

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED 1822

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John White: Onward!

Every organization has its heroes, men and women who give it all they have—heart, mind, muscle, and wallet. John White (1924-2010), president of MHS from 1993 to 1996, was one of ours. John believed that Maine was a great state and that if you knew its history you'd become a better person. That's why MHS mattered to him. He believed in what we did, and he believed we could do it better: improve those financial reports, increase that annual fund, grow the membership (for goodness sake!), create a planned giving program, buy a new building, develop real estate, raise capital, and serve the community in ever more useful ways. He looked at every part, and he showed us how to do it. Be generous, friendly, optimistic, shrewd, and persistent. Be an executive as well as a lobsterman. Find ways. Honor competence. Look for some good in everyone. And above all repeat these phrases: "It's a beautiful day!" and "Onward!" Onward, indeed. Thanks, John.



*Richard D'Abate
Executive Director*

ABOUT THE COVER

Electrifying Maine: Colonel William H. Williams supervises a line crew in the Augusta area, ca. 1900. Herbert Rideout, who retired in 1946 after more than 50 years in the trade, stands at the top of the pole. On page 4 you can read about this major 20th century collection which MHS received from Central Maine Power in 2002.

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IF WE HAVE IT, YOU CAN FIND IT – MUSEUM CATALOG ONLINE



↑ A painting of Custom House Wharf in Portland by Thomas F. O'Neil, 1902.

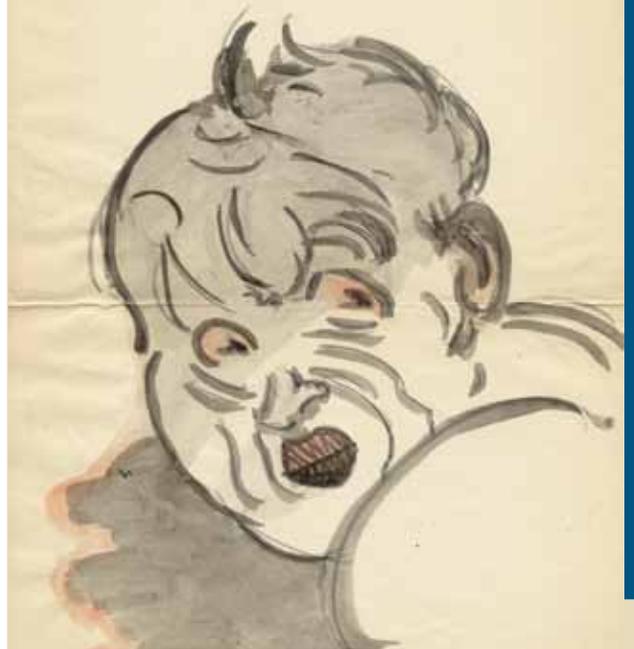
Since 1822, Maine Historical Society has collected and cataloged artifacts that illuminate the history of Maine. These artifacts have always been held in the public trust, and were available for study by savvy researchers. Particularly noteworthy and well-documented objects were exhibited, and sometimes photographed and published. The material was preserved, but people had to know where to look for it, and usually had to travel in person to see it.

Now, the MHS museum catalog can be viewed online by anyone, anytime. Since 2007, staff has been converting museum catalog records into a searchable online database called PastPerfect Online. At present, PastPerfect Online contains over 28,000 records, including the entire museum catalog as well as a partial catalog of our photograph collection and selections from architectural drawing and manuscript collections. There are full transcriptions of letters from both the Fogg and the Northeast Boundary Collections. Over 20,000 images accompany these records, so you can see what's being described. With both key-word and advanced search options, you can conduct a general search ("World War I," for example) or drill down to a very specific topic (artist "Pratt, Henry Cheever" and date "1825"). Clicking the "Random Images" button is an easy way to experience the incredible diversity of the MHS collections. You can also order images, email pages to friends, and provide feedback if you have information to share.

