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THE MHS LABORATORY

I hope that many of you were able to stop in to visit our recent exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The traveling exhibition came courtesy of the American Library Association and was installed in the lovely 2nd floor reading room of the Brown Library. It had scale, was colorful, and took on important, timely themes that help put our Maine experience (and the contemporary political climate) in perspective.

This represents a very big moment for MHS. Here’s why:

It is both a culmination of work done by many, many people over the past decade or so, and a glimpse of where MHS is headed. First, as you all know, the \$9.5 million renovation of the Brown Research Library restored the library to its historical grandeur. But a persistent problem remained: storage. Since the renovation, the 2nd floor reading room has been completely out of public circulation—filled with metal shelves, archival boxes, and stored collections.

Thanks to the purchase and development of our new Collections Management Center with Portland Public Library, we have been able to clear that space, and can now begin to see, imagine, and test our ability to use that and other parts of our campus for expanded public engagement. In the year ahead, you’ll have the chance to visit the 2nd floor reading room for public programs, events, and other exhibitions.

This points to the next phase in the development of MHS’s campus. We are now turning our attention to what comes next for our museum building—489 Congress Street—and how our campus can most effectively serve as a center and jumping off point for the exploration of Maine, its rich history, and special sense of place.

In preparation, we will be turning our campus and statewide programs into a laboratory in which we pilot and test the ideas, activities, and programs that will guide the development of the institution, our museum program, and facilities. At the same time, the MHS Board of Trustees and staff will be doing extensive outreach, and exploring the most intriguing, successful, forward-looking models being developed and pursued at historical organizations and museums across the country.

It’s a time when YOUR perspectives, participation, and support are more important than ever. Please stay in touch and check-in often!

Stephen Bromage
Executive Director



ABOUT THE COVER:

Mariner’s Compass, ca. 1850. This compass uses a symbol representing the United States of America on the North indicator. Collections of Maine Historical Society

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Maine Historical Society
Annual Report of Donors 2013-2014

We are pleased to have this opportunity each year to acknowledge you, our contributors, for your generous support of our work and our mission. Together we raised \$279,663 from 456 donors for the 2013-2014 Annual Fund. Your investment in Maine Historical Society assures the continued excellence of our educational programs for schools, exhibitions, lectures, publications, research services, and internet resources—all the things that make MHS a unique and valuable institution. Thank you. Together we do great things.

The following gifts represent cumulative unrestricted gifts received for the Annual Fund from 10/1/2013 through 9/30/2014.

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The 1822 Founders Council recognizes donors who provide leadership support at the level of \$1,000 and up. These generous friends understand the profound effect their gifts have on our museum and library collections and the educational programming those collections inspire. We deeply appreciate all that these donors do on our behalf.

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NEW ACCESSIONS

From October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014, Maine Historical Society accessioned approximately 396 linear feet of new library material—that’s about 25 feet more than the highest redwood tree ever recorded! 300 feet of that material belongs to the Bangor Theological Seminary collection, which is now being processed at our Shared Collections Management Center. The other 96 feet include books, pamphlets, manuscripts, special collections, photographs, and much more that will soon be available for research.



^ Patrick Ford, our new Project Archivist for the Bangor Theological Collection, with part of the collection behind him at the Collections Management Center.



The remaining 96 feet of new library collections hold many wonderful bits of Maine history that we look forward to sharing with you.

