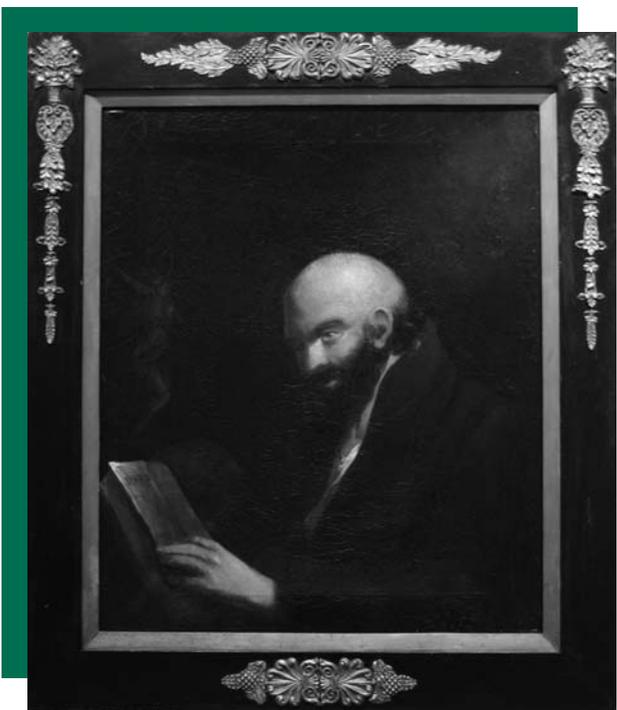




Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Fall 2005



Frederic Mellen (1804-1834) painted The Head of a Cleric in 1832. Both of Mellen's paintings were conserved for the exhibit – an important benefit of the exhibition process.

Moody and Mysterious: *Unusual Paintings in New Exhibit*

The new exhibit at MHS, *A City Awakes*, features over eighty objects, all made by artisans who worked in Portland from the late 1700s to the mid 1850s – the “Golden Age” of Portland art. The show includes a fascinating collection of paintings, complemented by prints, drawings, and decorative artifacts. Many of these paintings have never been exhibited before or represent unusual works by well known artists.

Two paintings made by the Portland-born artist Frederic Mellen (1804-1834) are particularly interesting. Mellen painted *Head of a Cleric* in 1832 and *Cathedral Interior* in 1833. He signed and dated each painting on the reverse. The paintings illustrate an emerging interest by local artists in classical and European religious themes—part of a new, symbolic and more intellectualized aesthetic. In this sense Mellen's pieces contrast sharply with the kind of portrait and landscape painting that characterized the more traditional and conventional forms of local art.

Mellen was the son of Maine's Chief Justice Prentiss Mellen, and graduated from Bowdoin College in the famous class of 1825, which included his friends Henry Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. While he dutifully practiced law in Portland, painting was his passion. Eventually he abandoned the legal trade, studied painting for a period in Boston, and began to make his art. Tragically, Mellen died in 1834 from consumption.

The work of Charles Codman (c.1800-1842) is also represented in the show, but his painting *Lady with a Dove* shows a classical, allegorical calm not often seen in his more romantic works. Perhaps more than any other artist, Codman provided the painterly substance for Portland's artistic blossoming. Codman trained in Boston with the ornamental painter John Ritto Penniman. There he learned the skills needed to make a living painting signs and decorative objects such as clock faces, mirrors and lamps, and eventually, fine artistic paintings. He arrived in Portland around 1820, opened his studio, and began to practice his trade. Here he also taught other young artists. Encouraged by the local patron and booster of the arts, John Neal, Codman's work became an artistic standard for Portland in the early 1800s.

We are grateful to sponsors of the exhibit Noyes and Chapman Insurance, Maine Employers Mutual Insurance Company, and the Phineas W. Sprague Memorial Foundation – and to the many collectors and institutions who loaned objects for the show. Be sure to make a trip to the museum and enjoy the new exhibit.

Charles Codman (c. 1800-1842) painted Lady with a Dove around 1830 on a wooden panel that had been salvaged during the reconstruction of Portland's First Parish Church.



Thousands of Historic Photographs for sale at the MHS Museum Store!

