BEER IN THE GARDEN:
Mourning Rituals
October 16
5:00 – 7:00 pm
21+ Event. Free to MHS Members

FIND YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY:
A Maine Historical Society
Genealogy Experience
September 27
October 4 AND 11, 4:00 pm

MAINE BREWS EXHIBIT
October 5, 2018 through
January 26, 2019

BEHIND-THE-SCENES
LIBRARY TOUR
First Wednesday of each month at
12 noon (October 3, November 7, December 5)

IN SEARCH OF GENERAL TSO, film
September 29, 3:00 pm

MAINE SEAFOOD:
The Strength of Our Past and the
Promise of Our Future with Barton
Seaver and representatives from
the Maine Coast Fisherman’s
Association and the Gulf of Maine
Research Institute
October 11, 6:00 pm

A TASTE OF MAINE’S
BEER HISTORY
October 18, 6:00 pm

TO LIGHT A CANDLE
Film & Discussion
October 18, 6:00 pm

LONGFELLOW’S HAUNTED HOUSE
2018
October 24, 25, 26 and 30
6:00 pm

MAINE HISTORY MAKER AWARDS
November 13, 5:00 pm

THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US:
Stories from the Field with Maine
Farmland Trust
November 15, 6:00 pm

GERALD DICKENS PERFORMS
“A Christmas Carol”
November 26, 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS BELLS
A Holiday Handbell Concert
December 12, 7:00 pm
LIVING HISTORY | Day in the life

Seven Interns One Historic Summer

This summer has truly been a summer of learning and growing for me, and every day I feel lucky to be literally immersed in history.

— Mack Jones

I chose to work at MHS for my summer because after going to college in NYC for the past few years I realized how lucky I was to have grown up in Maine. Working here allows me combine my love for history with a new-found appreciation of my home state,” says Elizabeth Larochelle.

Collections work was a focus for Kiana Clark who said “I chose MHS because I was interested in working with a collection that focused on Maine history, and I’ve most enjoyed getting to see some of the behind-the-scenes processes of archival work and learning fun facts from all of my projects, especially about the Jefferson Borden mutiny!”

While many of the interns have a multi-disciplinary focus in history and related subjects like education, political science or art history, their love of history is palpable and they are self-described #historynerds. As intern Mack Jones exclaimed: “I am so lucky to work with so many people and be surrounded by those who love history just as much as me!”

Rather than being given busy-work like some internships, the MHS interns had a lasting impact on the institution. We are delighted that this next generation of historians, history advocates and educators chose to spend their summer gaining valuable experience in the field at MHS.

As intern Mack Jones puts it: “I love that my summer was spent being a huge nerd and doing what I love. It’s been a really exciting experience.”

Find Your Place In History

This June, Maine Historical Society introduced Find Your Place in History, a guided introduction to genealogical research.

In this well-received program, small groups gather in the Brown Research Library on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30 pm to explore history on all levels: from the history of their own family to artifacts that help tell the story of western civilization.

Program participants delve into their own family story with the guidance of Maine Historical Society staff and also view artifacts from the MHS collections and archives — off limits to regular visitors! After their work in the library, participants gather in the Longfellow Garden to enjoy refreshments.

“Genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies in the United States and we have heard from many members of the public that they’d love to learn more about their family history but have no idea where to begin,” says Nan Cumming, Director of Advancement and creator of the Find Your Place in History program. “We have the expertise, the information, and the collections here — and can help them get started on this fascinating—and addictive—journey.”

Find Your Place in History will run through mid-October, 2018.

To register for Find Your Place in History, visit www.mainehistory.org and click on Programs & Events

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND YOU

Your membership is an essential piece of what we do here at Maine Historical Society; you may hear us say it a lot, but it is true in every way. Not only do your membership dollars help to support our important programs and preservation efforts, but your commitment to MHS through the feedback you provide, the events you attend, and how you share your love of MHS with your community is invaluable.

THANK YOU!
An impressive roster of over 200 distinct titles, the MHS newspaper collection begins with Maine’s earliest printing, the Falmouth Gazette (1785), with an emphasis on 18th through early 20th-century titles. The holdings hail from around the state (with a handful from Boston) and include obscure or specialty titles found few other places in the US. The delicate nature of these collections, especially those printed after the Civil War, require tremendous care due to acidic pages, which crumble with age. Coupled with their often over-sized format, caring for original newspapers can be complex.