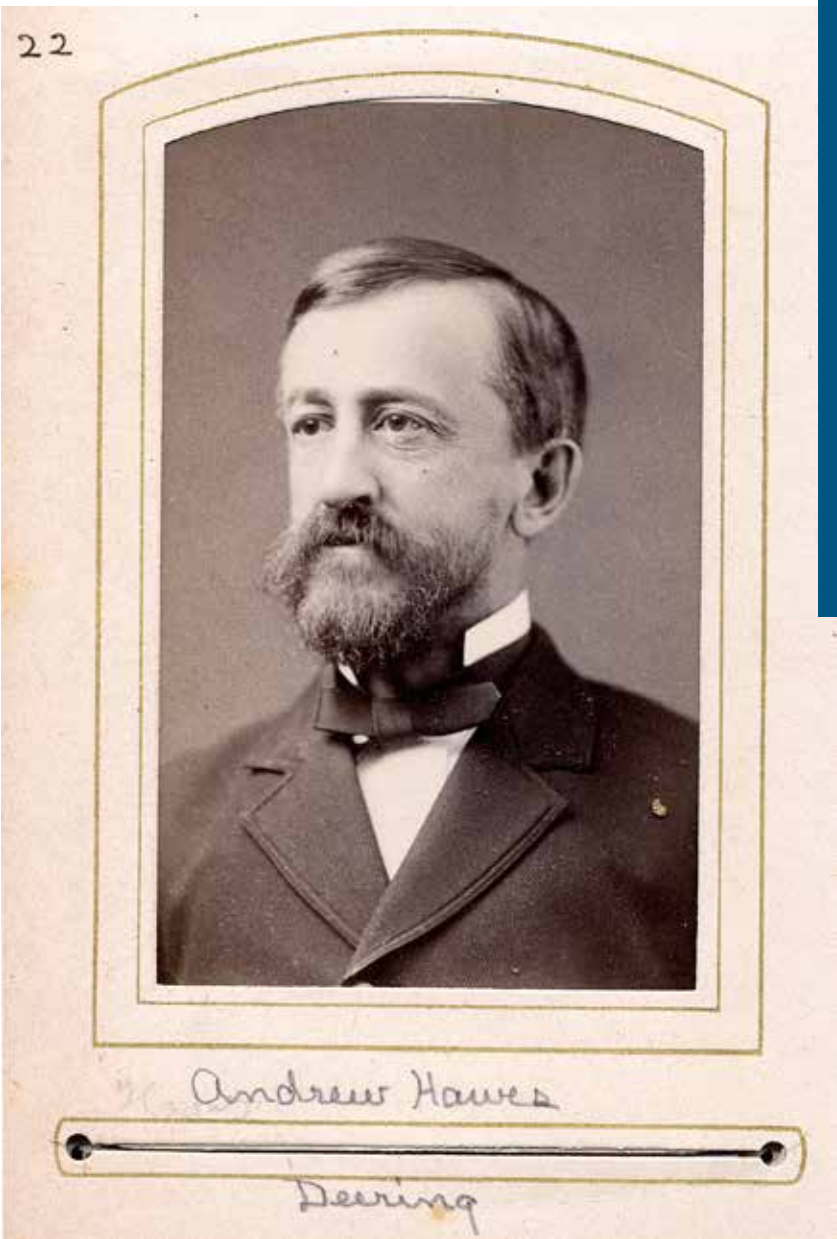
The Bangor Theological Seminary collection composes 300 feet of our new library material from the past fiscal year. The collection should be ready for research as early as fall 2016.

Early Maine Collector

Andrew Hawes (1836-1928), known as Squire Hawes, was an avid collector of 18th and 19th century manuscripts, particularly relating to the early history of Falmouth and Portland. His collection at Maine Historical Society includes a large number of Revolutionary War era papers and those of leading businessmen, including several items documenting the history of slavery in Maine. Hawes, a politician who served locally and at the state level, also owned and operated a grocery store in Stroudwater (now part of modern Portland). The popular grocery is often thought to have been the home base for his collecting. His collection once included Stroudwater’s own Tate House, currently operated as a museum preserving the legacy of Capt. George Tate and the colonial mast trade.

Jamie Rice
Director of Library Services

> Andrew Hawes, of Deering served in the Maine Senate in 1879-1880 as a Republican. Researchers at MHS have benefited from his collection of early manuscripts. MHS Collections.



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An Evening in the 1920s

Nearly 200 guests attended the 1920s-themed soiree that was the Maine Historical Society’s biggest fundraising event of the year. This past year’s event was held at the historic Portland Masonic Temple last May. Proceeds from the event support MHS public and education programs. Guests donned ‘20s attire and enjoyed cocktails, a silent and live auction, a photo booth, a historical exhibition, dinner, and dancing to the music of The Fogcutters, a 21-piece band.

Save the date for next year’s event, a Magical History Tour on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Join us for a tour of some fascinating historic sites in Portland that you have never seen or even knew existed. The mystery sites will be revealed at a cocktail party we’re hosting on Friday, May 1 in the new Press Hotel.



^ Guests sit down to enjoy a special dinner in the Masonic Temple’s event room.



^ Julia Noyes, Edward and Ann Noyes, Thomas and Heather Noyes, Nicholas Noyes and Margaret Hourigan.

< In a special piece of MHS theater, dinner guests raised money to post bail for staff members Nicholas Noyes and Kathleen Neumann when a bobby raided the “speakeasy.”

Junior Docent Camp, 2014

Maine Historical Society’s Junior Docent Camp of 2014 was a great success! The eight Junior Docents who participated (all 9 and 10 years-old) spent a week at MHS preparing to become tour guides in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and learning about life in the 19th century. They studied the stories of the house with basement to attic tours and learned how historians use artifacts and primary source documents working with MHS’s own collections. The Junior Docents also tried their hands at 19th century crafts, chores, and games; they made butter, self-portrait silhouettes, dipped candles, and perfected their athletic techniques in “games of graces.”

