seemingly endless political flexibility makes Holmes an unusually good barometer of the mainstream position in Maine on slavery and related issues across his broad period.

Matthew Mason is a professor of history at Brigham Young University. He is the author of books including *Slavery and Politics in the Early American Republic* (2006) and *Apocalypse of Union: A Political Biography of Edward Everett* (2016), and the co-editor of books including *John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary* (2017).

John Holmes, it seems, was born for controversy. While his provocative stances on key issues at times caused him serious political and even personal pain, he never shied away from partisan combat. His opponents gave as good as they got from Holmes, in part because of the bitterness his many party switches provoked in them. By turns a Federalist, a Democratic-Republican, a Crawfordite, a National Republican, and a Whig, Holmes repeatedly faced the fury of a party scorned. Holmes's willingness to engage with a long train of divisive issues also helped render his career, which spanned three decades, more contentious than most. His seemingly endless flexibility of political principles does not make him an inspiring example of political integrity. But it does make Holmes an unusually good barometer of the mainstream of Maine politics on various issues, because he made it his business to find that mainstream.

None of these conflicts marked his political and personal life more deeply than those involving American slavery. Holmes earned the epithet "Slaughterer" for his role in the controversy over slavery in Missouri, but he dealt with the moral, economic, constitutional, sectional, and partisan issues surrounding slavery at every stage of his public life. He usually did so in opposition to those who would wield slavery as a tool in state and national politics. But at other times, his political context encouraged him to flourish anti-

Awards

Each year, MHS recognizes four individuals who have made outstanding contributions and serve as role models for preserving and sharing Maine's history.

**Neal W. Allen, Jr History Award:
Bob Greene**

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of Maine History

Bob Greene's extensive knowledge of Portland history, local genealogy, and Maine's Black community is unsurpassed. Greene helped document the impact of Maine Statehood on Maine's Black community as part of MHS' bicentennial exhibition, *State of Mind*.



**James Phinney Baxter Award:
Prof. Matthew Mason**

In recognition of the best article published in Maine History this year

"John Holmes and the Shifting Partisan Politics of Slavery in Early Maine"

Matthew Mason's article explores the background and perspective of John Holmes of Alfred, one of Maine's first US Senators and a key figure in the Statehood process.



**Elizabeth Ring Service Award:
Connie Dehais**

In recognition of unselfish dedication and service to the Society

Connie Dehais undertook herculean efforts to make the Maine History journal widely accessible online by adding back issues to UMaine's Digital Commons. Her work supports broader use of the journals by students, researchers, and the interested public. Over the past two years, Connie added forty-two volumes of the journal, including 125 issues, each containing five to ten articles. The process required Connie to read every article, from every issue, and add about 800 separate pieces on Maine history.



**Distinguished Trustee Recognition:
Jean Gulliver**

In recognition of extraordinary service by a member of MHS' Board of Trustees

Jean Gulliver has been strong and consistent in her commitment, rigor, and enthusiasm for taking MHS to the next level. She has championed MHS to friends, colleagues, and everyone she runs in to in the community and helped to raise substantial philanthropic support from new donors.



Financials

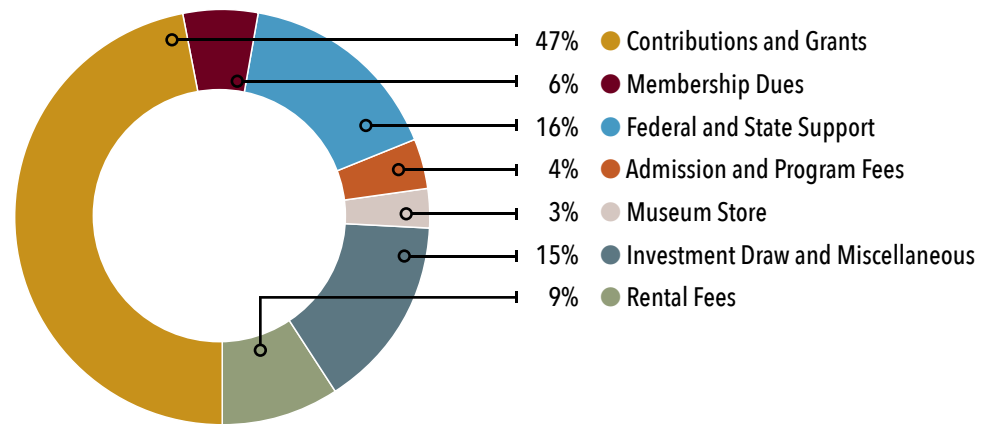
During the past fiscal year, Maine Historical Society dedicated no small measure of effort to course-correct the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic on our employees, capacity to serve the public, and financial standing. The initial FY21 budget set the expectation that by the Spring of 2021, COVID restrictions would be lifted in part, and many sources of income and the relative share of expense would return to pre-COVID levels. As the year progressed, it became clear that restrictions would continue and that financial success for MHS would hinge on budget discipline, the ability to be nimble, and constant re-affirmation of the organization's core commitments.

