



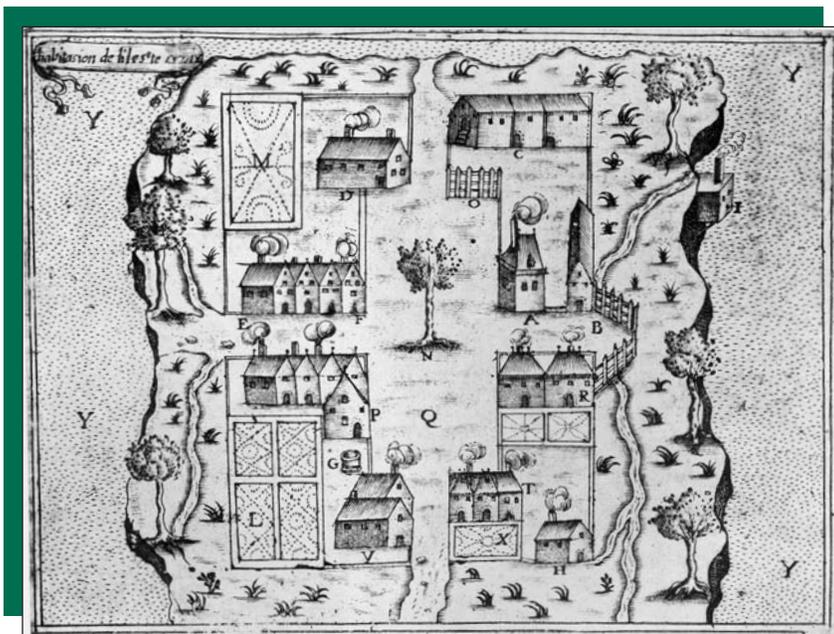
Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Fall 2004

Celebrating the Spirit of St. Croix

THE YEAR 2004 marks an important anniversary in the history of Maine, the United States, and Canada: the 400th Anniversary of the Settlement of St. Croix Island. Explorers had visited the area as early as the 1520's, but it wasn't until 1604 that a small group of French citizens, under the leadership of De Monts, attempted to establish a permanent settlement in the vicinity of what is now the Maine-Canadian border. The settlement on St. Croix Island failed after only a year, but a beachhead had been established, and subsequent settlements in nearby Port Royal and Quebec were among the earliest successful European settlements in North America.



*Habitation de l'Isle Ste. Croix,
Champlain's drawing of the settlement
of the Island of St. Croix, 1604.*

MHS Executive Director Richard D'Abate was invited to give comments at the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of St. Croix Island in Calais in June. The text of his speech follows:

"On the 400th Anniversary of St. Croix"

I would like to sincerely thank the St. Croix Historical Society for inviting me here tonight. It is an honor and a pleasure to take part in this momentous celebration. I've been asked to share a few thoughts about what we might call the history of the history of St. Croix Island, especially as it unfolded in the 20th century—a story in which the Maine Historical Society plays an important

role. But before I do that I'd like to take a quick run through the historical highlights of the last four centuries. The European part begins on June 26, 1604, when Pierre Dugua, otherwise known as De Monts, acting under a patent from King Henry the IV, landed on the island with a small party of com-

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Behind the Scenes — AMAZING! MAINE STORIES

Exhibits are a central part of our annual program calendar and involve nearly every staff person in the production process. The new exhibit, *Amazing! Maine Stories*, is no different. While MHS curator, John Mayer managed the process, and Candace Kanen and Steve Bromage wrote much of the panel text, staff in every department from the library to the development office contributed. Even Steven Atripaldi, Facilities Manager, had his first experience in the finicky details that are part of gallery preparation and exhibit installation. The result is stunning, and the show has been popular and engaging for visitors.

A project like *Amazing! Maine Stories* takes months, and sometimes years to produce. Exhibits evolve over several stages, beginning with a proposal and many meetings where ideas are shared by a staff team and honed into an exhibit concept, moving to research and writing when objects are investigated and

histories written, and then to production and design when the gallery and case layout is created and the show installed. Along the way, grants are written, programs planned, and publicity prepared and distributed.

Increasing staff knowledge about Maine history and MHS collections is often an important goal of the exhibit process. While organizing *Amazing! Maine Stories* staff worked to identify and assemble related groups of objects from both museum and library collections. As a

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AMAZING! MAINE STORIES, *continued from page 1*

result, letters, books, and diaries are shown next to tools, ceramics, and costumes. The range of materials on view tell the story about each subject, and also reveal the depth and scope of MHS holdings. Many objects in this show are on view for the first time.

The exhibit includes stories about an interesting group of people – and not just the known and already recognized personalities of Maine. Certainly there are several heroic and "famous" people in the show, like Commodore Edward Preble and Congressman Thomas Brackett Reed. But there are also several little-known people as well, people like Persis Sibley from Freedom, Maine; William Ladd of Minot; or Henry Thurston Clark, from Portland.

The small trunk of Henry Thurston Clark was an interesting discovery for staff and has a prominent place in the exhibit. Born in Portland in 1823, Clark worked for the railroad from 1848 until his death in 1895 – a forty-seven year career. He served as a station agent and baggage master for different railroad companies, and was responsible for coordinating the shipment of freight and luggage, and the movement of passengers. Over his career he saw many important milestones in the development of the railroad in the United States, and he made his own contribution to this history as well.

