

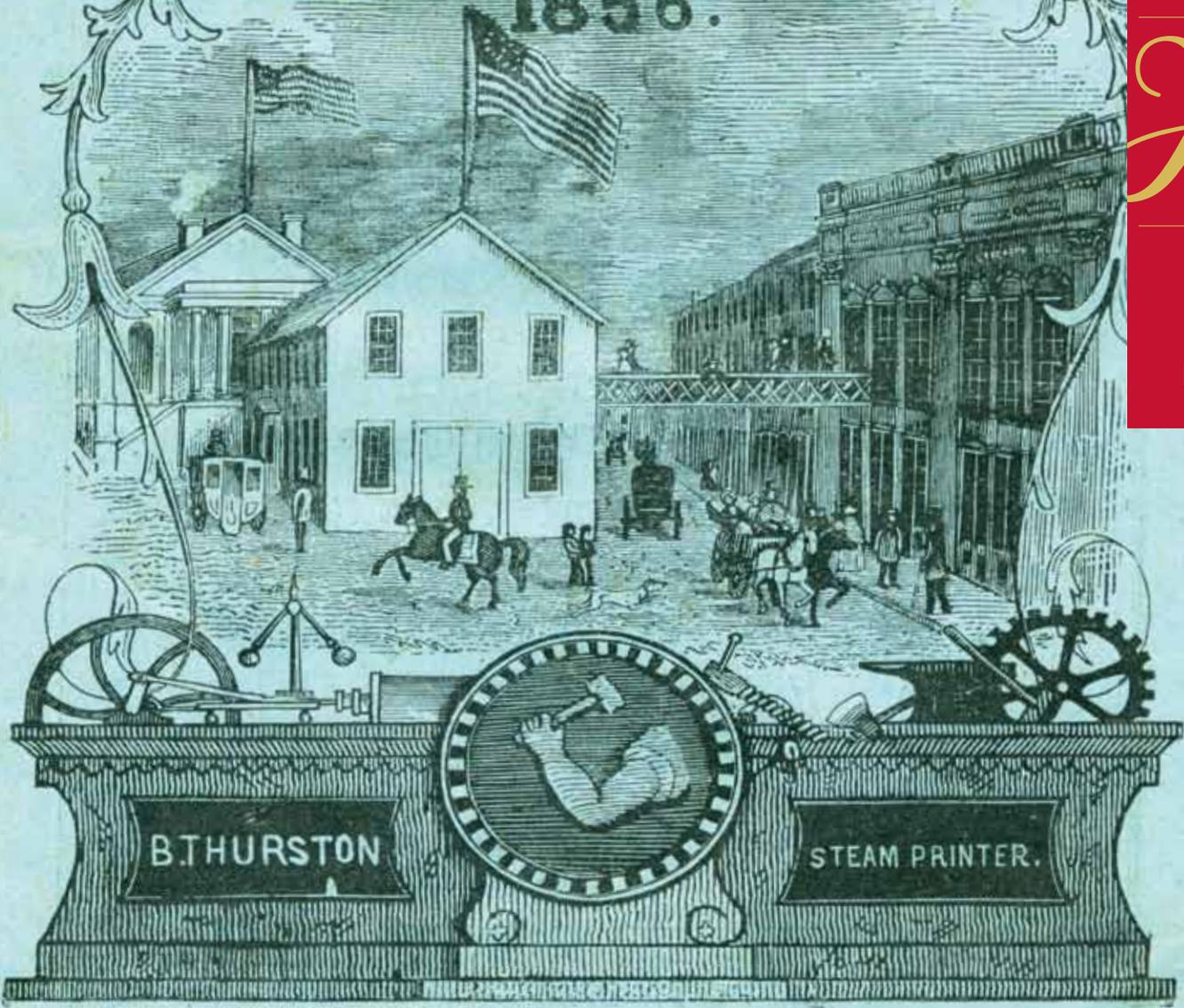
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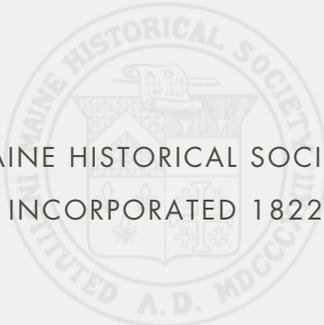
ME. STATE FAIR,

PORTLAND

1856.



MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED 1822



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# Always Use Both Hands

Yes, I admit to feeling schizophrenic—in an ambidextrous sort of way. With one hand we’ve just opened and dedicated a \$9.5 million library. It was a fine day, by the way, as the pictures in this issue show. Hundreds of people arrived, the band played, the sun came out, and the speeches were pithy. Yes, there was money to raise (still is), but we felt expansive, full of pride and accomplishment.

With the other hand, however, we’ve been tightening and tightening the belt. The current economic downturn has challenged MHS in every way, just as it has so many organizations. We’ve been cutting expenses, reducing personnel costs, and looking for operating efficiencies—all while trying to preserve our core programs and services, not to mention our sense of humor.

So which hand is dominant? Well, in moments of mental clarity (we have a few) the hands are even. We slow our organizational pace now—adjust to the painful realities now—in order to secure a future we’ve proven is within our reach. That feels realistic: not too far up or too far down. And when we add to that the comfort of so many generous friends—confident in MHS whether building or contracting, planning or doing—then everything begins to seem all right.

*Richard D’Abate*  
*Executive Director*



**ABOUT THE COVER**

THE COVER OF THE CATALOG FOR THE MAINE STATE FAIR, HELD IN PORTLAND, 1856.

In 1855, the Maine State Agricultural Society began rotating an annual state fair in communities across the state. The 1856 fair featured “Animals on the Ground, or the Out-Door Department” and “Articles in the halls, or the In-Door Department.” The latter included everything from butter, cheese, pumpkins and other crops to patent medicines and arts and crafts. See pages 6-7, “Fair Season.”

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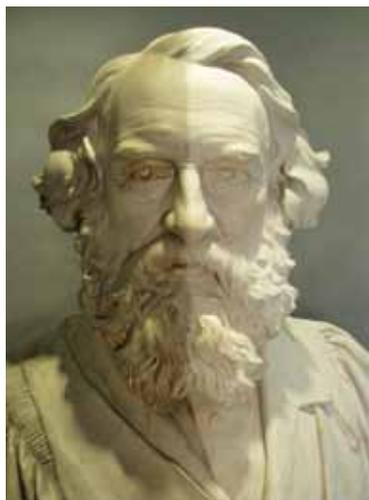
**PAGE 11:** SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS  
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## Friends of the Collections

LAST YEAR, THE FRIENDS OF THE COLLECTIONS FUND HELPED PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE BUST OF HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

Financial support for the Friends of the Collections fund is needed on an ongoing basis. If you would like to learn how you can make a gift to support our conservation and acquisition efforts, please contact Bonnie Vance at (207) 774-1822, ext. 231 or email [bvance@mainehistory.org](mailto:bvance@mainehistory.org). Gifts can also be made through our website at [www.mainehistory.org/support\\_foc.shtml](http://www.mainehistory.org/support_foc.shtml).

## Conservation of the Portrait Bust of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



^ Image of bust half-cleaned during its treatment.

The recently conserved bust of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow has been reinstalled on the mantle in the Walter F. Whittier Reading Room of the Brown Research Library. Object conservator Margaret Burnham of Lincolnville, Maine, carefully cleaned and repaired the plaster bust, removing over 100 years of grime and restoring the original appearance of this important artifact.

Given to MHS in 1885 by the Longfellow Memorial Committee of London, the bust was made by the sculptor Thomas Brock (1847 – 1922) and is a duplicate of a marble version he made that is on view in the poet's corner of Westminster Abbey.

Longfellow had achieved tremendous status in England. On his death in 1882, a special committee was formed to ensure he would be fully memorialized. They commissioned Brock to make the bust for Westminster Abbey and two plaster copies – one was given to Harvard University and the other to Maine Historical Society.

A TREASURE FROM THE CURRENT EXHIBIT:



## Collected: Great Works and New Discoveries from the Brown Library

Members of the White Mountain Club of Portland, including artists George F. Morse, Edward Sylvester Morse, and Harrison Bird Brown set out to climb Mount Carrigain, a remote 4,700-foot peak. Another member, Edward Elwell, the Portland newspaperman, published an account in the Portland Transcript on September 13, 1873. In twenty-five humorous drawings, Morse documented their escapades.

