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 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
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.
“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.”

— Review
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.

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

**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](http://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
Annie Gass, Tilly Laskey, Darren Ranco, Krystal Williams

**June 17**

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

**May 20**

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

**June 24**

**200 Years of Jews in Maine**
Dr. David M. Freidenreich

**July 20**

**Wabanaki History/Heritage**
Dr. Darren Ranco

**May 26**

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

**August 19**

**Maine’s Irish Community**
Matt Barker

**June 10**

**Maine Black History/Heritage**
Bob Greene

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

Hannah Adams’ embroidered dress, ca. 1880, MMNF 105512
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.

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.

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.


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
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
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.
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 selfless 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 into in the community and helped to raise substantial philanthropic support from new donors.
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
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Avery Yale Kamila
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Charles Kaufmann
Deeb Keamy
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Deborah Kendall
Alicia Kershaw
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Patricia Klingenstein
Scott Klinger
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Robert and Caroline Knott
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Katherine Kottaridis
Elizabeth Kremenz
John Kriscenski
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Maryanne Lamont
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Darryl Lamson
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William B. Lane
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Louise Leckltnner
Nancy Lecompte
Candice Thornton Lee
Jeff and Penny Leman
Judith Letchworth
Christine Levin
Ann Levy
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Howard P. Lowell
Kathleen Lowery
Beth and Roy Lubetkin
Forbes MacVane
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Maine Foodie Tours
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Rosemary Malachowski
David and Prudence Maloon
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Vanessa Marcoux
Lisa Marín
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David and Wilson McKane
Mark McLain
Elizabeth McEllan
Sarah McMahon
Randall McNames and
   Victor Kazakevich
George and Mary McNeil
Peter and Eve McPheeters
Lyman McWain
Sarah Meacham
Martha and Tom Meyers
Barbara and Anthony Miller
Elizabeth J. Miller
Roger and Margot Milliken
Susan Millinger
Elizabeth S. Mills

KEY
* = deceased

PLEASE NOTE
Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the annual report. We would appreciate notification of any errors or omissions in order to correct our records. If you’d like us to make changes for future reports, please contact hhendricks@mainehistory.org.
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Zareen Taj Mirza
Geoffrey Mitchell
Stacy Mitchell
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Kenneth Moller and Tracy Burton
Jill Bock and Peter Monro
Lael Montgomery
Risa and Richard Moon
Jessica Moore
Blaine Moors
Margaret and Mason Morfit
Roger and Daryl Morin
Susan Morris
Marta Morse
John Morton
Greg and Catharine Moser
Craig Mosher
Herbert and Mary Lou Moulton
L. Taylor Mudge
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Lynda Mullen and Susan Garfield
Tamsen Nichols Munger
Katie Murphy and Peter Lindsay
David and Laura Murray
Margaret and David Murray
Mary Nadolny
Aaron Nalezny
Carolyn Nash
Cathy Nelson
Mary P. Nelson and
Kenneth M. Nelson
Nestle Waters North America Inc
Network For Good

James Neuger and
Renee Cordes
Susanne Newman
Bonnie D. Newsom
Gilman Nichols
Norman and Eleanor Nicholson
Cheryl Nickerson-Nutter
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Frederick O’Keefe and
Phyllis MacIsaac
Vincent and Anne Oliviero
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Susan Ott
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Peter Pachios
Jennifer Packard
Martha Padernacht
Liz Page
Lincoln and Alliston Paine
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Margery Pierson
Peter Pike
John and Sarah Pinkham
Robin Pinto
Charles and Elizabeth Poole
William Porreca
Jeff Porter
Robert Porter
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Alix and Bob Pratt
Harry and Anne Pringle
Charles and Frances Prinn
Harald Prins and Bunny McBride
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Lori Denis Rand
Peter and Alice Rand
William Rand
Robin Ratcliffe and Larry Pixley
Michael Rayder and
Elizabeth Franklin
Earl Raymond
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Patricia Davidson Reef
Theodore* and Lynn Reese
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William Reid
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Jamie Kingman Rice
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Sally Richardson
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Peter Richter
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Timothy and Maren Robinson
Robert Rodrigue
Malcolm and Susan Rogers
Merrill Rollins
Arnold and Tamara Rosario
Roberta and James Rothwell
Libby Rountree
Diane Rowe
Robert Rowe and
Colette Twigg-Rose
Susan Ruch
A. E. Runge
Leslie Runser
Jack Russell
Marie L. Sacks
Lucy Riley Sallick
Mary Saltonstall and John Hanson
Ronald Savitt
Thomas Schaub
Joseph and Barbara Schenkel
Timothy Scherman
Robert and Carol Schmerbeck
Cynthia Schmidt
Elena Schmidt
Wilmont and Arlene Schwind
Curtis and Cornelia Scribner
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Ryan Senate
Peggy Shapiro
John Sherman
Deborah Shinn
Ellen Shockro and John Shaw
Ann Siekman and Roger Crockett
Dean Silvers
Ellen Simmons
Nancy Simpkins
Gayle Smalley
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Duane Smith
Jane Smith
Jeffrey Smith
Meredith S. Smith
Sarah Smith and James Nelson Kise
Sally Smithwick
Beth Snyder and Christopher Stewart
Judith Sobol
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John and Sylvia Sowles
Gary and Leanne Spencer
Richard and Alice Spencer
Wilbur Spencer
Ann Spinney
Kenneth Spierer and Joan Leitzer
James Van and Carol Springer
Carole L. Spruce
Robert and Roberta Steele
Robert and Sarah Steenberge
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John and Jann Sterling
Paul and Doris Stevens
Mary H. Stewart
Bruce and Suzanne Stillings
David Stockford
Kathryn Stoker
Clinton Strong
Lynda Sudlow
Sally and Scott Suhr
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Ellen Sullivan
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Jean and Robert Swan
Kristin Sweeney
Carol Sweet
David Swenson
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John and Marilyn Taylor
Robert and Cynthia Taylor
Richard Terhune
Mark and Nancy Terison
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Elliott and Victoria Thomas
Nathaniel Thompson
Steuart Thomsen
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Philip Tiemann
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Carolyn Whitaker
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Rupert and Ruth White
Robert Whitney
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Jamie Willey and Catherine Steele
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Detail of Waterhouse-Harmon early photo collage, recent acquisition, 2021.
Photo: Patricia Cousins