In 1873, just four years after the tracks of a trans-continental system were connected, Clark wanted to show how coordinated railroads were across the country. As a demonstration, he shipped a small trunk from Halifax to San Francisco and back. Each way, the trip took eight days, involved twelve different railroad lines, and covered over 4,000 miles. It was an amazing journey and once completed, generated significant public interest. Back in Portland and filled with notes from other station agents, newspapers from each city, and train schedules, the trunk was displayed in several railroad offices and publicized in local newspapers.

Just before he passed away in 1895, Henry Thurston Clark donated the trunk to Maine Historical Society. For the first time in many years, the trunk and much of its contents are on view again as part of the *Amazing! Maine Stories* exhibit.

This is just one of many stories included in the exhibit. The show will run through December, 2004.



Henry Thurston Clark's famous trunk that traveled coast to coast and back in sixteen days in 1873, using twelve different railroad lines.



THE LONGFELLOW FORUM: "Among Schoolchildren: Longfellow in the Classroom"

Save the date: Saturday, October 23rd! This year's Longfellow Forum will strike a chord with anyone who can still recite a few lines from *Hiawatha*, *Paul Revere's Ride*, or another favorite Longfellow poem they learned in school.

Tentatively titled "Among Schoolchildren: Longfellow in the Classroom," the Forum will explore how the teaching of Longfellow's poems in the K-12 classroom has helped keep the poet's legacy alive. Longfellow remains remarkably popular and iconic among Americans of a certain age who studied and memorized his poems at length in grade school. And while Longfellow has been out of vogue for several decades, there are signs that he is making a comeback.

The day will feature a distinguished group of scholars. Charles Calhoun, author of the much-anticipated new Longfellow biography, *Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life*, will share discoveries made during his research and new insights into the poet's life and work. Calhoun will also introduce several research projects undertaken by a group of Maine teachers who are participating in an intensive three year study of Longfellow being led by the Maine Humanities Council through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The program will also feature two other leading scholars. John Rury, Professor of History at the University of Kansas and a noted historian of education, will explore what has gone on in American education during the past 150 years and why Longfellow has fit so neatly into 'the canon.' Joan Shelley Rubin, Professor of History at the University of Rochester, will speak about the status and uses of poetry between 1880 and 1945, and, in particular, the role of educators in teaching poetry and diffusing modernism during that period.

A detailed Longfellow Forum program and registration information will be available and mailed to members in September.

SCHOLARSHIP REWARDED IN MHS LIBRARY

Maine Historical Society is pleased to support the work of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a 15 member group of research libraries that offer their repositories to scholars.

Shelby M. Balik, a University of Wisconsin-Madison doctoral candidate, recently received a stipend from this group and completed part of her work in our library.

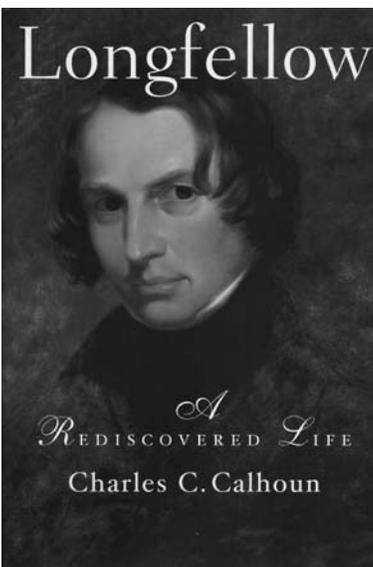
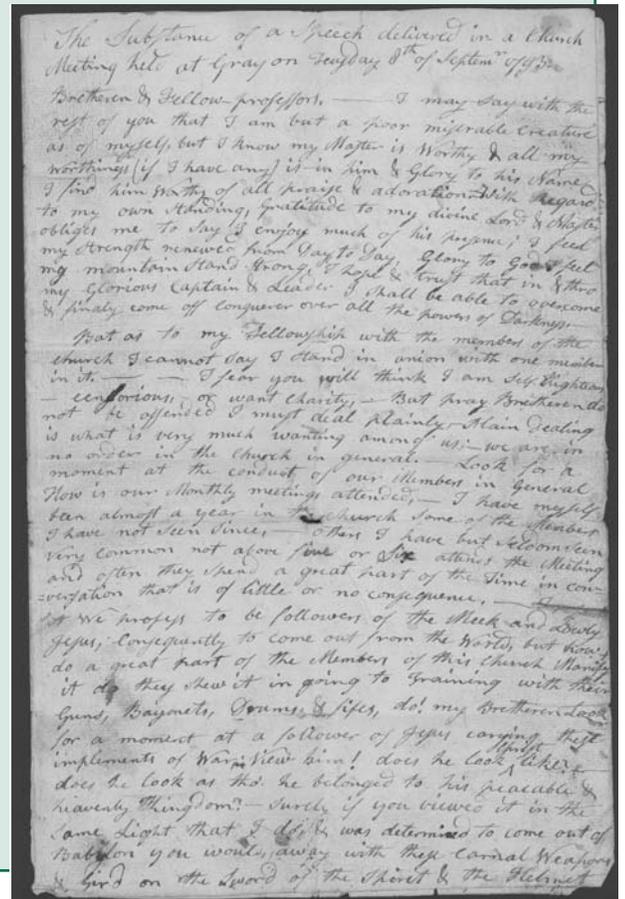
Maine Historical Society is pleased to be a member of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a 15 member group of research libraries that provide research fellowships for ten scholars each year. Shelby M. Balik, a University of Wisconsin-Madison doctoral candidate, recently received a scholarship to work at the MHS Library, among others. Here's her report:

The Society's extensive holdings proved essential to my research. I spent most of my time working in various manuscript collections, including the Papers of the Congregational Conference and the Maine Missionary Society, the Ephraim Stinchfield Papers, the Eliza Bryant Diary, the Joseph Field Journal, and the Records of the Poland Circuit of the Freewill Baptist Church. From these and other records, I gathered information about religious institutions and policies, the clergy's activities and concerns, and churchgoers' spiritual lives and reflections. More broadly, the material I examined shed light on how churchgoers and clergy observed and interacted with competing religious groups as they reflected on a changing religious culture.