At week’s end, the Junior Docents hosted an open house in the Wadsworth-Longfellow house, each of them stationed in the different rooms of the where they greeted guests with a smile and eagerly shared what they had learned about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, his poetry, and his childhood in Portland. MHS is looking to expand the program for the summer of 2015, offering new activities and opportunities to students of diverse interests and ages. For more information or to register for Junior Docent Camp 2015, contact the Manager of School and Interpretative Programs at 207-774-1822, x214, kneumann@mainehistory.org.

> Julia Trowbridge receives her certificate of completion from Kathleen Neumann during the Junior Docent graduation ceremony.



^ Ayden MacWhinne, Julia Trowbridge, Meghan Perry, Ella Bromage, and Liam Winship learn about the city of Portland on a walking tour.



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“Capable and Progressive”

Women Flood Portland, July 1925



< Marie Chabo and Helen Carroll from Sheridan, Wyoming, pose on a taxi in Portland.

dominated by men. In addition, the long struggle to gain the vote was nearly over and many women thought their newfound political voice would contribute to their efforts in the business world.

In July 1925, more than 2,000 “capable and progressive” women flooded into Portland for the seventh annual convention of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Club (BPW). They came from 47 states, as well as Hawaii, Canada, and Argentina.

Portland’s newspapers covered events ranging from social activities to serious considerations of BPW policy and world events. The headline in a convention supplement to the *Portland Sunday Telegram* on July 12, 1925 proclaimed “Growth More Phenom-

enal Than That of Any Other Organization of Similar Kind in History.” Stories featured accomplishments of individual women, information about state delegations, histories, and topics of various sessions.

The great optimism expressed in the newspaper stories reflected that of the organization’s founding in 1919. BPW was one of a number of similar groups formed as World War I ended. Women across the country were buoyed by their participation in war work—at home and overseas—and saw an opening for women’s acceptance into fields previously

Like various men’s professional organizations, BPW sought to provide social and professional support to members, to promote the idea of women in business, and to support girls and young women. Many members of the groups that began in 1919 had been in business for years. The clubs also were active in various community affairs and causes, including legislation affecting women.

The national BPW chose Portland for its 1925 convention, in part, because the local club was so successful. It averaged about 500 members during the 1920s. In 1922, only two years after it began, the Portland BPW



^ Margaret McKinney of Hoquiam, Washington, left; and Mary E. Russell of Orono, represent delegates from the farthest west and east BPW clubs.



^ Business and professional women from Iowa, in the front of the group at Grand Trunk station in Portland, wave corn-cob canes.

had more than 650 members—the largest club in the country in proportion to its population. In addition, Maine led the eastern U.S. in the formation of BPW clubs for some six years in the 1920s.

Among those active in the Maine BPW and at the convention were its president Flora Weed of Bangor, an accountant and treasurer for an auto dealership; Margaret Chase of Skowhegan, who went on to become a U.S. Representative and longtime U.S. Senator; Emmie Bailey Whitney, a journalist for the *Lewiston Journal Saturday Magazine*, who frequently wrote about the outdoors and who, along with her husband, George Herbert Whitney, an accomplished amateur photographer, documented much of the Maine cultural landscape in the 1930s. Also active in the state BPW organization were

Dr. Barbara Hunt, a Bangor physician; and Jennie Flood Kreger of Fairfield, a lecturer on education, who was determined to shake hands with every woman present at the convention.

The business and professional women who filled the streets of Portland from July 12-18, 1925 were doctors, lawyers, professors, journalists, real estate and insurance agents, bankers, teachers, stenographers, bookkeepers, owners of small businesses, saleswomen, buyers, and a variety of other professions. A majority were single, and while many valued their economic independence, one convention session debated whether the name of the BPW magazine should be changed from *The Independent Woman* to something less offensive to men.

How to succeed was a frequent discussion. One prominent speaker noted, “So far, the really outstanding women in business have

for the most part come up from the ranks of clerical or sales workers through sheer ability and persistence.” While that also was the route for many men to advance in business, one delegate, commenting on the rapidly increasing numbers of women clerical workers, commented, “Before women make this field their own, there should be some assurances that it does not become a blind alley occupation.” Optimism frequently encountered realism.

Find other images of the 1925 convention at www.mainememory.net and further discussion of the organization at www.mainememory.net/mho, “Thinking About History,” “Evidence: The BPW in Portland.”

Candace Kanes
MMN Curator



← A Monson Slate Quarry crew poses in 1908 with large blocks of slate that will be taken into the mill to be made into electrical boards, shingles, sinks, refrigerators, and other items.