We have printed a facsimile copy for the exhibit, so visitors can trace the entire journey, from great excitement and optimism at the start, through various setbacks and misadventures, and home again, vowing never to return. Reproduced here are two images and accompanying verses from Elwell's account. In the first, the group is hiring a guide. They are neatly dressed and eager to be on their way. In the second, they are on the mountain, but the wind from a gathering storm has snatched the hat from one of the men.

To find out how the story ends, visit *Re/Collected: Great Works and New Discoveries From the Brown Library*, on view through May 30, 2010.



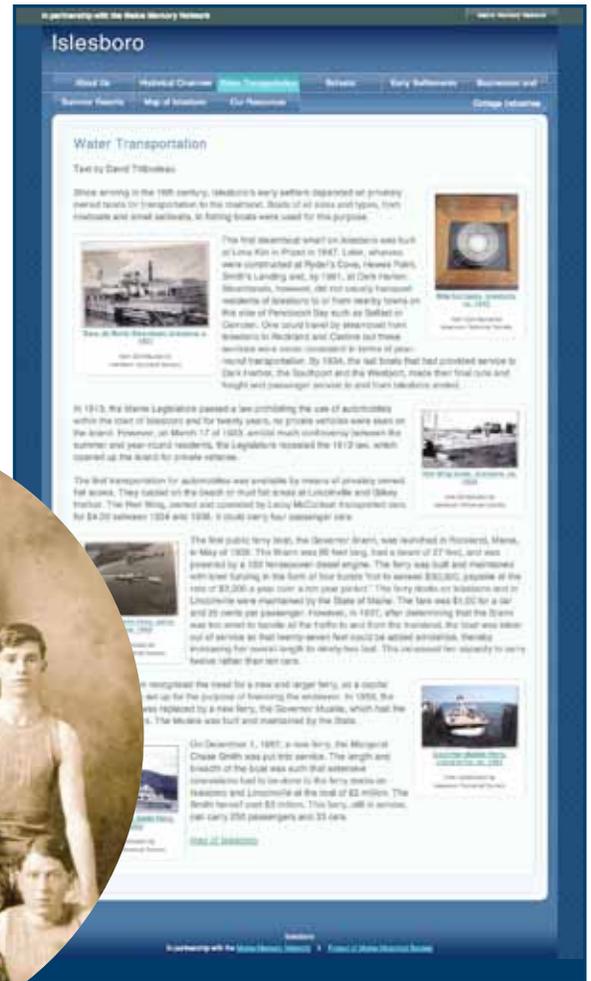
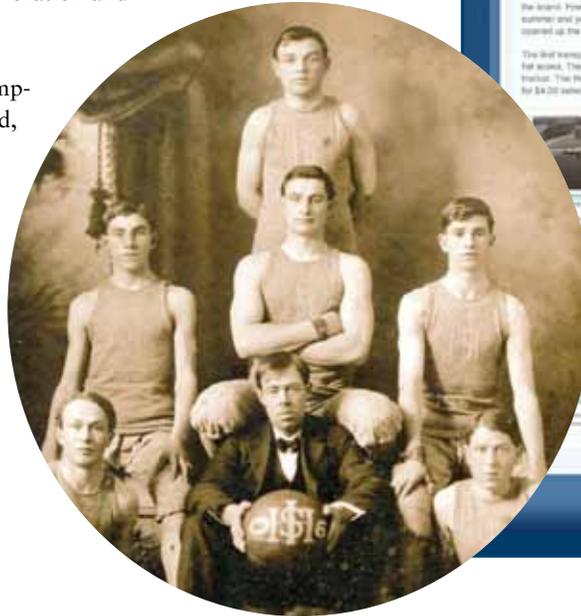
^ *A Song of Mt. Carrigain, 1873*  
Edward Henry Elwell (1825-1890), author.  
Attributed to Edward Sylvester Morse (1838-1925), artist

# Maine Community Heritage Project Websites Launched

MHS, in partnership with the Maine State Library, announces the launch of the first eight local history websites built by communities participating in the Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP), 2008-2009. This innovative program promotes collaboration between local schools, historical societies, and public libraries through the exploration and celebration of local history.

Teams from Bath, Farmington, Hampden, Islesboro, Lubec, New Portland, Presque Isle, and Thomaston spent the past year researching the history of their communities, digitizing historic items, creating online exhibits, and building websites. They are now part of the Maine Memory Network and can be visited at [www.mainememory.net/mchp](http://www.mainememory.net/mchp).