I could not have enjoyed such a productive visit without the help of the Society's knowledgeable staff. Nick Noyes, Stephanie Philbrick, and Bill Barry – as well as many volunteers – provided invaluable assistance and offered insightful suggestions, and I appreciate the interest they showed in my work. A library is only as good as its librarians, and the staff at the Maine Historical Society Library have much to do with its excellent reputation.

The research I completed at the Society will figure prominently in my dissertation, and I am grateful for the financial support that made my visit possible. My only "complaint" is that the archives are so rich and so numerous that I could not cover all the ground I'd hoped to in just a few weeks. Consequently, I plan to spend more time at the Maine Historical Society, and I am very much looking forward to this continued work.

Ephraim Stinchfield, a Free Baptist preacher from New Gloucester, wrote a sermon chastising his parishioners for lack of attendance at meetings, for being too much a part of the world, and for their interest in weapons and war.



IT'S HERE!!

"Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life" by Charles C. Calhoun has arrived!

We are very excited about this new biography of Portland's favorite son. Stop by the museum store soon and pick up your copy – and receive your member discount! If you would like to receive your copy by mail, please fill out the information below and send it to: Maine Historical Society Museum Store, 489 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or email us at: museumstore@mainehistory.org.

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MHS Trustee Phil Harmon riding with Boothbay Railway Museum Director, and chauffeur, Bob Ryan in a 1917 Model T Ford Touring car at the Annual Meeting, June 5, 2004. The car is a part of the museum's permanent collection.

Annual Meeting Confers Honors

It was a bright crisp Saturday morning for the MHS Annual Meeting gathering at the Boothbay Railway Museum. With train whistles appropriately sounding out the theme in the background, more than 50 participants settled into the business of electing new officers and Board of Trustees members, granting awards, and learning a great deal about the history of transportation modes in Maine. We were pleased to have Bill Hall, Director of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company, present a talk: “*You Can Get There From Here – The Uniqueness of Maine Railroads.*” Not only did we all learn more about railroad history in Maine from Bill, but we were also able to experience some of that very history by riding the rails at the museum.

Executive Director Richard D’Abate was delighted to make these three presentations, the text of which follows.

THE NEAL WOODSIDE ALLEN JR., HISTORY AWARD *Presented to Joyce M. Butler*

The Neal Woodside Allen Jr., History Award was established by the Board of Trustees to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to the field of Maine history. Since it was instituted in 1992, the award has gone to some of the state’s finest scholars, including Sandy Ives, Elizabeth Ring, Emerson Baker, Earle Shettleworth, Francis O’Brien, Laura Sprague, Neil Rolde, Richard Judd, Joel Eastman, and Ruth Gray, among others. This year we are extremely pleased to present the award to Joyce Butler.

Joyce Butler is a person who has committed herself to the cause of history. She is a writer, a scholar, a curator of collections, and a creator of exhibitions. In all these endeavors her human touch, her style, her rigorous intellect, and her imaginative, even loving, engagement with the past are plain to see. She has been, first of all, devoted to the local life and history of the Kennebunks, writing and editing many books and catalogs, and serving as the manuscript curator at the Brick Store Museum for many years. (Every town should be so lucky.) Her broader intellectual interests included the history of religion, family life, and commerce in Maine, which led to contributions to many journals and to two groundbreaking historical collections: *Agreeable Situations* in 1987 and *Maine in the Early Republic* in 1988.

In the 1990s she began to volunteer at the Maine Historical Society and in 1997, by some magic, agreed to serve as its Curator of Collections, in which position, like a wonder-working providence, she brought order out of chaos, and created some of our finest exhibitions—*Spirits in the Wood*, on Native American craft traditions, *E Pluribus Unum*, on Maine in the Revolution, and *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: The Man who Invented America*.

As if all this weren’t enough, it turns out that early in her career Joyce wrote what has become one of the unarguable classics of Maine history: *Wildfire Loose: The Week Maine Burned* — an astonishingly meticulous, thrilling, and moving history of the fire of 1947. A tour de force of historical research and writing, *Wildfire Loose* was included in the *Mirror of*



Joyce Butler receiving the Neal Woodside Allen History Award from Executive Director Richard D’Abate at the Annual Meeting.

Maine’s 100 most significant books; it has also gone through three editions and will no doubt see more. It is a major work.