↓ A hoist is preparing to lower a worker in the Monson Pond Quarry, part of the Monson Slate Company. The same box was used to lift slate out of the quarry.



FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR:

MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monson Slate & Immigrants

By Estella Bennett, Monson Historical Society

In the summer of 1870, William Griffith Jones gazed upon an out-cropping of slate while driving through the countryside in Monson.

A native of Wales, Jones was well aware of the commercial value of his discovery and, along with other investors, opened the first Monson quarry, named Eureka. This began an industry that was the main source of livelihood for Monson inhabitants for many years and initiated a great change in the ethnic population of this little town.

Monson was first settled by Joseph Bearce in 1816, was incorporated in 1822, and remained a typical Maine small town whose population was primarily farmers. All listed their place of birth as Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts or New York. In 1870, there were 618 residents.

Within 10 years, the town had 863 residents — 10 from Sweden, 9 from Wales, 8 from Canada, and 3 from Ireland. Also, for the first time, there were 32 boarding houses, some of which housed up to 15 men, thus giving extra income to the families of Monson.

From 1880 to 1900, Monson became a hub of activity with a population of 1,116 people speaking many different languages. The census records show 173 people listing Sweden as their place of birth, 49 from Canada, 30 from Wales, 9 from Russia, 6 from England, 4 from Ireland, 2 from Germany, 1 from France, and 1 from Denmark. The streets of Monson were teeming with activity as businesses flourished, churches were filled, and organizations formed and thrived.

By 1910, 90 families listed Finland as their place of birth and the economy of Monson was slowly changing from farming. Fifty-three residents were listed as farmers, and 193 as quarry workers.

Along with these jobs in the quarry came hazards. Mining was a dangerous occupation and many men were maimed or killed in accidents. Others died of lung disease in the years to come. The land of opportunity for the arrived immigrants often was mixed with tragic accidents. For instance, 14 immigrant quarry workers with no family or close friends to bury their remains were placed in slate company-owned cemetery lots. ■

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER PROFILE: MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED: The Historical Society held its first organizational meeting on November 3, 1972 and was incorporated on February 22, 1973 with 57 charter members.

FACILITIES: The Museum on Greenville Road in Monson is housed in the former Grand Army of the Republic Hall, which was placed on the National Historic Register on August 5, 2005. The meeting room features slate sinks.

COLLECTIONS: Collections include items from the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War I; Scandanavian items, Monson Narrow Gauge train display, Monson Band, Monson Academy memorabilia and trophies, the snow roller and a 1911 horse drawn Monson fire apparatus and an extensive photography collection including over 3,000 glass plate prints taken by two Monson photographers from the late 1800s to about 1920.

VISIT: The Museum, Research Room and Gift Shop are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from the end of May until the end of September yearly.

CONTACT: Glenn Poole, President
P.O. Box 308, Monson, ME 04464
Phone: 207-876-3037

IMAGES COURTESY OF MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New MHS Publication

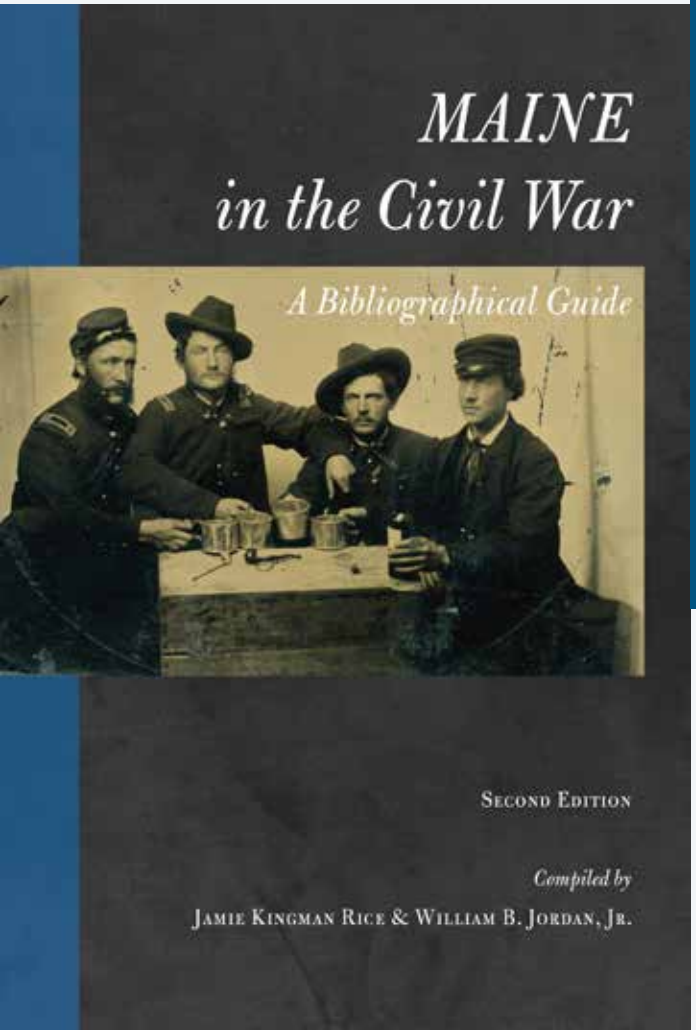
Maine Historical Society is excited to announce the publication of its newest book, *Maine in the Civil War: A Bibliographic Guide, 2nd Edition* compiled by Jamie Kingman Rice and William B. Jordan Jr.