*Haying at Nonesuch Farm
in Scarborough, Maine, circa
1900. #5532*

The great images available on VintageMaineImages.com can now be perused and purchased on the MHS campus. You're invited to browse through thousands of historic images in a new electronic kiosk located in our Museum Store, at 489 Congress Street.

Whether you are looking for a unique gift for family and friends, or would like to display a piece of Maine history in your home or office, you are sure to find the perfect image on www.VintageMaineImages.com. Topics range from camping to fishing, boats to lighthouses, planes to trains, portraits to landscapes.

Digital 8 x 10 inch reproductions cost \$35, and MHS members receive a 10% discount on all orders. For more information, contact Image Services at 879-0427 x217.



Modern sardine carriers. #7716



*North School pupil reading, c. 1910.
#10392*

From Interns to Professionals, MHS provides the training ground for future leaders



Three of this summer's interns: l-r, Wendy Henerlau, master's program at USM; Sophia Mendoza, master's program at Simmons College; and Jonathan Waite, undergraduate at New England College.

Why become an intern at the Maine Historical Society? Fame and fortune may not be immediate rewards, but as a result of their experience here, interns often find career doors opening for them.

Interns, who are connected to academic programs that range from high school to graduate degree levels, gain valuable experience in the museum, library, or archives field. They come to MHS from institutions all over the country and on occasion have rigorous academic requirements that direct their work here. Unlike other volunteers, interns join us for a specific time period, such as a summer break, and they complete a finite project. Work on a project often results in a paper or journal article.

Many have gone on to prestigious positions in the library field, including the Boston Public Library, Springfield Public Library, and Harvard University. One former intern is now Director of Education at Maine Public Broadcasting Network. Several have joined our MHS staff.

This summer we benefited greatly from the assistance of several interns who in return received, we trust, a positive experience in their fields of interest. For more information on internships, visit www.mainehistory.org or call us at 207-774-1822.

MAINE MEMORY NETWORK TALKS

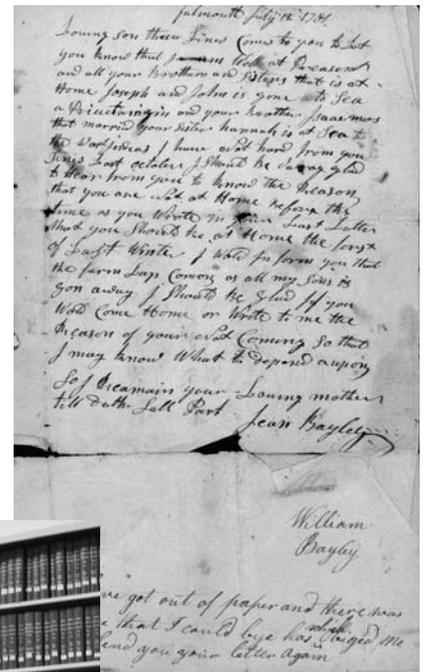
It's a talking slideshow! "A Soldier's Declaration of Independence" marks a first for Maine Memory Network slideshows. It includes audio interpretation as well as documents and images. Check it out at <http://www.mainememory.net/bin/Features?t=fj&feat=194> or go to the Exhibits section of www.MaineMemory.net. Revolutionary war letters from William Bayley of Falmouth (Portland) constitute the core of the exhibit. James Leamon, Professor Emeritus of Bates College, provides an audio interpretation of the collection of letters, exploring what they can tell us about the home front during the war – and about one soldier's experiences.

Each letter includes a text transcription as well as a transcription of Professor Leamon's comments. The letters, a treasure of Maine Historical Society's collections come alive as Professor Leamon discusses the difficulties faced by Jean Bayley, the soldier's widowed mother, after all her sons left home during the war. William Bayley experiences his own "declaration of independence" during The War for Independence.

"Conditions at home got no better for Widow Bayley," notes Professor Leamon. "In 1781 she writes to her son from Falmouth in the most piteous terms, 'I would inform you that the farm lays common as all my sons is gone away. I should be glad if you would come home or write to me the reason of your not coming so that I may know what to depend upon. So I remain your loving mother till death shall part. Jean Bayley.'" – Professor James Leamon.

Future slideshows will feature experts on various Maine topics discussing particular collections on Maine Memory Network.