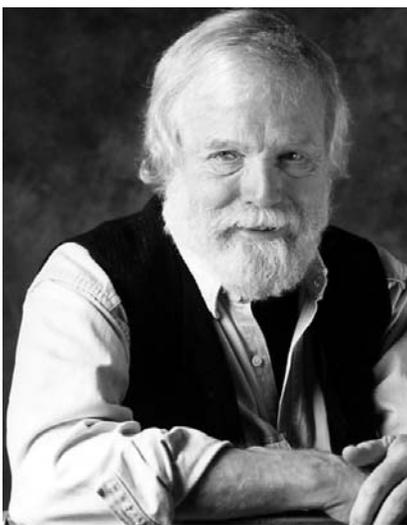
For all these fine accomplishments—for a lifetime of intelligent and passionate labor in the field of history—it gives me great pleasure to present you with the Neal Woodside Allen, History Award for 2004.

THE JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER AWARD

Presented to Edward D. Ives

The James Phinney Baxter Award is a cash prize given each year for the best article published in *Maine History*, the journal of the Maine Historical Society, as judged by the vote of the editorial board. This year I am extremely pleased (and not surprised) to give this year's award to Edward "Sandy" Ives, for his article "*The Only Man*": *Skill and Bravado* on the River-Drive, (Vol. 41, No. 1). You may remember that Sandy Ives was our Annual Meeting speaker in 2001 and this was the very talk he gave.

Sandy is Professor Emeritus of Folklore and Anthropology at the University of Maine and the author of ten books, one of which, *George Magoon and the Down East Game War*, was chosen for the Mirror of Maine's list of one hundred distinguished books. The fact that we have such a rich understanding of life in the Maine woods is due in large part to him. This article is a continuation of that work. It concerns legendary tales of prowess on the river drive that would always begin with the formula, "He was the only man who ever..." The storyteller in this case is Fleetwood Pride—one of those grand old Mainers that only Sandy manages to find—and the talk is about David Severy the only man who ever rode down the famous log sluice at Rumford Falls in the early 20th century. And there are many other tales, all of which served to define manhood, bravery and coming-of-age among Penobscot and Kennebec river workers. It is a delightful read, and I hope you will return to it again. It is a pleasure to present the 2004 James Phinney Baxter Award to Edward Sandy Ives.



*Edward "Sandy" Ives,
recipient of
the James Phinney
Baxter Award*

THE ELIZABETH RING SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Jane Shapleigh Edgecomb



*Jane Edgecomb receiving the Elizabeth Ring
Award at Annual Meeting*

The Elizabeth Ring Service Award was established by the Maine Historical Society to recognize outstanding volunteer service. It honors exceptional dedication, commitment, and effectiveness, and it has gone, over the past 24 years, to a stellar cast of the Society's most devoted friends and workers. This year I am extremely pleased to present the award to Jane (Shapleigh) Edgecomb, native of Springvale, resident of Wells, who may, from this time forward, be called the Maine genealogist's best friend.

Jane began her volunteer work at the Research Library in 1997, where she took over maintenance of the Obituary Scrapbooks and Index—an essential tool for family history research. The project involved clipping and pasting obits from the Portland Newspapers onto numbered pages, putting these in books and volumes, and finally creating a card file index. The task was ponderous and always behind, with a backlog of books to be indexed and cards to be filed. Jane, however, more than mastered the job with her combination of good humor, quiet diligence, and creative efficiency. As of April 30, 2004, the work is up to date with nearly 33,000 fully indexed obituaries! The index, now known as the RIP database, has been computerized and is available in the Library reading room; it will also soon be online.

Jane has helped create an invaluable research tool for the users of the MHS library, but it is only one of her historical interests. She is the vice-president of the Shapleigh Family Association, editing their newsletter, *The Shapleigh Chronicles*, and hosting their website. She has written on the history of the town of Wells, contributing to its very substantial 350th Anniversary volume, and will soon, to their great benefit and our dismay (she's been working in our Development Office as well), become the office manager at the Wells-Ogunquit Historical Society. For all that you have done for us and the cause of Maine history, we thank you Jane, and wish you well, and with great pleasure present you the 2004 Elizabeth Ring Service Award.

Winner of Preserve America AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR Award Named

Gail Lamb, a teacher at Monmouth Academy, has been selected as the first Maine *Preserve America* American History Teacher of the Year. This award is part of a new national effort, sponsored by *Preserve America* and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, to recognize outstanding K-12 teachers of American history. MHS coordinated the Maine competition for the Award program.

Lamb, a fifteen year teaching veteran, has demonstrated a career-long commitment to innovative history education. Her classroom teaching is shaped by an in-depth knowledge of American History and dedicated use of primary sources. She has developed a number of creative programs that take students beyond the classroom to learn about history. Lamb instituted a school-wide History Fair to foster the development of student research skills, and also led a two-year student project that preserved, transcribed, studied, and properly stored a set of historical documents related to the school's founding that had recently been discovered. Finally, Lamb has demonstrated her commitment to the profession of teaching through her participation in local and statewide curriculum and assessment teams.

Nominations from across the state were reviewed by a panel of historians and educators that included Charles Calhoun, Maine Humanities Council; Maggie Beals, retired high school American History teacher; Candace Kanen, Maine Memory Network Historian, and Steve Bromage, MHS Director of Education and Coordinator of the competition in Maine. Bromage said, "This was a difficult decision to make—all of the teachers who were nominated were creative, effective, and have clearly had a huge impact on their students and in their schools. Gail has worked to improve history education in her school on many levels: in the classroom, through projects in the community, and at the state level."

Lamb will receive a \$1,000 award, a teaching collection of books and primary documents for Monmouth Academy, and the chance to compete with state winners from across the country to be recognized as the national History Teacher of the Year. The Award will be presented to Lamb at Monmouth Academy in September.