> *Islesboro High School 1906 Boys' basketball team. The coach is holding a basketball with the initials "I H S" printed on it, and "06".*



^ *Schoolwork, North New Portland, ca. 1920. Bernice Henderson created this school project to describe good hygiene. She received a B on the assignment. Contributed by the North New Portland Historical Society.*

## Eight Sites Chosen to Participate in 2009-2010 Program

Over the past two years, nearly eighty communities applied to participate in the MCHP. Participating teams receive extensive training and support from MHS staff as well as funds of up to \$7500 to support project activities. The MCHP is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services. Teams appear at right.

During the intensive one-year program, each team:

1. inventories local historical resources;
2. digitizes 100-200 historic documents, photographs, artifacts from local collections and uploads them to the Maine Memory Network;
3. writes an illustrated online narrative introducing key themes and topics in the history of the community;
4. creates online exhibits that explore local history; and
5. plans and builds its website on the Maine Memory Network.

# 2009-2010 MCHP Team Profiles

**BANGOR** (Penobscot County) – Bangor High School heads a team whose partners include the Bangor Public Library, Bangor Museum and History Center, the Doughty and Cohen Middle Schools, and a local historian.

**BIDDEFORD** (York County) – Biddeford High School's Project ASPIRE will work with the McArthur Public Library, Biddeford Historical Society.

**BLUE HILL** (Hancock County) – Partners include team leader Blue Hill Historical Society working with Blue Hill Public Library, Blue Hill Consolidated School, George Stevens Academy, the Blue Hill Harbor School, and the Jonathan Fisher Memorial.

**CUMBERLAND/NORTH YARMOUTH** (Cumberland County) – Prince Memorial Library oversees a team consisting of Cumberland Historical Society, North Yarmouth Historical Society, Skyline Farm, Greely Middle School, and the Town Offices of both Cumberland and North Yarmouth.

**GUILFORD** (Piscataquis County) – Team members include lead organization Guilford Historical Society with partners Guilford Memorial Library, Piscataquis Community Middle School, Guilford Economic Development Board, and the Town of Guilford.

**HALLOWELL** (Kennebec County) – The Hallowell Area Board of Trade will be heading up the project with Hubbard Free Library, The Row House, Hall-Dale Middle School, Vaughan Homestead Foundation, Hallowell Firemen's Association, and the City of Hallowell.

**LINCOLN** (Penobscot County) – Mat-tanawcook Junior High School will work with Lincoln Memorial Library and Lincoln Historical Society.

**SCARBOROUGH** (Cumberland County) – Scarborough Public Library heads up a team whose members include Scarborough Historical Society and Scarborough Middle School.



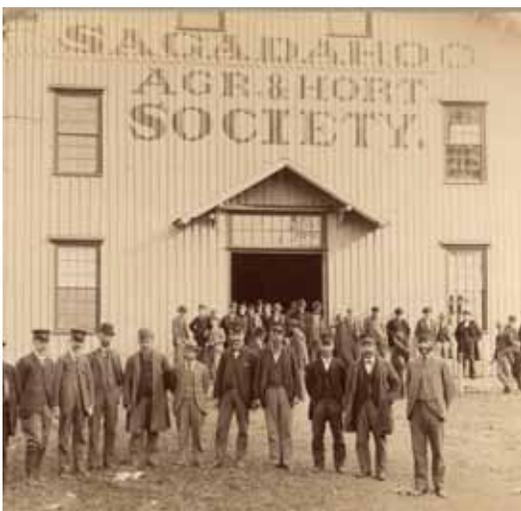
^ *Roxy Parker, Islesboro, 1930. Roxy Parker was one of many islanders who "knitted" nets and other items as a means of income.*



^ *Workers packing sardines at the R.J. Peacock Canning Company in Lubec.*



^ Beef Show, Caribou Fair, 1922  
Contributed by Nylander Museum



^ Exhibition Hall, Topsham Fair, 1890  
Contributed by Pejepscot Historical Society



^ Maine State Fair procession, Lewiston, 1900  
Contributed by Androscoggin Historical Society

# Fair Season: Crops, Livestock, and Entertainment



North Waterford holds its “World’s Fair” every July, with the notation, “This annual event may be the world’s smallest world’s fair.”