Professor James Leamon explores the significance of a series of letters from William Bayley, a Revolutionary War soldier, to his mother in Falmouth (Portland). Leamon, professor emeritus of Early American History at Bates College, is the author of The Revolution Downeast: The War for American Independence in Maine (The University of Massachusetts, 1993).



Above: Jean Bayley writes to her son William to find out why she has not heard from him and why he has not returned to Falmouth before the winter of 1780-81.

GREAT GRANT NEWS! Two Major Federal Grants for Library

The Society was notified July 18th that it has been awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for \$122,682 to convert the rest of our Library records from our paper card catalog to an online database. An earlier grant from the Maine State Library allowed us to convert half our Library catalog. This grant will finish the process.

This two-year project, which includes hiring two new catalogers, computer upgrades and other support, will enable MHS to provide staff, researchers, students and the public in Maine and beyond with detailed bibliographic information about its Library collections (both books and manuscripts) through Minerva, a statewide cooperative Web-accessible cataloging database. The electronic records provide the public with unprecedented access to MHS's research collections, fulfilling a major institution-wide initiative of our Strategic Plan. The improved records also support a broad range of MHS activity, from exhibit design, development of educational resources, acquisitions decisions, and publications.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is the nation's largest federal grant program for museums and libraries, awarded grants to only 169 of the 543 applying organizations under its highly competitive Museums for America program. MHS is the only library in Maine to receive funding this grant cycle. Also, in May, MHS received word of a \$60,562 grant from IMLS to identify and address conservation issues for three of its archival and special collections. One of only three institutions in Maine to receive one of these grants, MHS is now able to follow up on the recommendations of our Long-Range Conservation Plan of September 2004.

This two-year grant will fund a team of professionals from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to assess conservation issues for photographs, manuscripts, and architectural and engineering drawings and maps. Following NEDCC's field survey, a conservation technician will be hired and trained to create custom archival boxes for our fragile bound manuscripts.

IMLS supports museums and libraries with grants to collecting institutions that successfully complete competitive peer review. Of 194 applications for Conservation Project Support, only 49 grants were awarded throughout the country. "This is wonderful news! These two grants address pressing issues in both preservation of and access to our unparalleled collections on Maine history," said Head Librarian Nicholas Noyes. Kudos to our library and grant-writing colleagues!

183rd Annual Meeting Bestows Honors

A convivial atmosphere prevailed at the June 4th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society as more than 50 members gathered to participate in the ritual of electing trustees, hearing reports of the Society's work, sharing good food and conversation with fellow members, and delving into historic themes of interest here in Maine.

Executive Director Richard D'Abate conferred honors on three outstanding contributors to the work of MHS; his presentations are excerpted on these pages. Richard also delivered the following address:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

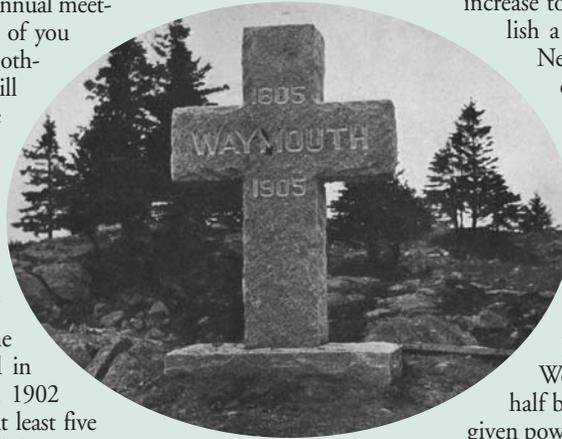
THINKING ABOUT WAYMOUTH: 1605, 1905, 2005

I'd like to welcome you all here to the 183 annual meeting of the Maine Historical Society. Some of you may know that I'm about to take part in another historical anniversary celebration that will be held in Rockland next week. It's the 400th Anniversary of George Waymouth's seminal voyage to Maine, which took place in May/June of 1605. You may remember that I also partook in last year's celebration of the French landing on St. Croix Island in 1604. It appears I'm becoming something of a connoisseur of anniversaries, especially since the Maine Historical Society was so heavily involved in these celebrations a century ago. Between 1902 and 1907, in fact, the Society conducted at least five major statewide events designed to recall key moments (pre-Plymouth-Colony moments, that is) in Europe's effort to explore and settle North America. All of these events were organized under the tireless leadership of James Phinney Baxter, who was president of the Society, and whose energy, I believe, lead to the great growth of MHS in these years (from opening the Longfellow House in 1901 to building the MHS Library in 1907). It was also probably Baxter's keen interest in Maine's discovery-period and colonial history that drove the celebrations.