The *Preserve America* American History Teacher of the Year competition will be held again during the coming school year. Please watch for details and think of worthy teachers!

Celebrating the Spirit of St. Croix *continued from page 1*

patriots, including Samuel de Champlain, now recognized as one of the greatest of European explorers. Though others sailing for France had made important discoveries in these northern latitudes in the 1500s—I'm thinking of course about Verrazano in the 1520s and Cartier in the 1530s—it was this voyage of De Monts and Champlain at the start of the 17th century that inaugurated the permanent French presence in North America. Their pretty homes and fortifications were abandoned after one terrible year, but successive settlements over the next four years, in nearby Port Royal and ultimately in Quebec, in 1608, finally established the colony. And that presence, as we all know, grew and shaped the character of two great countries—the United States and Canada—a fact felt with particular pride in the state of Maine.

The De Monts settlement on St. Croix surfaced again, literally and figuratively, at the end of the 18th century, almost 200 years later. Ever since the Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War in 1783 the United States and Britain sought to establish the most northern and eastern boundaries between the States and the Canadian colonies. One of the most vexing geographical as well as political questions was where the "true" St. Croix River was, since, by the treaty, a river with this name was meant to be our eastern boundary. In 1797 the St. Croix Commission was able to definitively settle this issue by digging up the remains—foundations and graves—of the De Monts St. Croix settlement, and thus identifying the correct river (Champlain's narrative and his lovely little map of the island played an important role). This dig was in fact an early milestone for historical archaeology, but perhaps more importantly it averted an impending war between the two countries. (The Maine Historical Society is lucky enough to own a large collection of manuscripts and maps related to the very protracted northeast boundary disputes, which as you know lasted into the 1840s. One of our greatest treasures is the Report of the Proceedings of the St. Croix Commission from 1794 to 1798, in the hand of Commissioner Egbert Benson. It includes many drawings, including a handsome watercolor copy of the Champlain's map, which they used for reference).

The 19th century was low key by comparison, but in 1856 the northern half of the island was sold to the United States to be used for a lighthouse installation. While the lighthouse was important (it lasted in various forms until 1976), this purchase established the governmental interest in the island that would eventually lead to its designation as a National and then an International Historical Monument. But I am getting a little ahead of myself. Let's take up the early 20th century-- June 25th 1904 to be exact.

It was on that date, I think it is fair to say, that the official recognition of the national significance of St. Croix's history began to take shape. It was the 300th anniversary of the founding of the St. Croix settlement; the site was Calais, Maine; and it was a splendid affair—all under the auspices of the Maine Historical Society, my organization. You might wonder a little about why Maine Historical was so deeply involved in this commemoration. From its founding in 1822 (the third historical society organized in the U.S. after those in Massachusetts and New York), the Society paid special attention to America's national origins and to Maine's role in that story. The critical subjects were the Revolutionary War, colonial settlement, and, inevitably, the age of European exploration, for which they collected important documents, maps, and key texts from the 16th century. In 1869 the Society published *A History of the Discovery of Maine*. It was written by the German scholar Johann Georg Kohl, one of the foremost experts on North American exploration at that time, and it was the first volume in the *Documentary History of*

the State of Maine, a series of many volumes issued by the Society, with the help of state funding, throughout the succeeding years.

To the work of publishing the Society added the business of commemoration. Between 1903 and 1907 they conducted five major celebrations—most of which were connected to the events of European settlement and exploration. All in all, from the start of 19th century to that day in June in 1904, the Society had led the way in thinking about Maine's earliest recorded history, and that is why they were the convenors of the 300th anniversary of St. Croix. (This attention to formal commemoration makes an interesting contrast, by the way, with the Maine Historical Society of today. Though we are not out of the business entirely, we are clearly more concerned with active, ongoing education than with isolated commemorative celebrations. We attempt to conduct a daily dialogue with the past—through exhibits, programs, and publications—and we have become leaders in giving all the people of Maine access to the primary documents of their history. In fact, if you haven't done so already, I hope you'll get on the internet and go to our statewide online museum and archive, the Maine Memory Network, to see what's there.)

The events and presentations of June 25th, 1904 are all described in a volume called the *Tercenary of the Landing of De Monts at St. Croix Island*; it was published by the Society a year later. Here's a little of what happened that day. Dignitaries and warships from four countries were in attendance. Cannons were fired in the harbor. A resolution was passed establishing for all time the name "St. Croix" as the true and proper name of the island, banishing the many previous competitors. A bronze plaque, commemorating the "discovery and occupation" of St. Croix and hence the start of the colony of Acadia, was unveiled. (It was affixed to a boulder on the island and is still there). Poems were read at the start and finish of the day (the closing ode of Henry Milner Rideout, of Calais, is of particular interest since, among other matters, it touches on the physical erosion of the island, a theme I'd like to return to at the end of my talk), and finally four significant lectures were delivered, each covering a different aspect of the early French experience. I'd like to spend a little time on these lectures, since they are as instructive for what they say as for what they leave out.