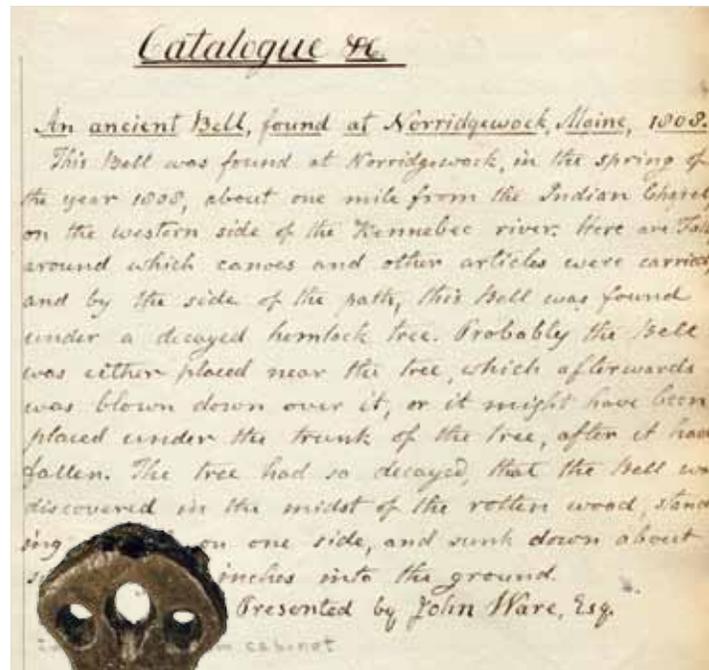
You'll find this catalog at www.mainehistory.pastperfect-online.com/. It is also accessible from the Online Resources section of our website at www.mainehistory.org/online_resources.shtml. As our collections grow, so does the catalog, so bookmark the page and visit often!

Holly Hurd-Forsyth
Registrar

Copied from Syd Griffin cut. Title: "The goblins will git y'r ef y'r don't watch out." (Riley's poem).



↑ Watercolor and pencil sketch of a goblin by Clifton S. Wady, circa 1910. Wady (1860-1936) was a poet, writer, and illustrator who summered on Long Island in Casco Bay. The caption references James Whitcomb Riley's famous children's poem "Nine Little Goblins."



↑ Original MHS accession record for the bell from the chapel at Father Sebastian Rale's mission at Norridgewock, circa 1700.

← The bell was the first museum artifact added to the Maine Historical Society "Cabinet."



PHOTO BY BRIAN VANDEN BRINK

Archival Wing to be Named for Governor Hildreth

Through the generosity of Josephine (“Dodie”) H. Detmer and her brother Horace (“Hoddy”) A. Hildreth Jr., the new archival wing of the Alida Carroll and John Marshall Brown Library will be named in honor of their father, Horace A. Hildreth. Hildreth, whose voluminous papers are part of the collections at MHS, was an attorney, a successful businessman, and a distinguished political figure on both state and national levels.

He was State Senator from 1941-1945; President of the Senate from 1943-1945; and Governor of Maine from 1945-1949, serving also as President of the Council of State Governments. He moved on to the Presidency of Bucknell University, and then became ambassador to Pakistan in the Eisenhower administration, from 1953-1957. His papers are a rich source of information about the middle years of the 20th century.

Hildreth was also responsible for founding Diversified Communications, which, in the early 1950s, launched WABI-TV in Bangor, the first television broadcasting station in Maine, which became a CBS affiliate in 1955. Today Diversified is a thriving international company—still Maine-headquartered and family-owned—that includes publishing, communications, and trade show operations.

The legacy of Horace A. Hildreth in Maine is a significant one, and MHS is proud to be part of it. Our sincere thanks go to our friends Dodie Detmer and Hoddy Hildreth for their thoughtfulness, generosity, and commitment—and for all they’ve done to help bring the MHS library capital campaign to a successful conclusion. ■



→ In this March 1946 photograph, Maine Governor Horace A. Hildreth examines a crate of lobsters with the president of Air Cargo Transport and R. E. Reed. (From the Horace A. Hildreth Papers, MHS Coll. 1601)

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE, INVEST IN OUR FUTURE: LEAVE A LEGACY FOR MAINE HISTORY

For nearly two centuries, the Maine Historical Society has enriched the lives of individuals searching for the connections and insights yielded by the past.

All of us, residents and visitors alike, treasure Maine as an incomparable place, rich in distinctive character and history. Preserving that history and spreading appreciation for our historical heritage is the continuing work of the Maine Historical Society.

Please consider talking to your attorney or financial advisor about making a bequest to Maine Historical Society. Your foresight will

help make a promise to future generations that the stories and artifacts of Maine history, your history, will always be there.

For more information about making a planned gift, please contact the Development Office at (207) 774-1822. If you have already included a provision for MHS in your will or estate plan, and would like to be recognized in the Anne Longfellow Pierce Society, please let us know. Be assured all discussions are held in strictest confidence. ■



Children dressed as sailors, 1926. Collections of the Maine Historical Society / Maine Today Media



Electrifying!