Despite digital access to numerous Maine titles, most recently through state-wide submissions to Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov), many of the newspapers at Maine Historical Society cannot be found online, on microfilm, and in some instances, anywhere else in original format. For pragmatic reasons, digitization efforts often focus on previously microfilmed titles or titles without date gaps, neglecting obscure holdings or those with limited surviving issues. Even with ever-increasing online access, our library is committed to retaining originals. Nothing ever compares to an original newspaper.

With the changing world of newspaper publication, Maine Historical Society’s historic newspaper collection stands an important example of Maine’s robust publishing history. Archiving and providing access to newspapers, in their varied formats, is fundamental to understanding our state and to documenting Maine’s place in the national context. Titles ranging from the broadly disseminated Ellsworth American, to the more obscure David’s Sling, or the prolific Christian Mirror, showcase the varied political, social and economic diversity of Maine throughout its printing history. In November 2017, MHS launched a “Giving Tuesday” campaign to raise funds for its historic newspaper collection. Over the course of one day, supporters generously donated $2,500 for the purchase of archival boxes and enclosures, aimed at improving the long-term care of these important collections. Throughout the summer of 2018, MHS intern Lucy Oster rehoused select newspapers into boxes, folders and custom-made enclosures suited for the collection’s varied sizes and shapes.

The resources donated through the “Giving Tuesday” initiative provided a foundation for preserving our ever-growing collection, covering about 75% of overall project expenses. Our work is ongoing, and our collection grows regularly. To donate to this important collections initiative please contact Director of Advancement, Nan Cumming at ncumming@mainehistory.org.

Pulp and Print: Preserving the Pages of Maine’s Past

By Jamie Rice
Director of Library Services

OBJECT LESSON | Jewett Flag Quilt

In 1862, a group of prominent women gathered in the Jewett family home to make a quilt. The quilt was a gift to a Union army hospital, meant to help encourage and comfort Union soldiers during the American Civil War. The flag design was popular for quilts during the war years as a way for those at home to show their patriotism and support. But this quilt sent a further message to the recovering soldiers, in the form of handwritten notes and sentiments, inscribed by the women who made the quilt. Women from the Jewett, Fox, Stephenson, and Wilder families included messages of encouragement and thoughts from home, all urging the bravery and success of the Union soldier. While it is unknown whether this quilt ever made it to a Union hospital, the quilt did remain with Jewett family for generations until it was generously donated to the Maine Historical Society by Mrs. Delia Roberts in 2017.

— Kate McBrien

This flag includes 33 stars, arranged in the shape of one large star. Officially, the United States flag had 33 stars from 1859 to 1861, when a 34th star was added for the admission of Kansas.

May the sweetest of dreams this quilt impart
And deeds of valor inspire the heart
Of three brave soldier whose’er thou art
—Mrs. W. H. Stephenson, Portland, Me.
Driving the Flow of Industrial Innovation

By Kate McNabri
Chief Contributor/Director of Public Engagement

The now-thriving cities of Biddeford and Saco were once quiet, rural bits of land around a powerful river. With the incorporation of mills, industry boomed, populations grew, and innovation flourished.

Maine Historical Society and the Biddeford Mills Museum (BMM) are collaborating to tell the story of community growth and economic opportunity in a forthcoming exhibition, Biddeford/Saco: Driving Industrial Innovation.

The exhibition not only will share the stories of manufacturing and entrepreneurial successes, but also the stories of the workers whose skill and knowledge helped build the industries and the stories of the small towns that became booming urban areas.

The exhibition will be located in Building #13 of the Pepperell Mill Campus in the former home of the Pepperell Manufacturing Company. The mill is a vital location and space to engage diverse audiences in topics including the ongoing evolution of Maine’s economy, the diversity and innovation of the people that contributed to our sense of place and community, and Maine’s relationship to the broader world.