The speakers—all connected in one way or another to Maine Historical—were about as prestigious as you could find at the time. There was James Phinney Baxter, Mayor of Portland and president of the Society: he spoke about Champlain and the nature of earlier English and French claims in the New World. There was General Joshua Chamberlain—not quite as famous for his Civil War exploits as he would later become but still a commanding and revered figure: he spoke about the politics of French settlement in Acadia after the arrival of De Monts and the overlapping patents that would create later conflicts with the English. There was the Rev. Henry Burrage, who would soon become the first State Historian of Maine as well as the Society's president: he focused on the ecumenical and tolerant nature of the De Monts party, emphasizing the fact that it was composed of both Protestants and Catholics, a result, as he saw it, of the Edict of Nantes, which had officially established religious toleration in France in 1599, only six years before the landing. And there was William Francis Ganong, a native of New Brunswick, a professor at Smith College, and one of the foremost scholars of the exploration period of that time (the Royal Society of Canada had, in fact, just published his monograph on St. Croix—also known as Dochet Island—in 1902). Professor Ganong's speech was wide

ranging; he reminded the audience of the two classic texts of St. Croix history: the eyewitness accounts found in *The Voyages of Samuel de Champlain*, published in 1613, and Marc Lescarbot's nearly contemporaneous account, *The History of New France*, published in 1609. He used these works to paint a vivid picture of life, friendship, suffering, and death on the island—what he called "the silent witness of history." And at the end he expressed an idea that would become key to all subsequent celebrations of the island's history. It was that St. Croix had become a symbol of international accord; it represented the resolution of age-old European conflicts as well as the peace and friendship of two great New World nations. This notion would become known, in the words of a later commentator, as the "spirit of St. Croix."

June 25th, 1904 was a wonderful and no doubt an uplifting day. But a modern historian who looks back at that celebration can't help but notice something strange. It's this: in an entire day of lectures about the French colonial enterprise, there was no discussion of the Indians. A crucial piece of history was left out. To someone like myself, who went through the bitterly contested celebrations around the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's landing, this is almost unthinkable, though not surprising, since clearly our ideas of what is or isn't important in history can change. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that such an omission would have also been unthinkable for our French friends back in 1604. When they arrived, the Indians, the so called Etchimens, probable ancestors of the modern Passamaquoddy, were everywhere in the St. Croix area and had been there for almost three thousand years, as later archaeology on St. Croix itself would discover. Next to the dangers of the sea and the problem of survival, Indians were the number one topic on every French explorer's mind: he feared them, fought them, grew fond of them, exploited them, traded with them, relentlessly proselytized and studied them. We can see this clearly in Champlain's narratives, where native life is a constant subject, but also, perhaps more profoundly, in Lescarbot's *History of New France*—one of the classic St. Croix texts recommended by Professor Ganong on that day in June 100 years ago. And it is indeed a very interesting book.

Half of Lescarbot's work concerns the De Monts landing, the settlement on St. Croix, and the eventual removal to Port Royal a year later (Lescarbot himself joined the Port Royal group in 1606 and it was there he wrote the famous *Theater of Neptune*, a masque actually performed "on the waves"—it too is a very interesting work). But the other half of the *History of New France* is something entirely different and in some ways extraordinary. It is a kind of comparative anthropology of the American Indian, from Brazil to Acadia. There are chapters on native religion, language, dress, courtship, marriage, child rearing and much more. Most importantly, it is written in the light of what might be termed a universal notion of the primitive: an appreciation that every human race and nation, including the European, has a primitive stage that informs all later customs, language, and ritual—a stage even prior to Christianity. For the time this was a highly advanced cultural thesis and it is clearly related to a type of humanist research that arose in certain progressive circles in Europe in the early 17th century. Champlain's famous scientific mentality is not unrelated. This humanist philosophical orientation enabled at least some Frenchmen to recognize a bond between themselves and the Indians that transcended, or at least softened, the strangeness of their cultural differences. If we link this attitude to the distinctive brand of religious and cultural politics found among the Jesuits, who soon followed the explorers, it goes some way toward explaining why the

French experience with Indians in the New World, though typically colonial and exploitive, nonetheless tended to be qualitatively different and often more humane than that of the English and the Spanish. The deep interaction of the French and the Native American is, in fact, an indelible and highly significant aspect of the Acadian record. And yet in 1904 no one saw fit to mention it.

The reasons for this are fairly clear. For the speakers that day, and for the audience, and I dare say for the majority of people in the country, the historical notion of Europe's manifest destiny in America—the notion of the progress of Western civilization—was still firmly in command. The overarching goal of the day was to confirm this progress, and European colonial settlement was seen as the first important step. The old antagonisms between France and England, Canada and the United States had been resolved in the “spirit of St. Croix”, and there could now be an unchallenged consensus about how the narrative of North American history should run and what its key events could be. To have included a discussion of the Indians would have troubled this picture with awkward notions of injustice and invidious comparisons between the French and the English. No, June 25th 1904 was about the reconciliation of differences. And so it is only in Mr. Rideout's closing ode—a form friendly to elegy and melancholy—that we hear of “Indian lives passing forevermore” and see the “voyaging silhouettes of frail canoes” heading into the sunset. This is no doubt an echo of Longfellow's *Hiawatha*, and as with Longfellow, one gets the impression that it is only the vague disappearance of the Indian and not the real fact of his existence or destruction that can summon up our human sympathies. Perhaps that is all that we could offer a once bitter and dangerous foe—there at the turn of the century.