Skowhegan and Bangor both hold “state” fairs, probably holdover titles from the days when a state fair rotated among communities. Skowhegan calls its annual August event, which began in 1818, “the nation’s oldest continuously run agricultural fair.” Bangor’s fair, held at the beginning of August, is “the largest state fair held in Maine.”

Fryeburg’s Fair, which began in 1851 and is held in October, is “Maine’s Blue Ribbon Classic” and the state’s “largest agricultural event.”

Agricultural fairs began in Maine in the early nineteenth century, held to promote new techniques, better farming methods and thus better crops and livestock. Most early fairs featured shows of cattle and crops, with premiums paid for the best of each. Fairs stressed education and a speaker usually delivered a lecture.

County agricultural societies sponsored most of the fairs. The Maine State Agricultural Society, a revival of an earlier such group, was incorporated in 1855 and sponsored a state fair that rotated to different communities, until settling in Lewiston in 1881.

Farm machinery, fruits, vegetables, canning, baking, sewing, plowing matches, pulling matches and other events were common activities at fairs.

After the Civil War, harness racing became popular at fairs, as Maine encouraged farmers to raise trotting horses. Sideshows, carnival games, and entertainment also arrived in the later nineteenth century. Carnival rides became popular in the twentieth century, following Ferris’ triumph at the 1893 Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition.

“Gradually,” historian Clarence A. Day wrote, “the public proved that it preferred to be amused rather than educated. Long before 1900 the fairs had lost much of their educational value.”

Although the educational aspect became less direct, fairs continued to serve as community gathering points and introductions to new technologies and new agricultural techniques.

Maine still boasts more than 25 agricultural fairs that offer adult and youth agricultural events and exhibit halls, along with the midways, food, and entertainment.

*Candace Kanes,  
Maine Memory  
Network Curator*



^ West Oxford Agricultural Society Fair, ca. 1880  
Contributed by Fryeburg Historical Society

SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK  
CONTRIBUTING PARTNER

# Caribou Public Library

## *Raising Fish*

The human hand has long been involved in fish culture. For several thousand years, beginning with the Chinese, humans have harvested fish eggs and milt and tended them until the fish hatched and their yoke sacks absorbed so the fish could be released, or fed the newly hatched fish until they were larger and more likely to survive before releasing them.

Why? To improve fishing, the food supply, and the health of rivers and lakes. Dams, industrial runoff and other causes led to lowered fish populations.

Before dry pellet food was developed, hatcheries that fed the fry rather than releasing them caught grasshoppers and flies for the fish, and fed them ground beef livers and spleen, sheep organs, and various types of fish.



^ *New State Fish Hatchery near mouth of Otter Brook, ca. 1910*



^ *D.E. Johnson, left, superintendent of fish hatchery on Outer Sweden Street, Caribou, ca. 1895*

The Caribou Fish and Game Association got into the business in 1892 and operated a fish hatchery over B. L. Brigg's woodshed, then in the basement of the S. L. White Drug Store. The first hatchery in Maine was at Head Tide on the Sheepscot River, built in 1864. The fish raised there stocked trout ponds that sport fishermen frequented.

In 1895 a new law allowed the Maine Commissioners of Fish and Game to purchase or lease land for fish hatcheries. They purchased the Caribou and Auburn hatcheries, concentrating until about 1900 on raising landlocked and Atlantic salmon, then adding several types of trout.

Scientific advances improved the feeding and planting of fish over the years and the state modernized its hatcheries and reduced their numbers, selling the Caribou hatchery by the mid-1950s.

All images contributed by Caribou Public Library

## CONTRIBUTING PARTNER PROFILE: CARIBOU PUBLIC LIBRARY

### MISSION:

To organize, preserve and make readily available materials of contemporary interest and permanent value, including a comprehensive collection of local history, for the education, intellectual stimulation and pleasure of the entire community.

### LOCATION:

30 High St, Caribou  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-8  
Sat (Oct - May) 10-4.  
Collection accessible at [www.caribou-public.lib.me.us](http://www.caribou-public.lib.me.us)

### FOUNDED:

1911

### CONTACT:

Diane DuBois, Library Director  
30 High Street  
Caribou, Maine 04736  
207-493-4214  
e-mail: [ddubois@caribou-public.lib.me.us](mailto:ddubois@caribou-public.lib.me.us)

**FEES:** Access to the collection is free of charge. Reprints available through [VintageMaineImages.com](http://VintageMaineImages.com) for a fee.