In one sense, then, it's my duty to understand how the Society worked back in those days, but it also turns out that anniversary celebrations are very interesting occasions in themselves. They are actually moments of crucial dialog between the past and the present, as revealing of one as of the other. Let me give you a quick perspective on George Waymouth's 1605 Voyage, and then let's take a look at the celebration that took place three hundred years later, in 1905.

You know, of course, that Columbus made his Caribbean discoveries for Spain in 1492. Very rapidly over the next 50 to 100 years Spain developed a vast colonial enterprise in the New World. It included the extraction of mineral and natural wealth of every kind, destruction and enslavement of the native population, pillaging valuable cultural goods, and the creation of plantations and settlements. The New World became the engine of Spain's economic and political power in the 16th century and it was crawling with Spaniards. England staked its New World claim shortly after Columbus, but England did not proceed to create a colonial enterprise. As Samuel Eliot Morison put it: "When the seventeenth century dawned on New Year's day, 1601, not one Englishman was living in North America." In other words, in the race to appropriate, colonize, and take strategic political advantage of the New World, England was very, very far behind Spain.

There were many reasons for England's backwardness in the 16th century, but perhaps more than anything its actions in the New World were conditioned by its changing political relationship with Spain, the stronghold of Catholicism in a religiously divided and warring Europe. Only in the in the second half of the 16th century, when Protestantism was ascendant in England, did internal pressure



*Cross on Allen's Island,
Collections of the
Maine Historical Society,
Third Series Volume II.*

increase to adopt a more aggressive posture to establish a commercial and political foothold in the New World that would benefit England and check Spain's expansionist hopes.

By the 1570s the English had focused their imaginations on a rich and prosperous region of North America called Norumbega, centered on what is today Maine. On June 11, 1578, Queen Elizabeth granted her favorite Sir Humphrey Gilbert the first English patent or colonial charter to all the land between Labrador and Florida in the New World. This charter eventually fell to Gilbert's half brother, Sir Walter Raleigh. Their cause was given powerful impetus by the persuasive advocacy of

Richard Haklyut. "His Discourse Concerning Western Planting," 1584, privately addressed to the Queen, set out a full political rationale for New World colonization in the context of the Spanish threat.

Gilbert, Raleigh, and others on their behalf made voyages from 1578 to 1603. None of these succeeded in establishing colonies, but they did begin to define the broad scope of England's ambitions in North America, from Newfoundland to Virginia, with the Maine-Massachusetts region in between. In 1604, after the original patent had reverted to the crown, a new group of speculators formed to continue this work. It was led by the Earl of Southampton, and included Thomas Arundel, Sir Fernando Gorges, and Sir John Popham-names very familiar in the later history of our state. They determined to send a reconnaissance voyage to the coast of what is now Maine. The captain was George Waymouth, and he landed in these parts in 1605. He sailed, most probably, up the St. George River (though some now plausibly think the Penobscot), kidnapped five Indians, and set up a cross as a sign of dominion, claiming the land for England.

Three hundred years later, in 1905, the Rev. Henry Burrage-a true historian and soon to be president of the Maine Historical Society-called Waymouth's voyage "the earliest known English claim to the right of possession on the New England coast." For Burrage, and doubtless for almost everyone else in his audience that day, the Waymouth voyage to Maine was New England's founding moment: the moment in which it, and indeed all of America, was gathered into England's imperial plan. In other words, the Waymouth voyage was the symbolic point of origin from which the character and destiny of a new and powerful nation-the United States-would unroll. And, indeed, speaking to that identity-the identity of the United States as experienced in 1905-became almost the whole the point of the celebration. I will spare you the full analysis, but I can tell you that two distinct but related anxieties were very much in evidence on that day. One concerned the disintegration of England's racial heritage in America under the pressures of immigration, the so-called Anglo-Saxon blood. The other concerned U.S. foreign policy and the changing status of America's own imperial ambitions. Let me dwell on that for a moment.

