



CIRCA

FALL 2018



MAINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY | CALENDAR

BEER IN THE GARDEN:

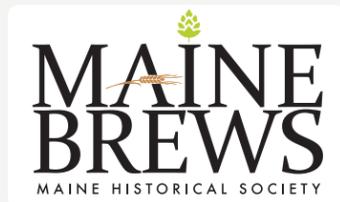
Mourning Rituals
October 16
5:00 - 7:00 pm
21+ Event. Free to MHS Members

FIND YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY:

A Maine Historical Society
Genealogy Experience
September 27
October 4 AND 11, 4:00pm

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, 3:00pm

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, 27 and 30
6:00pm

MAINE HISTORY MAKER AWARDS

November 13, 5:00pm

THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US:

Stories from the Field with Maine
Farmland Trust
November 15, 6:00pm

GERALD DICKENS PERFORMS

"A Christmas Carol"
November 26, 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS BELLS

A Holiday Handbell Concert
December 12, 7:00 pm



Barton Seaver.
Photo by Michael Piazza



CIRCA— FALL 2018

Is the newsletter of the
Maine Historical Society

EDITOR: Nan Cumming

DESIGNER: Patricia Cousins

CONTRIBUTORS: Katie Clark,
Patricia Cousins, Sherry Judd,
Kate McBrien, Kate Raymond,
Jamie Rice

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COVER PHOTO: Young student
reading the "Evening Express" at the
North School, Portland, 1924.
Maine Historical Society/Maine Today
Media





Elizabeth Larochelle and Mack Jones looking at Fashion Dolls circa 1820s from the Maine Historical Society Collections.
Photo by Patricia Cousins / MHS

LIVING HISTORY | Day in the life

Seven Interns One Historic Summer

This summer, seven interns from across the country (many with Maine roots), descended on Maine Historical Society for a season of learning and growth. The interns worked across the MHS campus, from processing manuscript collections in the library to being a docent in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House; from working with summer campers in the museum gallery to adding records to Maine Memory Network.

Why did these interns choose Maine Historical Society for their internship? Their reasons vary, from making industry connections to cultivating a further appreciation of their home state to working hands-on with collections. During the summer, interns worked closely with staff mentors and had immediate opportunities for hands-on work such as handling artifacts and assisting with exhibition staging. They also honed their skills working with the public on campus in the Museum Store, in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and in the Brown Research Library.

“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.” 🧐

2018 SUMMER INTERNS

EMILY BROCHU (Auburn, ME)
Plymouth State University

Adding records to Maine Memory Network including WWII recruitment & propaganda posters; life in Millinocket; Maine’s separation from Massachusetts; and photographs of Amelia Earhart’s 1933 visit to Portland.



LUCY OSTER (Portland, ME)
Casco Bay High School

Providing improved housing for the MHS newspaper collections. Rehousing glass plate negatives and assisting with a new, large donation of architectural drawings.



KIANA CLARK (Windham, ME)
Smith College

Processing manuscript collections, creating finding aids, and adding records to Maine Memory Network including Maine Central Railroad travel flyers and 19th Cent. Monson Town Records.



MACK JONES (South Portland, ME)
Wheaton College

Collected data and feedback from visitor surveys on Maine Eats and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, provided valuable assistance with MHS’s summer camps, helped to install a small exhibit in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, and worked as a docent in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House.



KATIE BISCHOF (Randolph, ME)
University of Southern Maine

Collected data and feedback from visitor surveys on Maine Eats and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, provided valuable assistance with MHS’s summer camps including giving campers a tour of the Portland Observatory, and worked as a docent in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House.



KYLA CAMPBELL (Fort Worth, TX)
Texas State University

Worked on collecting data and feedback from visitor surveys, helped to group resource sets on Maine Memory Network for teachers and students studying the Wabanaki and the Maine state bicentennial, and worked as a docent in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House.



ELIZABETH LAROCHELLE (Auburn, ME)
St. John’s University in Queens, New York

Helped develop Maine state bicentennial lesson plans, grouped resource sets on Maine Memory Network for teachers and students studying the Wabanaki and the Maine state bicentennial, assisted with installing a small exhibit in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, and worked as a docent in the House.



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 5:30pm 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

MHS MEMBERSHIP



MHS members
Marco and Nora

“
MHS brings history to the people and the people to the History.
–Marco

Every time you visit MHS it’s a new experience and it’s always interesting! These collections belonged to someone and it is their history that MHS tells every day.
–Nora
”

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!



Brown Library intern Kiana Clark and Library Director Jamie Rice review an issue of *The Christian Mirror* (Portland).

Biddeford newspapers during the re-housing phase. Eventually, all loose folders will reside within archival boxes, with bound volumes wrapped in acid-free enclosures.



The delicate edges of Biddeford's *Union & Journal* newspaper. The pictured issues are from the 1850s and 60s. They are being transferred into archival boxes as part of the project. Photos by Patricia Cousins/MHS

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

By **Jamie Rice**
Director of Library Services

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, folios 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 35% 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.

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 thee brave soldier who'er thou art.
—Mrs. W. H. Stephenson,
Portland, Me.

May the sweetest of dreams
this quilt impart
And deeds of valor inspire the heart
Of thee brave soldier who'er thou art
—Mrs. W. H. Stephenson, Portland, Me.

A SENSE OF PLACE | Biddeford/Sacco

Driving the Flow of Industrial Innovation

By **Kate McBrien**

Chief Curator/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 an ideal 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 Cabral. "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



Lady Pepperell Mill, Biddeford, circa 1920
Maine Historical Society collection, MaineMemory.net #4198

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 textile 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.



Mill 11-2 Cotton Finishing Room staff, Pepperell Mill, circa 1925
Biddeford Mills Museum collection

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-October)!

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 firearms to forgotten love letters, a founding fathers' lock of hair to historic costume pieces, and hand-drawn maps to baseball ephemera.

Our partner for 2018, *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*, *Fore 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 Judd**

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 2002 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 Alan 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
- A participant in the Maine Community

Heritage Project, resulting in the website, "Jay and Livermore Falls, Pioneers in Paper Making" (<https://bit.ly/2NbsaWm>)

- 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 envi-



ronmental 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