Though there are still many who regret it, this sort of consensus about Western history—made possible by leaving the inconvenient parts out—is no longer possible. It is not just a matter of political correctness. The old certainties, hierarchies, and narratives—the very things that make commemorative activities an effective tool for social cohesion—have been jostled and challenged. That is what good history should do. We see things through different eyes and we accept the idea that there are many possible narratives—even for the history of Maine. And I'm pleased to say that if you look at the *St. Croix Management Plan* published in 1998 you will find the Indians everywhere in evidence, from the indisputable archaeological facts, to their inclusion in the review process, to their thematic role in the Long Range Interpretive Plan. I still have my doubts about whether this plan actually comprehends the significance of the French-Indian interaction and the special quality of French cultural and intellectual attitudes that made it possible, but I guess we'll take what we can get. I see a similar inclusiveness in the festivities today and tomorrow, on both sides of the border, and that is good. What contemporary Indians think of all this, however, is for them to say.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. How do we get from 1904 to 1998 and thence to the present? Let me give you a quick chronology of the subsequent legal and historical recognitions of St. Croix. In 1932, at the insistence Mr. and Mrs. William Parker, who owned a part of the island, the National Park Service studied and confirmed the national historic significance of St. Croix. After abortive legislative efforts in the mid 30s and time out for war, the Maine Congressional delegation, led by former Governor and now

Monument was signed into federal law. Though actual creation of the site depended on putting together a single title to the entire island, the event was celebrated in Calais at the Four Day Jubilee on July 2, 1949, which also included dedication of the newly completed Calais Memorial High School. As it turned out, it would take another 19 years for the federal government to acquire deeds to all the property, but on June 30, 1968 the St. Croix Island National Monument was formally dedicated. (I might note that the Reverend Kenneth Lindsey of St Anne's Episcopal Church of Calais did have a special blessing for the Abenaki “to whom God first entrusted this land.”) In the early 1980s talks between the U.S. and Canadian governments began toward gaining formal international recognition of the site's historical significance; the National Park Service and Parks Canada were given joint responsibility in 1982, and in 1984 St. Croix Island received official designation by the U.S. Congress as an International Historic Site. In 1987 the St. Croix International Waterway Commission was created between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick, and it was this same commission that was charged in 1996 to take over planning for the 400th anniversary. In that same year the National Park Service began to write its St. Croix long range management plan, which was finally published in 1998 and is easily the most comprehensive document ever compiled about the Island, including archaeology, history, ecology, the environmental impacts of tourism, and, not coincidentally, thoughts about what might happen at the celebration of St. Croix on the 25th and 26th of June, in the year 2004, which is where we are at this very moment. I don't think they mention my coming to speak to you, but it's only a plan, after all, and not the book of fate.

I would like to close by just touching on one more topic. Erosion. It's a thread of concern about St. Croix that plainly runs from the 300th anniversary celebration of 1904, to the Dedication of 1968, to the Management Plan of 1998. In each instance we learn that the southerly shore of the Island has long been eroding in the weather and the tidal ebb and flow of the river—a fact easily discerned by comparing Champlain's famous map of 1604 with more modern ones. The anxiety is clear: unless this erosion is monitored and held in check, the island and all its historical associations might disappear. I bring your attention to this fact since it allows me to get back to my favorite part of the 1904 celebration: the closing ode, written by Mr. Rideout of Calais. We've already talked about his sympathy for the disappearing Indians and it is quite apparent throughout the poem that death and loss were on his mind. He begins to think about how the island itself is eroding, slowly effaced by weather and water. What was once visible and palpable, he says, now “Melts in the leveling centuries.” And then he does what poets are supposed to do: he turns the erosion of the island into a metaphor, a metaphor of forgetting. History itself is being eroded by time, he says: “The envious wave overflows earth and the man/ and Oblivion would seem victorious.” But he despairs for only a moment since he knows that something will endure: it is the bronze plaque just unveiled on St. Croix—a plaque that will continue to bear witness to history even when he has become nothing more than a dream and an illusion in his own children's minds. I find this very touching. It suggests to me what a century's worth of talk, and writing, and legislation and research and gathering together has been about. It suggests what today is all about. *We do all this to bear witness to the reality of the past, to raise a bulwark against oblivion, to defeat the erosion of memory and the anxiety of loss. We do history in order not to lose our place in the world.* ■



The Pierce Family: New in the Collections

Harry Raymond Pierce and Zulette Pierce, a young Maine couple who also spent time in Florida and Chautauqua, NY in the early 1900s, look like they knew how to have fun. Theatrical productions with full costume, trips to the Pierce family farm in Monmouth and recreation at the coast in Harpswell and Florida are the subjects of many glass plate negatives in the Pierce Family Collection. These 131 negatives and correspondent prints were found at a cottage in Harpswell and recently donated to the Maine Historical Society by Frank Davidoff of Wethersfield, Connecticut. They are now available for research and enjoyment at the MHS Research Library (Coll 2131).

We are grateful to summer intern Brittany Hopkins for processing this interesting collection. Brittany, who lives in West Baldwin, just finished her sophomore year at Smith College where she is working toward a degree in comparative literature. She will be leaving shortly to spend her junior year in Germany.