### COLLECTION:

Nearly 50,000 items include:

- Books, pamphlets, and over 300 pictures and postcards of Caribou can be browsed on the website.
- The Aroostook Republican newspaper in print format as well as microfilm, with ten years available in CD ROM format.
- George Whitneck's index of the Aroostook Republican from 1887-1948.
- A unique local survey collection dating back to 1807.



- Caribou High School yearbooks from 1900-present.

^ *Postcard of Caribou Public Library in winter, ca. 1912*

# The Grand Re-Opening of the Alida Carroll and John Marshall Brown Library



MHS celebrated in style the grand re-opening of the 1907 historic library on June 27th. Over 600 guests attended the dedication and enjoyed informal tours of the Library, the Longfellow House and Garden, and the exhibition “Re/Collected: Great Works and New Discoveries from the Brown Library.” Keynote speaker Barry Mills, President of Bowdoin College, was joined by Earle Shettleworth, Alan Taylor, Karen Baldacci, Chris Livesay, and Richard D’Abate, in heralding the growth of MHS as a cultural icon in the State of Maine.

Newly-named by a descendent, the Alida Carroll and John Marshall Brown Library has been transformed into a state-of-the-art research facility, providing first-rate care of the collections.

- ↪ *Members of the Brown, Payson, Hildreth, Snow, and Morris families reunite at the celebration. From left to right: Daniel Morris, Alison Hildreth, Mary Morris, Larney Otis, and Lee Snow.*
- ↪ *Speakers included (from left) Karen Baldacci, Maine’s First Lady, Earle Shettleworth, Maine State Historian, and Barry Mills, President of Bowdoin College.*
- < *Charlie & Tinker Whittier are encircled by family members in the restored Walter F. Whittier Reading Room.*

## Annual Meeting Honors Historians

Kicking off the celebrations of June 27 was the MHS Annual Meeting with its opportunity to honor many active contributors to the society and to Maine’s history.

Jacqueline Field received the James Phinney Baxter Award, given each year for the best article in Maine History journal. Her article, *From Agriculture to Industry: Silk Production and Manufacture in Maine, 1800-1930*, was published in the October 2008 Maine History, Volume 44. Jackie is a textile historian, trained in her field in Edinburgh, Scotland and Maine.

Alan Taylor received the Neal Woodside Allen Jr. History Award, given to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to the field of Maine history. A Maine native, Alan is now Professor of History at the University of California at Davis. He is a gifted teacher, author of many books on the colonial period in America, and a believer in the value of public history and institutions such as MHS.

Deborah S. Reed received the Elizabeth Ring Service Award for outstanding volunteer service. Over the past decade Debbie has dedicated her enthusiasm, organizational ability, leadership skills, exacting standards, persuasiveness, generosity, and fundraising skills to MHS. As chair of the capital campaign, she led an unprecedented and transformational effort to raise \$9.5 million.

James F. Millinger, who couldn’t be present, was given the Trustee’s Recognition Award. Richard D’Abate listed Jim’s many contributions over the past nine years, saying, “Jim reminded the board of its accomplishments as well as its duties; he recognized, encouraged, and supported the staff; he lectured and taught; he pushed for the best and enjoyed our success.”

*Jacqueline Field* ↗

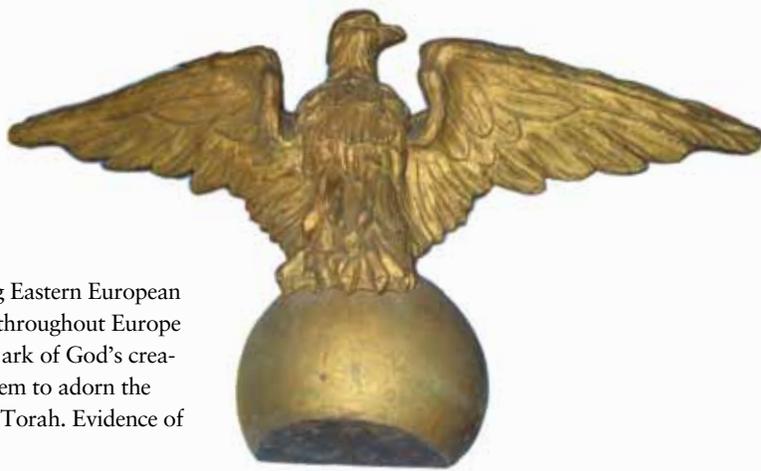
*Deborah S. Reed with Richard D’Abate* ↗