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THE NEAL WOODSIDE ALLEN JR. HISTORY AWARD

Presented to William David Barry

The Neal Woodside Allen Jr., History Award was established by the Maine Historical Society 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 most committed scholars, including Sandy Ives, Elizabeth Ring, Emerson Baker, Earle Shettleworth, William Jordan, Laura Sprague, Neil Rolde, Richard Judd, Joel Eastman, Ruth Gray, Charlie Scontras, and Joyce Butler among others. This year we are extremely pleased to present the award to William David Barry.

Bill Barry, our own Bill Barry, came to Maine in 1971 after receiving an MA in American Cultural History from the University of Vermont. Since that time he has shown total dedication to the cause of history and culture in Maine, as a scholar, a journalist, a curator, and a novelist. Perhaps most important of all, in his capacity as MHS Reference Librarian, Bill has served as a midwife to the infant works of thousands of researchers, encouraging, assisting, informing, and poking them along into the world. Bill is the author of hundreds of articles and book reviews, which have appeared in the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, *Maine Antique Digest*, *Down East*, *Maine History*, *Portland Monthly*, *Yankee Magazine*, and the *Munjoy Hill Observer*, among many others. His most notable exhibits include the ground breaking "Women Pioneers in Maine Art," for Westbrook College, the temperance classic "Rum, Riot and Reform," for Maine Historical, and soon at MHS, with John Mayer, "A City Awakes: the Arts and Artists of Early 19th Century Portland," a show that will in many ways be a culmination of Bill's long-standing enthusiasm for the artistic life of Portland.

His books give evidence of an even broader range, from colonial history (*Tate House: Crown of the Mast Trade*, with Frannie Peabody, 1982), to the plight of marginalized peoples (*The AIDS Project: A History*, 1997, *The History of Sweetser-Children's Home*, 1988, *Pyrrhus Venture*, a novel, with Randy Dominic, 1983), to the history of Maine businesses (*L. L. Bean, Inc.*, 1987). And there are others.

But let us get down to essences. Bill is a man with perhaps the oddest collection of ties on earth, a constant reminder of his unerring instinct for what is curious, interesting and valuable in the great pile of historical information. What is more, he has shown us how to find it, even put it in our laps.

In this he continues the venerable tradition of knowledge-sharing and informal teaching that people like Elizabeth Ring, Francis M. O'Brien, James Vickery, and Dorothy Healy have established in Maine. His knowledge is enormous, his capacity for detail is astounding, his generosity, friendship, and good humor are unflagging. I also believe, as an aside, that his identification with the great and rascally John Neal, nineteenth-century Portland tough-guy and aesthete, is nearly complete. For all these accomplishments-for a lifetime of intelligent and passionate labor in the field of history- it gives me great pleasure to present Bill Barry with the Neal Woodside Allen Jr. History Award for 2005.



THE ELIZABETH RING SERVICE AWARD

Presented to John D. Knowlton

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, including in just the last few years Hannah Russell, Elford Messer, Jane Edgcomb, Didi Stockly, Barbara Mildram, Mary Holmes and Margaret Kupelian.

This year I am extremely pleased to present the award to John D. Knowlton. A Greenville native with a Master's degree in American History, John has recently retired back to Maine after 31 years in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, where he indexed the papers of George Washington and helped establish the archives of the Library itself. Since 2003 John has given three days a week to processing the organizational records of the Maine Historical Society, one of the largest and most unruly collections of all, with material dating from 1820s to the present. Working in



what is known as the Dungeon Basement of 489, John has used a combination of bravery, patience, and masterly skill to transform chaos into an orderly, accessible collection. It is arranged in 10 series in neatly shelved document boxes stretching for 102 linear feet. Just as impressive is his

guide to these records: A 119 page finding aid giving the contents and folders of each series, as well as an index, chronology, and appendices listing founders, officers, trustees and staff down through the ages. In other words, it is a thing of absolute beauty.

But John has done more than complete a mammoth task; he has also managed to convey to the staff his enthusiasm for the historical significance of our records, and that is an equally fine and unexpected contribution. On the negative side, however, John has shown the staff how polite but dogged insistence, combined with frequent memos, can wring a supplies budget out of even the flintiest Executive Director (his explanation: "I was not used to being denied at the Library of Congress)."