A book launch was held at Maine Historical Society on Friday, November 14th in conjunction with the exhibit opening of *Lincoln: The Constitution & the Civil War*, an American Library Association traveling exhibit hosted at Maine Historical Society.

Maine in the Civil War is a comprehensive bibliography of published works reflecting the state’s participation in the War of the Rebellion, as well as the impact of the war on Maine. It includes an exhaustive list of printed works such as biographies, compilations, specialized studies and regimental histories. Originally published in 1976, the 2nd edition includes works published in the last thirty years, as well as items not appearing in the original publication.

Historian William B. Jordan Jr. compiled the first edition as part of the Maine Historical Society’s Maine History Bibliographic Guide Series (1973-1985). The second edition, compiled by Jamie Kingman Rice, Director of Library Services at the Society’s Brown Library builds on the original work.

The bibliography is available for \$29.95 (paperback) through the Society’s Museum Store or online at www.mainehistorystore.com. MHS members receive an additional 10% discount. For more information about this publication including wholesale purchases, please contact Jamie Rice in the Brown Library or at jrice@mainehistory.org



LIBRARY HOURS
Starting November 1, 2014, The Brown Research Library will be open Wednesday – Saturday 10am to 4pm. Winter hours will remain in effect until April 30, 2015. Traditional hours will resume May 1, 2015 and carry through October 31, 2015.

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Highlights from Last Year’s Programs

The past year saw over 3200 guests enjoying many great programs at MHS.

Early on in our fiscal year we offered a Maine beer history and tasting event, which filled up quickly. Josh Christie, author of *Maine Beer: Brewing in Vacationland*, joined us just before the holidays to share the history of brewing in the state and conduct a tasting of historically important Maine beers and his personal favorites.

We brought back our annual history of Portland Harbor schooner cruise, which took guest aboard the *Wendameen* to hear about the rich history of the city’s waterfront. Stay tuned for plans of next summer’s tour.

Donn Fendler, of *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*, visited MHS along with filmmaker Ryan Cook, to talk about his story and screen an excerpt from the upcoming documentary “Finding Donn Fendler.” The family-friendly 75th anniversary event was also attended by the Pine Tree Council’s Boy Scouts of America.

To see what great programs we will be offering for next year visit www.mainehistory.org/programs.



2014 Maine History Maker Event

On September 30, we hosted our annual Maine History Maker Award celebration. More than 100 guests attended this event where Vincent Veroneau, President and CEO of J.B. Brown & Sons, was honored as this year’s recipient of this prestigious award. Guests had the opportunity of gathering in the beautiful second floor reading room of the Brown Library, now being used for programs for the first time since the 2009 remodel of the library.



^ Guests gather in the Brown Library’s second floor reading room—recently cleared of collections and now available for special programs and events.



^ Stephen Bromage, Vincent Veroneau, and Mert Henry (2013 recipient of the award).’

< View of gathered guests from the second floor stacks.

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OUR PINTEREST PAGE IS BUZZING WITH EXCITING COMMENTS FROM VIEWERS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT PERSONAL STORY OR CONNECTION YOU COULD FIND WITHIN OUR COLLECTIONS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FOLLOW US ON PINTEREST AND LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR MAINE HERITAGE. YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND THROUGH OUR BLOG.



^ “Awe! This is beautiful! Proud to be part of the Len family through Janine Len Pipitone!” Board: Pinning with the Seasons



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Maine Historical Society and the Portland Public Library have recently launched a capital campaign to support the development of our new Shared Collections Management Center. The Center will be transformative for both organizations—improving collections care while freeing valuable space in our Congress Street headquarters that can be used for exhibitions and public programs. MHS and PPL are sharing all costs of the Center and are raising all of the funds together. We are deeply appreciative of the donors who have stepped forward to further this effort so far.

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