MHS AWARDED GRANT TO PROCESS
CENTRAL MAINE POWER COLLECTION

MHS has been awarded a Museums for America grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to process and provide access to the Central Maine Power (CMP) collection, one of the museum's largest and most important recent acquisitions.

The CMP collection—donated to MHS by the company in 2002 and physically transferred in 2004—provides a case study of rural electrification in Maine from 1890 to 1998, one of the great technological transformations in American life. The collection is vast, consisting of approximately 1,900 objects and 750 linear feet of archival material. It includes early electrical equipment and appliances; advertising, marketing and public education materials; and extensive documentation of the politics, economics, and business practices of the utility industry in the 20th century.

According to Executive Director Richard D'Abate, the CMP Collection will be a resource of major significance to researchers in Maine and beyond, providing critical insights into key aspects of economic development and domestic life in the state. "This project will establish physical and intellectual control over the collection, provide comprehensive information about it online, support key goals of our strategic plan, and lay the groundwork for substantial scholarship, exhibition, and programming at MHS. Significantly, the CMP Collection provides valuable context for contemporary efforts to develop alternative energy sources in Maine." ■



↑ Cumberland County Power and Light Company employees in front of the Plum Street, Portland, facility. Their names written on the back are: Perley Weatherbee, Erickson, Fred Mathews, Dan Libby, Harry Hussey, Kerland, Don Fisher, Verrill Clyde Bates, Bob Morrison, Leo Savage, Moore, Norman Thurston, Denny O'Neil, Hugh Robinson, McCarthy, Strout, Robert Barnicle, Percy Libby, Momson, Arthur Ganon, Frank Nalor, and Daniel Garboon.



↑ As early as 1916, CMP set up appliance stores to sell products using electricity. The company operated stores in Augusta, Brunswick, Dexter, Greenville, Rockland and Union, as well as other towns. Salespeople in the stores demonstrated products and "Home Service Advisors" went to people's homes to provide various types of instruction, such as how to bake cakes in electric ovens.



Stories That Tell Maine History

*R*ufus Page built the first large ice house on the Kennebec River in 1826. Before long, Maine became a leading ice producer, employing 25,000 men to cut and store Kennebec ice each winter between 1870 and 1890. Ice was highly sought after in cities along the East Coast and as far as the West Indies. Many Maine ships carried cargoes of ice, packed in sawdust.

In 1949, the same year the Soviet Union tested its first nuclear weapon, Maine created a Civil Defense and Public Safety Agency that educated and protected residents in natural disasters and other emergencies. Increasingly, the threat of nuclear war occupied much of the agency's time. Maine participated in national Civil Defense efforts, including the Bert the Turtle "Duck and Cover" campaign. In the late 1950s, a live Bert, a 50-pound North African sea turtle, aided these efforts and appeared on a float at the Rockland Seafood Festival.

From earliest contact, Indians and Europeans engaged in trade with Indians supplying furs and Europeans offering copper kettles, metal hatchets, colorful cloth, and firearms. By the third decade of the 17th century, the fur trade had profoundly changed the Indian economy. The focus became fur, rather than seasonal patterns of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Changed as well were gender relations, tribal and intertribal politics, and the Abenaki spiritual relation with the animal world.

A paper scroll that accompanied a ball of red, white, and blue string, passed from Post Office clerk to Post Office clerk in towns throughout Maine and other parts of the Northeast. The clerks wrote and drew patriotic messages such as, "Patria cara carioris viberitas sic semper tyrannicus" and "Pass it on for Rebellion is near at end."

The Good Will Home in Fairfield was the vision of George W. Hinckley, who ran the school-home-farm from its beginnings in 1889, but it also was a family enterprise. His sister, Jane Hinckley, was the first matron, serving until 1914; his son Walter too over from his father in 1919; his daughter Faith worked at the school for many years; and his granddaughter, Harriet Hinckley Price and her husband, Donald Price, whose parents also had been employed there, worked at the school until the 1950s.

↑ Bert the Turtle, Rockland, ca. 1957. Contributed by Maine Historical Society

↓ Young men cutting ice in New Portland, ca. 1940. Contributed by New Portland Historical Society.