John has now joined our Library committee and has moved on to process a new collection: as luck would have it, the papers of Elizabeth Ring, the historian, mentor, and longstanding friend of MHS for whom this award is named. As one of his former colleagues at the Library of Congress told our own Nick Noyes recently – "You're fortunate to have him-he's the best." We agree, and for that, and for all he has done for the Maine Historical Society it is my great pleasure to present John D. Knowlton with 2005 Elizabeth Ring Service Award.

THE JAMES PHINNEY BAXTER AWARD

Presented to John D. Blaisdell

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 to present the award to John D. Blaisdell for his article "The Wounded, The Sick and the Scared: An Examination of Disabled Maine Veterans from the Civil War" – (Vol. 42, Number 2).

John is a native of Bangor, educated at the University of Maine, and the Universities of Washington and Iowa. A past contributor to *Maine History*, he is currently an instructor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at the University of Maine. It is perhaps this medical background that helps explain the clear-eyed detachment he shows in examining a grisly selection of infirmities suffered by a group of disabled Maine Civil War veterans. Using a collection of 260 disability pension applications found at the Bangor Historical Society, John proceeds to show how very complex the causes of war-time disability could be—from perhaps a third related to actual battle trauma, to many cases of small pox, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, alcoholism, rheumatism, hernia, and battle fatigue—all, and more, directly attributable to life as a soldier.



While we come to understand something about the way the social net worked (or didn't) for veterans, we are most impressed, I think, with the sense that war's devastation goes far beyond body counts and lasts longer— that so many, in the words of the editors, "neither dead nor physically intact...suffered debilitating injury or disease for the rest of their lives." We thank John Blaisdell for this instructive, meticulous, sobering article, and for this we are pleased to present him with the 2005 James Phinney Baxter Award.

Thoughts on American Identity *continued from page 4*

There were many speakers that day, including scholars for the Society, dignitaries, and local celebrities. It is fair to say that every one of them was aware that England had become the largest imperial power on earth, and the English Vice Consul from Portland was there to clearly emphasize the point. Everyone also accepted the idea that America had been made in the image of England, both racially and politically. The question at hand was whether the U.S. would also become a world-dominating power. History was, in fact, already giving the answer, as we hear from a young Harvard student, George Arthur Smith, son of a leading citizen and resident of Long Cove and Tenants Harbor. Up until only a few years ago, Smith recalls, the United State was guided by a wise policy of neutrality and non-involvement. This stance had helped give the U.S. power, influence and an international reputation as a fair and peace-loving country. As an example he refers to the peace conference the U.S. had just brokered between Russia and Japan, and which would soon take place in Portsmouth New Hampshire, in September 1905. (The war between these two belligerent countries, you may remember, was fought over competing colonial claims in Manchuria and Korea—a conflict that colored the entire international scene in the first years of the twentieth century.)

ingly aggressive economic interests in the western hemisphere had caused us to declare war on Spain. Spain, once the undisputed colonial ruler of the new world, had now been forced to forfeit its holdings in the Caribbean and in the Pacific, including Guam and the Philippine Islands. At the same time the U.S. annexed the independent state of Hawaii. And just a few months before the Waymouth celebration Theodore Roosevelt had announced his Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, which proclaimed a newly aggressive policy of control throughout Latin America. The Spanish American War had made the U.S. an international colonial power, and with that status came danger: "We are closer in touch with the edge of European interests" Smith says, "than ever before as the result of our national expansion. We have possessions in far distant seas, where ten years ago no American ever thought he would set the Stars and Stripes floating." These possessions have now put us in potential conflict with Japan, France, and Germany, all of whom have been jockeying to extend their hold on colonies and possessions throughout underdeveloped parts of the world. This can only mean, Smith says, that the time has come for America to take "a more active and possibly militant part in world affairs."

Smith's talk at the 300th anniversary of the Waymouth Voyage is just a small sign of the debate that raged over national militancy and foreign policy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But the point is this, in 1905 a very small piece of seventeenth century history had the power to trigger a burning contemporary issue: the question of American imperial politics and national identity, past, present, and to come. The Waymouth Voyage teaches us that the project of colonialism was as alive in 1905 as it was in 1605, and it came with similar causes and results. Aggressive nations, convinced of their superiority and higher purposes, would exploit global imbalances of power for their own advantage. In the wake of their dominion would come international tensions, war, exploited peoples, resistance, and great loss of human life.