The team adopted an appropriately conservative approach to expense management in the face of uncertain times. We reduced spending across the board, renegotiated facility contracts, delayed elective maintenance, cut expenses related to in-person work, and realized overhead savings from underused facilities. Operationally, we extended the closure of the museum, store, library, and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House to in-person visits until the summer of 2020. We continued to support our staff in a virtual work environment.

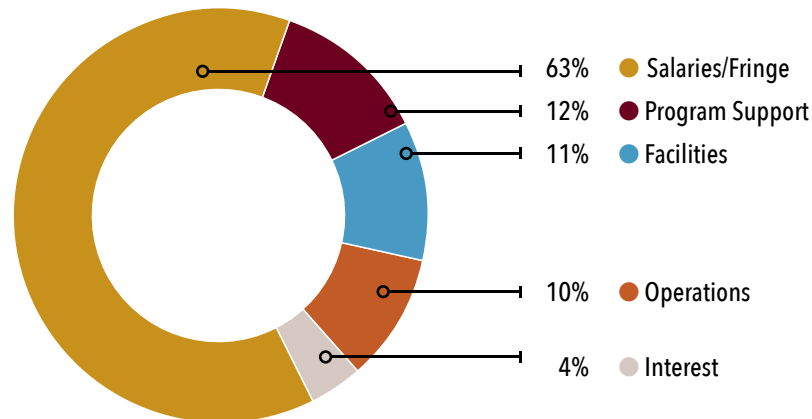
In terms of revenue, economic stimulus measures provided financial stability, supporting staff and mission-centric activities. Our work and impact in the community resonated with supporters more than ever before, resulting in increased membership and philanthropy. With the engagement and generosity of our donors and tireless efforts by staff, FY21 was a strong year in terms of top-line giving and revenue.

Andrew Smaha, Chief Financial Officer

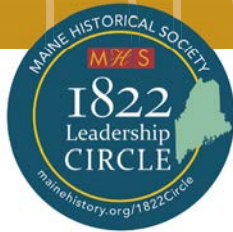
FY 20-21 TOTAL INCOME \$1,883,410



FY 20-21 TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,782,143



Giving



FY 20-21 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jean Gulliver, *Chair*
Tyler Judkins, *1st Vice President*
Eliot Cutler, *2nd Vice President*
Laura Sprague, *Secretary*
Drew Swenson, *Treasurer*

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Meredith Strang Burgess
Andy Verzosa
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1822 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

MHS is deeply grateful to the following 1822 Leadership Circle members and donors of \$1,000 or more for their generous support between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

Patron (\$10,000 or more annually)

Robert and Elizabeth Carroll
Central Maine Power Company
Nancy Cline
Eliot and Melanie Cutler
John and Jean Gulliver
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John Slavin
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William Sloane Jelin Foundation

Contributor (\$1,000-\$2,499 annually)

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Rusty and Sue Atwood
Bath Savings
Scott Baxter
Bean Maine Lobster Inc.
Myron Beasley
Michael and Nancy Beebe

Michael Bourque
Jane Briggs
Penelope Carson
Casco Bay Ford
Deborah Chandler
Andy and Elizabeth Christensen
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Dead River Company
Josephine Detmer
Dale and Priscilla Doucette
Elsie A. Brown Fund, Inc.
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Peter Goldman and Beverly Werber
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Cyrus Hagge and Jessica Tomlinson
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Hews Company
George and Cheryl Higgins
Elizabeth Hoglund and
Anthony Buxton
Brent Hoots and Jackie Studer
D. Brock and Helaine Hornby
Horace and Barbara Horton
Patrick and Christina Jackson

KEY

* = deceased

Giving

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Andres Verzosa and David Whaples

Oliver and Ellen Wadsworth
Walter Goodwin Davis Trust
Denham Ward and Debra Lipscomb
Isabella Stumpf and
William Williams
Timothy Woodcock

Memorials

In Memory of Jean Atherton
Deborah Weare Slavin
and John Slavin

In Memory of Eric S. Baxter
Paul and Mimi Aldrich
Rosa Aranda-Polo
William Chen and
Michelle Ritz Chen
Cynthia Gilliam
Sam and Nancy Ladd
Althea B. McGirr
Mary P. Nelson and
Kenneth M. Nelson
Deborah Reed
Meredith S. Smith
Mary H. Stewart
Meredith Strang Burgess
Frederic and Bibi Thompson
Bonnie Vance and Dana Belisle
Bruce Wilson

In Memory of Edward Chase
The Chase Family Fund

In Memory of Francis Lee
Francesca Eastman and
Bretna Parker

In Memory of Virgil Linnell
Gail and John Atkins
Chandlers Wharf Owners
Association
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Mike and Wendy Laidlaw
Richard and Rosilind Morris
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Photo: Patricia Cousins



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