→ Civil War post office scroll, 1862-1864. Contributed by an individual through North Yarmouth Historical Society

← Baron Jean Vincent de St. Castin, ca. 1670. Contributed by Maine Historical Society

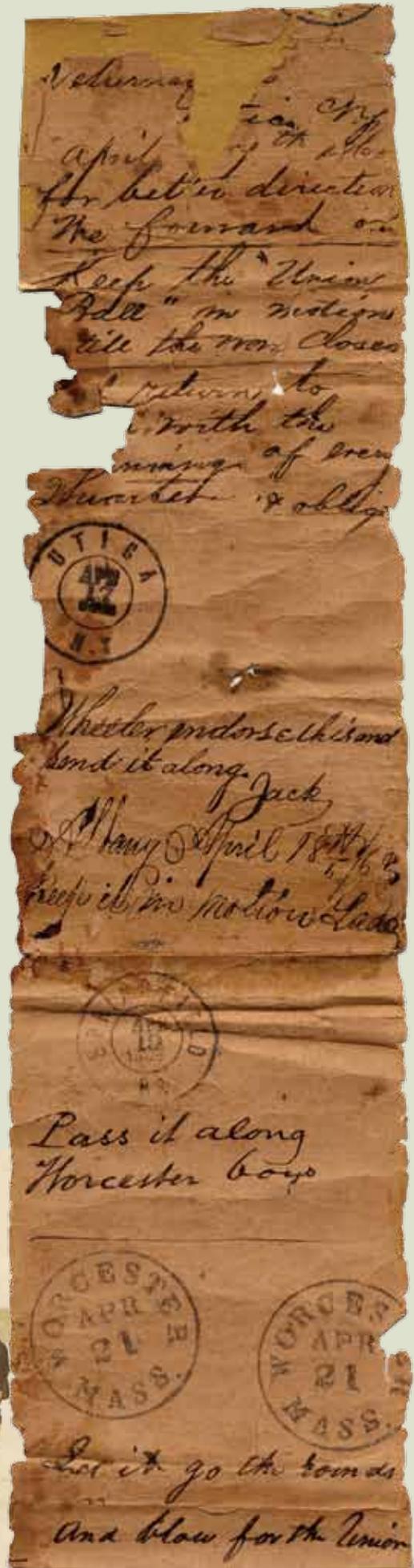
Those are abbreviated versions of some of the many stories that help interpret the state's history at Maine History Online. Ten time periods, seven themes, and a "Thinking About History" section provide many entrees for visitors to the website. Each section features an illustrated essay and a sidebar loaded with stories. Additional stories, also known as online exhibits, continue to be added to the site.

Maine History Online, three years in the works, was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It makes use of the more than 20,000 items on Maine Memory Network and the more than 200 Contributing Partners, whose images, ideas, and words helped to create the site and its many exhibits. ■

EXPLORE MAINE'S HISTORY AT WWW.MAINEMEMORY.NET/MHO.



↓ George W. Hinckley with Good Will children at the Cathedral of Elms on the campus, Fairfield, ca. 1940. Contributed by L.C. Bates Museum/Good Will Hinckley Homes



SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER:

LUBEC'S 1911 CENTENNIAL MYSTERY

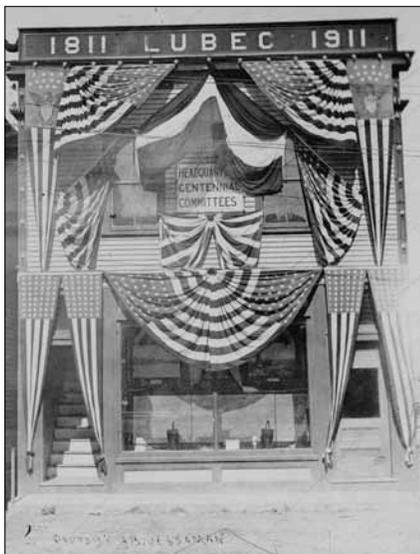
With a population of 3,370 people and exuberant community pride, Lubec staged a grand celebration on July 3 and 4, 1911 to observe the town's centennial. Lubec became a town on June 21, 1811 when the governor of Massachusetts signed the law that separated Lubec, as it was then spelled, from Eastport.

In 1811, Jonathan Weston reportedly suggested that the new town be named "Lubeck" after a German free city because of the American town's shape, location, and the fact that trading was as "free" as anywhere in the country.

As part of the centennial, Lübeck, Germany, sent a congratulatory telegram – and an 11-by 3-foot engraving of the German town as it looked in the 16th century. They also sent two smaller framed pictures that showed the town in 1911.

The artwork was displayed in the window of Centennial Headquarters, the C.H. Clark Department Store (later Unobskey's), on Water Street.