*Alan Taylor* >



# Maine Legacies

RESCUED: A PIECE OF JEWISH HISTORY



*W*oodcarving, a common tradition among Eastern European Jews in the forests of Poland and Belarus, spread throughout Europe and the United States. Artisans fashioned a literal ark of God's creatures—eagles, doves, lions and deer—and used them to adorn the synagogue's aron kodesh, the ark that houses the Torah. Evidence of this craft exists today in Portland, Maine.

Anshe Sfarad, a tiny red brick synagogue, once occupied a lot on Cumberland Avenue, adjacent to what is now Franklin Arterial, from ca 1917 to the 1970's. It was a small congregation, but significant enough to commission the creation of a gilt eagle—three-and-a-half feet from wing tip to wing tip—to beautify its ark. Thanks to the foresight of Helen and Morris Isenman and Arthur Cope, congregation members, as well as Darrell Cooper and the Board of the Portland Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Funeral Home), this remnant of Maine's Jewish history is now safely housed at MHS, along with other synagogue materials, including papers, ledgers, and minute books in Yiddish script.

Piecing together the history of Anshe Sfarad is just one outcome of the Maine Jewish History Initiative, a statewide project of MHS (in cooperation with Documenting Old Maine Jewry) designed to promote the preservation and interpretation of Maine's long and significant Jewish history. The project was initiated by gifts from Kenneth, Leonard, Andrew and Bruce Nelson, in memory of their parents, and by Dr. Harold Osher. To learn more, or to lend your much needed support, please contact Susan Cummings-Lawrence at slawrence1@maine.rr.com or Bonnie Vance at bvance@mainehistory.org.

*Susan Cummings-Lawrence*  
MJHI Coordinator

## Maine Jewish History Initiative Seminar

**Bates College**

**Sunday, October 25th**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**\$25 per person**

Please call MHS, 774-1822, ext. 201, Sara Archbald for more information and registration.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together those who have an interest in Maine's Jewish experience of the past two centuries.

Family historians, videographers, scholars, oral historians, community leaders, representatives of Jewish organizations, and those who wish to support this collective endeavor are encouraged to attend. Everyone will have an opportunity to share their thoughts or projects.



## MHS 2010 Trip

Join fellow travelers from MHS as they trace the millennia-old timeline along the Danube to the Black Sea. Cruise aboard Uniworld's luxurious 138-passenger River Duchess through seven countries: Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Visit Celtic fortifications, Roman ruins, medieval towns, Turkish baths, and view 19th-century neoclassical architecture. Discover the pleasures of river cruising with fellow travel enthusiasts from the Vermont Historical Society. For more information, call Eric Baxter at (800) 370-0888 ext. 209, ebaxter@hewintravel.com, or Elizabeth Nash at MHS at (207) 774-1822 ext 206, enash@mainehistory.org.

*Join Us!*

OCTOBER 6-10, 2010

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# SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS

## MAPS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Genealogy is much more than names and dates. When a researcher locates their 'person' on an actual map there is that 'aha' moment and a feeling that here, in this spot, the person really lived or owned property. This geographical proof of the person's existence adds another dimension of understanding for the researcher.

Many maps at the Brown Research Library show names of landowners. If you know the surname and a town where the person may have lived, you might find maps that will show the exact location of a person's home or business. Some of these maps are hand drawn and some are printed.

The earliest surveys (18th century) along the Kennebec River by agents working for the Plymouth Company (Coll. 60) and the Proprietors for the Township of Brunswick (Coll. 61) often have the landowner's names marked on their allotted plots. The names of land grantees and landowners in Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Yarmouth, Scarborough, Porter and Berwick are easily found on maps in the library.

In the middle of the 19th century a new kind of map began to be published. These were 'county maps' and first came out as large colored wall maps with vignettes of historic buildings, businesses and large homes circling the outside of the map. Subscribers underwrote the production of these maps, paying to have their names included, paying even more to have an illustration of their business or home.