“The local knowledge and commitment of the Biddeford Mills Museum combined with the almost two hundred years of museum success of the Maine Historical Society will allow for the creation of a professional and dynamic exhibition in the Pepperell Mill,” said BMM Board President Jeff Cahal. “Biddeford is experiencing an exciting renaissance of economic development that embodies both ideals from the past and creative visions for the present. The coming exhibition aims to celebrate this history through creative use of space, artifacts, images, and architectural features.”

Through the exhibition, visitors to the Pepperell Mill will see the long timeline of the mill’s development and rise as a major manufacturing center, to its closure in 2009 as one of the last operating textile mills in the region. They will see the process to make cloth through photos taken from the Pepperell Mill production line, and learn of Samuel Batchelder, inventor and entrepreneur, who recognized the water power available on the Saco River and first opened the mills. They will see the original chop blocks used to mark each blanket made in the Pepperell Mill and read the story of Maria Anna Pelletier who took a temporary job at the mill to earn the extra money needed for an ice box for her family. They will walk away with a sense of the rich history running throughout the mill complex and the dynamic future it now holds.

Founded in 2009, the Biddeford Mills Museum is an all-volunteer organization with an accomplished Board, an active Committee of volunteer ‘Mill Vets’ (or former mill workers), and a seasonal tour schedule. The development of this exhibition space will be the first opportunity to showcase BMM’s history and collection to the wider public. The exhibition is scheduled to open in the fall and is made possible through private donations and a generous grant from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation.

Cheers to Maine Beer

By Kate Raymond
Donor Relations Manager

Now in its second year, Maine Historical Society’s monthly Beer in the Garden event offers informal interactions with history and local craft beer, and the opportunity to connect with history-loving peers! Attracting MHS members, young professionals, visitors to Portland, and more, Beer in the Garden is the place to be on the third Thursday of the month (May-Octo-ber)!

Beer in the Garden also gives MHS a chance to display and discuss our collections in a whole new way. Each Beer in the Garden event is curated by a MHS staff member on a theme of their choosing, and the artifacts selected for display are diverse—from historic fire-arms to forgotten love letters, a founding fathers’ lock of hair to historic costume pieces, and hand-drawn maps to baseball ephemera.

Our partner for 2019, The Maine Brew Bus, works with local breweries to bring something new each month. To date, they have introduced Beer in the Garden fans to Mast Landing Brewing Company, Rising Tide Brewing, Foundation Brewing Company, Bunker Brewing Company, Sebago Brewing, Fort River Brewing, and Lone Pine Brewing.

Maine’s 100+ craft breweries are booming and winning national awards, but how did the industry grow to its current capacity and is the future sustainable?

MHS’s upcoming exhibition, Maine Brews, will explore these questions through the history, economics, and culture of beer in Maine. Celebrate one of Maine’s heritage products — beer — by visiting the new Maine Brews exhibition and by viewing some beer-based stories from across Maine online at My Maine Stories (mainememory.net/my/mainestories/)

See Calendar listing for Beer in the Garden dates and other events at MHS.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER | Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum, Livermore Falls

By Sherry Todd
Director, Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum

Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum explores the history of paper mills along the Androscoggin River. The Museum was organized in 2001 when a group of current and retired paper mill workers, businesses, and community leaders came together with two common goals: documenting the cultural heritage of the paper-making towns whose mills were closing and capturing the stories of the generations of immigrants who had moved to the area to work in the mills.

Housed in the Italianate building that was first mill owner Alon Record’s home and later used by International Paper’s mill managers, Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum has been involved with all aspects of Maine Memory Network:

As a contributing partner

Collaborating on the Making Paper, Making Maine exhibit at MHS in 2017 and online: mainememory.net/paper

Helping MHS pilot My Maine Stories by gathering local paper makers to record sixteen My Maine Stories. What a treasure-trove of information for current and future generations to use as a learning tool to the history of paper making in Maine.

Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum promotes community involvement and living history. We collaborate with the Maine Department of Corrections to work with at-risk youth, and presently, adult education students in Livermore Falls, sponsored by the United Way of Farmington, learned to make and install window inserts at the museum, to mitigate environmental fluctuations and help protect our collections. We are always looking for more board members—the only requirement is having fun!

Umbagog Paper Mill, Livermore Falls, ca. 1881
Courtesy of Maine’s Paper & Heritage Museum MMN #78660