I'm sure a number of contemporary parallels have already begun to occur to you, and that Waymouth might have as much to teach us in 2005 as it did a century ago, even though the world has changed greatly in the meantime. We are, of course, in the middle of a debate over our invasion of Iraq—its reasons, consequences, and the policy that made it possible: the Bush Doctrine of Preemption, which establishes a basis for unilateral aggression on the part of the United States throughout the world to protect its interests. There are of course many extenuating arguments and the brutal facts of 9/11. But regardless of what one thinks about American actions, it is impossible not to see a few lessons: that the greater fate of nations and peoples has long been played out on a global political scale; that the interests and needs of the advanced and powerful are still exercised to the disadvantage of the poorly developed; that America was itself created in this way, starting in the 17th century by the action of European powers; and that through its own now lengthening history, America has also, from time to time, perpetuated the colonial dynamic and may continue to do so in the future. Perhaps that is one thing that history—the 400th anniversary of the Waymouth voyage at least—has to tell us.

Well, I will stop here, but there is no end to the possible conversations between the past and the present—each one is different, each one revealing. Promoting those conversations, preserving the documents and artifacts that substantiate them, finding the means to make them vivid and compelling for new generations is what the Maine Historical Society is about.

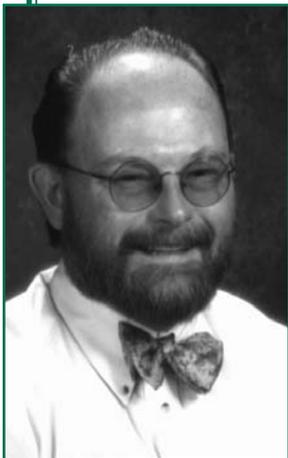
As you probably know, keeping a lively relationship to our own history, like all good things, requires hard work, money, facilities, and creative and committed people. If you've been reading our newsletter you also know that our growth over the last ten years has been tremendous and that while we are all extremely encouraged by our successes, we know there is a great deal more that must be done if Maine Historical Society is to serve the people of Maine for the another 183 years—if, that is, MHS is to have a dialog with the future as well as the past. To do this we must improve our physical facilities, create more and better storage, sustain critical programs and staff positions, and build the endowment that is so essential to our operations. When the time comes (and it does come, at least as often as every annual fund appeal, or every time you reconsider your estate plan) I hope you will recall what we stand for and be as generous as possible.

Major Legacy Strengthens MHS Endowment

We regret the passing of one of our longstanding members, Sigrid E. Tompkins, who passed away on February 15th. Born in 1917 in Houlton, Sigrid was the first female partner of a law firm in Maine, a guiding spirit at the firm of Pierce Atwood for more than 50 years. Sigrid maintained a lifelong bond to her family roots in Houlton and the relationships forged there. A member of MHS since 1955, Sigrid had provided quiet leadership on many MHS capital projects over the years, most recently for the major restoration of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. Many here will remember her for her wry twinkle and modesty. Upon her death, Miss Tompkins left \$100,000 to Maine Historical Society's endowment fund. The interest generated by this fund will be enormously helpful in MHS's work to provide information to generations of others searching history for connections to their past.



Dennis Edmondson, Mt. Ararat High School, Named 2005 Maine Preserve America HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR



We are pleased to announce that Dennis Edmondson, a teacher at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, has been selected as the 2005 Maine Preserve America American History Teacher of the Year. This award is part of a national effort, sponsored by Preserve America and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, to recognize outstanding K-12 teachers of American history. MHS coordinates the Maine competition for the Award program, now in its second year.