Harry, Zulette, their son Raymond, and the family dog at the Pierce's lakeside cabin, probably in Monmouth, ME

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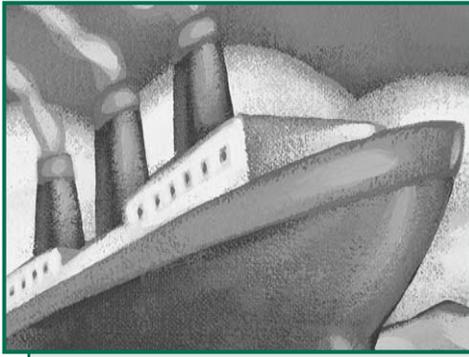
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*From our "Automobiles Collection"
Portland, Maine ca. 1907. Racecar Driver A.L. Dennison
in a Knox Runabout. VMI image #8647
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HISTORY SCHOLAR PUT FOCUS ON MAINE

Dr. Robert M. York (1915-2004) of Orr's Island died June 17th. A native of Wilton, he graduated from Bates College in 1937 and went on to earn his doctorate at Clark University in 1941. After seeing action in the Navy during World War II, Dr. York began a distinguished career in the University of Maine system that would span forty years. As one of the first professional historians to focus on local history, he joined Elizabeth Ring and a handful of others in popularizing the field. In 1956, Dr. York was appointed the 5th State Historian, a title he held until last year when Earle G. Shettleworth assumed the duties. Dr. York will be remembered as a pioneer professional in Maine History and a skilled and irrepressible advocate for historic preservation.



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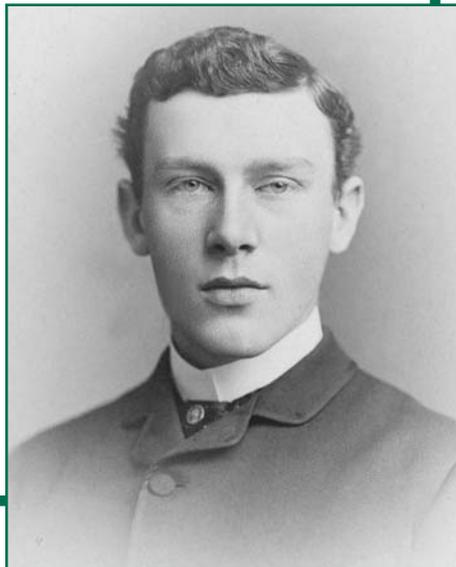
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Who Are They?

It was the graduating class of Portland High School, July 2, 1885. One of the graduates, Alice Harford Nelson (left), put together a photo album of 13 of the girls, 11 boys, and 6 teachers, writing a few notes about each person. Lamson Studios took all the photos. Alice noted on Charles B. Mitchell's picture (below) that he died in 1918, but we have no further information about Mr. Mitchell, his life or death. In fact, we have no information on Alice Harford Nelson herself!



If you have any background material that you can back up with documentation about either of these people, please send it to Stephanie Heatley, care of MHS, or email her at sheatley@mainehistory.org. The first person to provide us with documentation with confirming details about either of these people will win a copy of the book, *Tales of New England's Past*.



Who Is Col. Green Update

We are not entirely sure who Colonel Nathaniel Greene of Winslow is, but thanks to our members we have some intriguing leads. One person found an article in the *Bangor Whig & Courier* from 1857 that mentions a "Col Greene of Winslow, in Kennebec County" who sold a "thorough bred Durham bull" to a Mr. Chamberlain in the 1830s.

There was also a Nathaniel Greene who was the head of Farmington Academy at one time. Finally, there was a Captain Nathaniel Green who participated in an

"Expedition against the French at Nova Scotia" in 1689: clearly not our Colonel Green, but an ancestor, perhaps. The search continues. Thanks to Jane Paddock, Judy Larson and Nancy Getchell Mairs for these leads. If you have any more information, please contact Stephanie Heatley, care of MHS, or e-mail her at sheatley@mainehistory.org.



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Maine Historical Society

MHS Research Library (ext. 209)

Tues-Sat 10-4:00

Closed Sat, Sept 4 & Oct. 9

Closed Thurs-Sat, Nov 25-27

Wadsworth-Longfellow House

Mon-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4

Closed Mon, Sept 6th & Oct 11th

Closes Oct 31, open weekends in Nov

Museum/Center for Maine History

Same Hours as the House

Museum Shop (ext. 208)

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Upcoming Events at The Maine Historical Society

Ongoing

The Wadsworth-Longfellow House

Tours Mon-Sat, 10:00-5:00 p.m.; Sun, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Daily schedule ends Oct. 31st, open weekends in November

Amazing! Maine Stories

Museum exhibit features curious, famous, and noteworthy Maine people.

Mon-Sat, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun, 12 noon-5 p.m. Open through Dec. 31st.

September

Frederick Law Olmsted in Maine: The Continuing Tradition, Dr. Charles Beveridge

Thurs., Sept. 9th, 12:00 Noon

Unsettled Past, Unsettled Future: The Story of Maine Indians, Neil Rolde

Tues., Sept. 28th, 12:00 noon

October

A Peace of Work: Children's Needlework, family program

Sat., Oct. 2, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Clothes Tell Tales, Jackie Field

Thurs., Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Among Schoolchildren: Longfellow in the Classroom

Sat., October 23rd. Annual Longfellow Forum

Maine Memory Network Demonstration

Tues, Oct. 26, Noon

November

Tupperware, Laurie Kahn Leavitt; Thurs. Nov. 4, 7:00 p.m.

Amazing! Maine Stories Family Workshop; Sat., Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Thomas Brackett Reed, Robert Klotz; Tues., Nov. 9, noon

Preserving and Digitizing Family Photos; Sat., Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m. - Noon

The Black Veil, Rick Moody; Thurs., Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m.

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