The two-day celebration included athletic events, band concerts, ample public feeds, a "living flag" by Lubec's children, and a celebratory town-wide parade on July 4 – to observe both the nation's birthday and the town's centennial.



For the events, residents decorated commercial and residential buildings with patriotic bunting and other adornments. Two decorated arches welcomed people into the town.

Among the speeches was one given by Professor Dr. Anton Marquardt of Colby College in Waterville, who came to the U.S. from Lübeck University, Germany. He had taught at Colby since 1891.

What became of the Lübeck art? A 1937 newspaper item reported that they went into the new bank, built in 1911. The brick edifice at Water and Main Streets still stands, but, as the town prepares for its bicentennial in 2011, no one seems to know what happened to the gift from Lübeck. ■



The YWCA of Greater Portland

TURNING SMART GIRLS INTO STRONG WOMEN

In the summer of 1966, 16 year-old Neighborhood Youth Corps and YWCA employee Dottie Brown enrolled Portland children in Operation Head Start. Horrified by the conditions of the homes she visited, Brown wrote to President Johnson, pleading for a stronger fight against domestic poverty. Brown’s letter and President Johnson’s appreciative response were published in the *Maine Sunday Telegram*. As the paper noted, Brown herself had endured childhood poverty and was one of the YWCA’s success stories, attending night school with the help of the Youth Corps and about to enroll in the Women’s Job Corps Center to receive further training.

Dottie Brown’s story is one of many contained in the history of the YWCA, now in the collections at MHS. The collection is 11 linear feet including over 200 photographs chronicling the history of the YWCA in the Greater Portland area from 1827-2005 (Coll. 2262).

From its inception, the YWCA supported the education and independence of Portland’s young women. Conceived at the turn of the 20th century, its mission was “the temporal, moral and religious welfare of women, especially young women who are dependent upon their exertions for support.” Early initiatives included luncheon and reading rooms for seamstresses and department store clerks, as well as a Traveler’s Aid service that met new arrivals at the train station—at least 1, 379 young women in 1907—and helped them secure respectable employment and housing.

The Portland YWCA was a pioneer in female physical education as well, opening the first gymnasium for women in Portland in 1908, and offering instruction in social dancing, basketball, and Indian clubs. Mrs. Philip F. Chapman, an active member of the YWCA into the 1940s, told the *Evening Express* that “increased leisure, made possible by a machine civilization, has brought with it increased problems of how to spend idle moments. It is the purpose of such organizations as the YWCA to teach girls to spend such time healthfully and constructively.”

A deep commitment to social justice characterized the work of the YWCA. In August 2006, after 137 years of faithfully serving the community, the organization closed because of financial difficulties. MHS is pleased to provide to the public a crucial chapter of Portland women’s history contained in the Young Women’s Christian Association.

Sarah Gillis, MHS Intern
Rachel Miller, Americorps Education Coordinator



↖ Dottie Brown, a 16 year old Portland resident and participant in the YWCA’s Neighborhood Youth Corps, shares the letter she wrote to President LBJ with members of the YMCA Day Camp.

↑ (top) Members of a 1920s “Business Girls Class” dressed in middy blouses and bloomers and prepared for basketball instruction. The YWCA housed the first gymnasium for women in Portland, built in 1908 on Oak Street adjacent to the main building on Free Street. First row: Rose Huberman, Dorothy Ford Philbrook, Ida Kern, Mary Thompson, Mabel Buker. Second row: Unknown, unknown, Edith Huberman, unknown, Edith Pelton.

↑ The Big Bad Wolf and the Three Little Pigs, performed by YWCA members in the Burnham Gymnasium on Oak Street in 1935. These girls may have been members of the Girl Reserves, a program similar to today’s Girl Scouts that grew out of volunteer efforts during World War I.

News Makers

MHS ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS:

Neal Woodside Allen Jr., History Award: **Richard Judd**, Professor of History at the University of Maine, Orono, is the author of many books, editor of the journal *Maine History*, and most recently, author of the chronological essays in Maine History Online. He has done great service to the cause of history in Maine and the recognition of Maine history in the world at large.



Elizabeth Ring Service Award: Volunteer **Lois Kahn** has transcribed handwritten documents into digital format for the Maine Memory Network for many years. She figures out the context of documents, tracks battles, family generations, politics, and ideas – preparing legible copies that invite us all to read and expand our understanding of history.