Mr. Edmondson, a National Board Certified Teacher, has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in history teaching throughout his career. His teaching draws heavily and creatively on the use of primary documents, and he has found numerous ways to connect his students to and engage them in history. He has taught at Mt. Ararat since 1984 and constantly pursued professional development opportunities that have deepened his knowledge and understanding of American history and encouraged his continuing growth as an educator. He has been selected to participate in

programs run by the Gilder Lehrman Institute as well as intensive, multiyear teacher study programs offered by the Maine Humanities Council with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

A passionate genealogist, Mr. Edmondson has traced his family back to York, Maine in 1700. In fact, he has creatively integrated primary documents from different lines of his own family into the classroom to demonstrate the economically and culturally diverse experiences of contemporary families in different parts of the country in the 18th century. He has also done work as an archeologist for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. He earned his B.S. from the University of Maine, Farmington, and a Master's Degree in the American & New England Studies Program at the University of Southern Maine.

Edmondson will receive a \$1,000 award, a teaching collection of books and primary documents for the Mt. Ararat library, and the chance to compete with other state award winners to be recognized as the national History Teacher of the Year. The award will be presented to Edmondson at Mt. Ararat in the fall.

The Preserve America History Teacher of the Year competition will be held again during the coming school year. Please watch for details and nominate a worthy teacher! Contact Steve Bromage, MHS Director of Education for more information.



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Education

Stephen Bromage, *Director of Education/Programs*
Carolyn Collins, *Education Coordinator*
Sarah Margolis-Pineo, *Education Assistant*

Library

Nicholas Noyes, *Head of Library Services*
William D. Barry, *Library Reference Assistant*
Stephanie Philbrick, *Library Reference Assistant*
Nancy Noble, *Archivist/Cataloger*
Robin Woodman, *Photo Services Coordinator*
Matthew Barker, *Library Assistant*
Jamie Kingman, *Library Assistant*

Museum

John Mayer, *Curator of the Museum*
Holly Hurd-Forsyth, *Registrar*
Ryan Nutting, *Curatorial Assistant*
Melissa Spoerl, *Museum Store Manager*
Jason Wilkins, *Visitor Services Coordinator*

Maine Memory Network

Daniel Kaplan, *Director*
Candace Kanes, *Historian*
Kathleen Amoroso, *Outreach Coordinator*
Frances Pollitt, *Cataloger Photo Curator*
Stephanie Heatley, *MMN Content Developer*
Rick Asam, *Outreach - North*
Patricia Leland, *Outreach - Downeast*

FALL HOURS
Maine Historical Society

MHS Research Library (ext. 209)
Tues-Sat 10-4:00
Closed Sat, Sept.3 & Oct. 8
Closed Thurs-Sat, Nov 24-26

Wadsworth-Longfellow House
Mon-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4
Closed Mon, Sept 5th & Oct 10th
Closes Oct 31, open weekends in Nov

Museum/Center for Maine History
Same Hours as the House

Museum Shop (ext. 208)
Same Hours as House & Museum

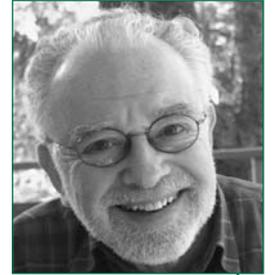
MHS Administrative Offices
Mon-Fri 9-5:00 Closed Holidays
Tel: (207) 774-1822
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www.mainememory.net
www.VintageMaineImages.com

Longfellow Forum Celebrates 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIAWATHA Saturday, October 15

Join us on Saturday, October 15 to celebrate and explore Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Hiawatha" in honor of the 150th anniversary of its publication. This year we are fortunate to welcome Dr. Alan Trachtenberg as our keynote speaker. Dr. Trachtenberg, who is the Neil J. Gray Jr. Professor Emeritus of English and American Studies at Yale University, is the author of *Shades of Hiawatha*, a thought-provoking new study that explores the major impact Hiawatha had in helping shape American ideas about Native Americans, immigration, and the nation's identity during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Dr. Trachtenberg, who taught at Yale for thirty-five years, is the author



Dr. Alan Trachtenberg

of books including *Reading American Photographs*, *The Incorporation of America*, and *Brooklyn Bridge: Fact or Symbol*. The program brochure with full details of the day's activities, speakers, and topics will be mailed in September.



Illustration from 'The Complete Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow with Numerous Illustrations.' Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co; James R. Osgood & Co, 1880.

With both hands his face he covered.

The Maine Historical Society, founded in 1822, is a charitable, educational, non-profit corporation which devotes its resources to the discovery, identification, collection, preservation, and interpretation of materials which document the history of Maine and its people.

Maine Historical Society
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