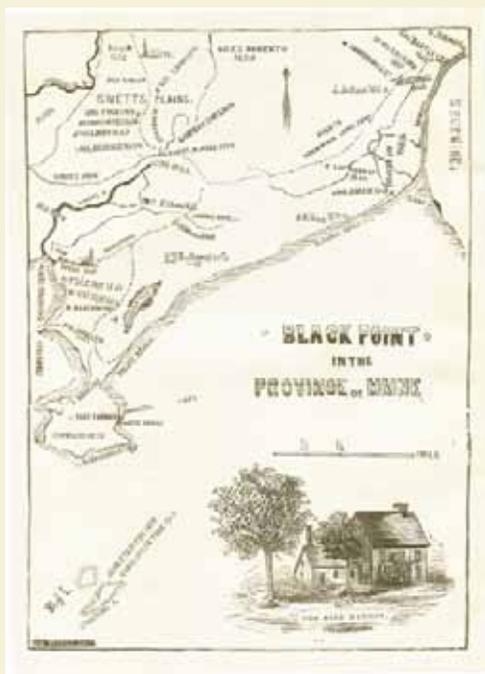
The publishers of these wall maps then issued the maps in smaller, atlas format in color, showing each town with more detail, including landowners' names written at the location of their property. The Brown Library has both the large county wall maps and each of the county atlases dating from as early as 1850. The atlases have more detail than the wall maps, and are, of course, much easier to use.

In the 1980s Saco Valley Printing republished these 19th century maps in black and white, by county, naming the atlases "The Old Maps of York County..." and so on, copies of which are also available in the Brown Library.

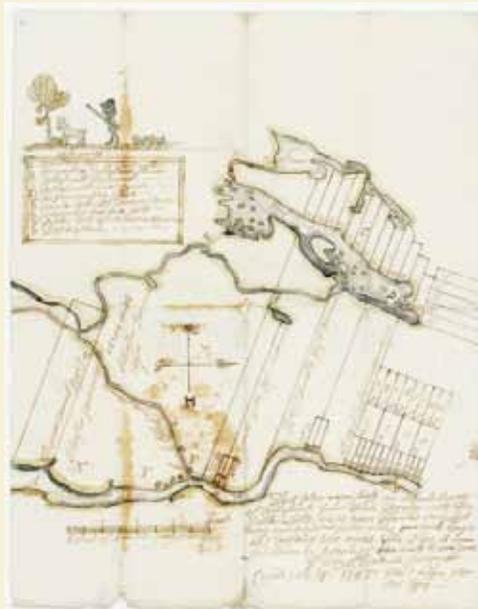
Insurance maps such as the invaluable Portland 1882 revaluation, the Richards atlas, and the Sanborn maps, are gold mines of information. These colored maps, created for fire insurance purposes, show the property owners' names, businesses, building materials, and, of course, neighboring businesses and properties.

When working on a genealogical project, remember to include map resources!

Frances L. Pollitt, M.L.S.  
Cataloger, Maine Memory Network



^ *Black Point in the Province of Maine, Scarborough, ca. 1690 (published in ca. 1870)*



^ *Cobbosseecontee Stream, 1765*

## ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY TREE!

*This set of three charts includes one complete family tree chart plus one each of the maternal and paternal tree charts. Also included is a "Who's Who" family relationship guide to help get you started! Each full color chart is 17x22". Available in our museum store and online at [www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org). \$12.00.*



AND DON'T FORGET: YOUR MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNT CAN BE USED IN THE SHOP AND ON-LINE AT MAINEHISTORY.ORG

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**FALL HOURS**

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CLOSED SAT SEPT. 5, OCT 10  
CLOSED THURS-SAT. NOV 26, 27, 28

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**Newsletter design:**

Elizabeth Margolis-Pineo

# Help us Reach new Heights. Give MHS a Boost!



< Lefty Leid,  
Portland Green  
Sox, 1925. He went  
for the fly ball, and  
caught it!

Collections of MHS/  
copyright Portland  
Press Herald

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FUNDRAISING YEAR IS  
QUICKLY COMING TO A CLOSE SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Every gift helps make it possible for MHS to continue its work of making history meaningful, accessible and enjoyable for all. In the current economic environment, your support is even more important so that funding for acquiring new treasures, digitizing collections, designing educational programs and other critical initiatives continue at the same level.

Visit [www.mainehistory.org/support](http://www.mainehistory.org/support) to join the MHS commitment, whether as a member or by donating to our Annual Fund.