James Phinney Baxter Award: **Michael R. Cohen** is the author of *Maine History* article, “Adapting Orthodoxy to American Life: Shaarey Tphiloh and the Development of Modern Orthodox Judaism in Portland, Maine, 1904-1976.” His article is a chapter in the familiar story of the struggle of ethnic minorities to maintain their cultural identity while assimilating into mainstream American culture.



Sad as we were to say farewell to Education Director Carolin Collins, MHS is pleased to welcome **Bridget McCormick**. Bridget recently received her master’s degree from the Bank Street College of Education, where her focus was on museum education. Once an Americorps volunteer working with school children here at MHS, it won’t take her long to get up to speed in leading that program, and others.

The **Mad Hatter Affair**, MHS’s annual dinner dance was held at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth on May 1, 2010. The event raised important funds for MHS.



EXPOSED: RARE PHOTOGRAPHS OF LIFE IN MAINE

BLACK AND WHITE IMAGES OF PEOPLE IN MAINE BETWEEN 1860-1975



↑ *Laree Corridini, of Los Angeles, and Jamie Rice, MHS Public Services Librarian, enjoy the festivities at the June opening party. Fake mustaches were the party favors*

→ *Connie Robinson enjoys the festivities*



↙ *Cheering while watching the Kentucky Derby live from Churchill Downs!*

↓ *Fred and Bibi Thompson and Erik Jorgensen and Tamara Risser.*



MHS WAS NAMED “BEST OF 2010” IN THE JULY 2010 DOWN EAST MAGAZINE. OUR AWARD IS AN “EDITOR’S CHOICE” AWARD FOR BEST HISTORY LESSON.



MAINE COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT WRAP-UP

As spring wound down, so did the pilot phase of the Maine Community Heritage Project. A three-year grant-funded project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, MCHP supported 16 community teams around the state in the work of digitizing local historical collections and exhibiting them on custom-designed local history websites housed on Maine Memory Network. The 2009-2010 cohort of teams held their final celebrations in late May and early June to celebrate their hard work and successful outcomes. Visit www.mainememory.net/mchp/ to see their websites. Meanwhile, stay tuned for the next phase of MCHP, to be announced this fall.

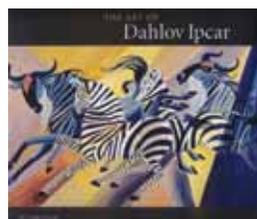
↑ More than 200 people attended the Maine Community Heritage Project final celebration in Lincoln in late May. Lincoln also boasted the largest crowd at its opening MCHP community event last fall.



↑ At Bangor's Maine Community Heritage Project final celebration in June, MHS Assistant Director Steve Bromage learns about Bangor's new local history website from a Doughty Middle Schooler in 1940s dress. Doughty students focused on the '40s for their exhibit on the site.



↑ Blue Hill Consolidated School students closed out the town's Maine Community Heritage Project final celebration in May with a homemade marionette puppet show based on the life of Blue Hill's famed Captain Melatih Chase.



VISIT THE MHS MUSEUM STORE ONLINE OR IN PERSON

Representing more than 70 years of work, this book is the first retrospective publication of Dahlov Ipcar's art. A lovely coffee table book, it is filled with color plates of Ipcar's work with accompanying text by Maine author Carl Little. Hardcover \$50.

MHS members receive a 10% discount on all museum store items. Your purchases help us to preserve Maine history.



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MUSEUM EXHIBIT
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SAME HOURS AS THE HOUSE
NOV MON-SAT 10-5

MUSEUM SHOP
SEPT – OCT
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CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

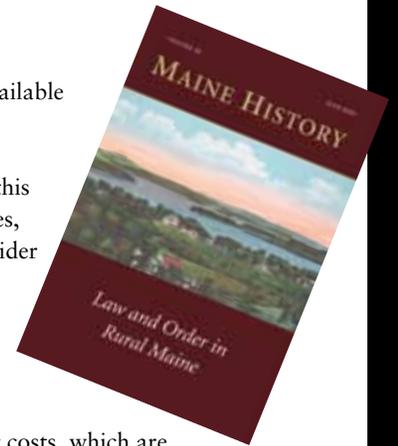
Did you know that *Maine History*, our peer-reviewed journal, is available online, in digital form?

We are now offering members the option to receive notification of this publication as it becomes available on our Member's Only databases, instead of receiving the hard copy in the mail. We hope you'll consider making the "e-choice."

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- 2) Choosing the online version helps MHS cut printing and mailing costs, which are substantial and growing;
- 3) Going paperless has net environmental benefits—it is the "greener" option.

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