



Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Spring 2004

NAUTICAL CHARTS IN THE RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Atlantic Neptune atlases are milestones in cartographic and sailing history. They were created



A map by Lemuel Moody based on the Des Barres Chart of Casco Bay, 1825. MHS Collection

by Joseph Frederick Wallet Des Barres (1722-1824). While serving for the British Navy, Des Barres surveyed the North American coastlines and later had his charts beautifully engraved and bound into atlases for strategic use by the Navy. Five of these works can be seen at the MHS Research Library. And don't forget that the Society's handsome reprint of the Des Barres chart of Casco Bay, hand-numbered and delicately colored, is for sale in the Museum Shop.

Maritime Exhibits Set the Theme for Spring

When you come to see *Camera's Coast*, the stunning new exhibit in the MHS main gallery (opens February 20th), make sure you don't miss the two supporting exhibits and added materials that help sharpen the portrait of Maine's maritime history.

In the Shettleworth Auditorium you will see *Working on the Coast*, an extraordinary collection of original photographs from the 1930s and 1940s. They were taken by Alfred Elden, of Portland, and Fred Milliken, of Eastport, both freelance journalists for the *Atlantic Fisherman*, a trade periodical published from 1921 to 1951. The images, taken with something of an artist's eye, document many different aspects of Maine's fishing industry, from gill-netting, to hauling, to processing and lobstering. Take a close look.

continued on next page



Fishermen unload an open herring weir, ca. 1940.

This April Celebrate MARITIME LIFE

*with Maine Historical
and the Children's
Museum of Maine*

In conjunction with *Camera's Coast: Historic Photographs of Coastal New England*, Maine Historical Society and the Children's Museum of Maine are teaming up for a weeklong celebration of Maine's connection to the sea. During school vacation week, April 19-23, both institutions will host a full slate of hands-on activities relating to maritime life and work. The pinnacle of the week will be Maritime Day, on Wednesday, April 21. On this day, both institutions will offer discounted admission to their facilities and encourage visitors to move between the two. At MHS, children will hear a storytellersharing tales of life at sea, see a sail-making demonstration, and listen to a sea shanty singer. They will also make a sailor's bracelet, participate in a scavenger hunt, and more. At the Children's Museum, children will see a puppet show, get their hands wet in the touch tank, play on a lobster boat, and experience the magic of the camera obscura. This is a new partnership for MHS, and one we are very excited about. The week promises to be fun and informative, and we look forward to seeing all of you here (with your children, grandchildren, and, yes, the neighbor's kids).

LD 1787 Means Saving Maine's History:

Please Let Your Representatives Know

There is a bill now being considered in the current Maine legislative session that is of vital importance to Maine Historical Society and all those interested in preserving the character and history of our state. It is *LD 1787, An Act to Support the New Century Community Program*. This bill has been proposed by the Maine Cultural Affairs Council and sponsored by Republican Minority Leader, Joseph Bruno, of Raymond, and Democratic Senator Margaret Rotundo, of Androscoggin County, among many others (see below). Please let your own representatives know that this is important legislation.

The bill provides \$4.5 million in ongoing funds to strengthen local cultural resources, including community arts activities, humanities programs and historic preservation activities. It will provide educational services beyond the reach of the standard educational system and preserve both the State's material culture and its built environment through grants for preservation and restoration. Most importantly, funding from this bill will enable MHS to sustain and develop its Maine Memory Network.



Democratic Senator Margaret Rotundo, of Androscoggin County, is co-sponsoring the bill, which was proposed by the Maine Cultural Affairs Council.

The Maine Memory Network is a statewide, on-line archive and museum, designed to overcome the digital information divide between rural and urban communities. One of the first comprehensive sites of its kind in the country, the MMN helps organizations in every part of the state place digital copies of key historical images, documents, and artifacts on the network. Over 130 organizations have now contributed to MMN. In the next phase of its development, MMN will build local and regional community networks that tie users and contributors together through schools, libraries, museums, and historical agencies.

The Maine Cultural Affairs Council is composed of seven statewide cultural agencies: Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Library, Maine State Museum, Maine Historical Society, Maine State Archives and the Maine Humanities Council. The agencies came together five years

ago to find a common approach to the cultural and economic problems of Maine's communities. The result was the New Century Community Program, a cost effective, collaborative, broadly public effort that has been hailed as an innovation in government by the Pew Charitable Trust and Harvard's Kennedy Center. The first New Century efforts supported programs that reached every corner of the state, affected hundreds of cities and towns, and improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Maine people, young and old.

LD 1787 supports the next phase of the New Century Community Program. Subtitled, *Smart Communities, Creative Economies*, this program is designed to strengthen the ability of Maine's cities, towns and villages to prosper in a changing economic world. It promotes four essential and interconnected activities: 1) linking economic and cultural planning, 2) fostering efficient cross-community and regional cooperation, 3) preserving and stimulating local culture and history, and 4) using cutting edge information technologies to accomplish community and educational goals. In short, it is a program for Maine's future.

The bill is sponsored by a number of legislators who have been strong supporters of the New Century initiatives. In addition to Representative Bruno and Senator Rotundo, sponsors include Speaker Pat Colwell, (D) Gardiner; Representative Glenn Cummings, (D) Portland; Representative Ben Dudley, (D) Portland; Representative Jeff Kaelin, (R) Winterport; Senator Arthur Mayo, (R) Sagadahoc; Representative Hannah Pingree, (D) North Haven; Representative Chris Rector, (R) Thomaston; and Representative Richard Rosen, (R) Bucksport. We thank them all for their sponsorship and their belief in the New Century Program. If you would like to know more, please call Sara at MHS at 774-1822, or contact the Maine Cultural Affairs Council at 207-287-3235.



The bill to Support the New Century Community Program is sponsored by Republican Minority Leader Joseph Bruno of Raymond. The bill is key to sustaining MHS' Maine Memory Network.

Maritime Exhibits,

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Also on view is *Maritime Maine*, in the Showcase Gallery, just off the auditorium. It presents a selection of objects from the MHS collections with a focus on different vessels that plied the Maine waters. Nineteenth century paintings, models and half-hulls document different types of boats, including a beautiful pastel drawing of the MM Hamilton, a coastal sloop that carried granite from Maine quarries, and a model of the 19th century steamship the Governor, which carried passengers between Boston and St. John, New Brunswick.

Camera's Coast itself, curated by Maine scholar Bill Bunting and organized by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, includes nearly 70 historic images of maritime scenes taken along the New England coast between 1880 and 1920. To expand the show's perspective, MHS curator John Mayer has added new materials and media. These include important nautical artifacts from MHS collections, a wonderful assortment of late 19th and early 20th century sail maker's tools loaned to us by Grant Gambell of Camden, Maine, and oral histories of fishermen, lighthouse keepers, and others originally reproduced by Stephanie Philbrick and Kate Philbrick, in cooperation with Salt Inc. and WMPG-FM in Portland.



Herring is drying as fishermen stand by, January 16, 1917. MHS Collection

All together, it's a rich and intriguing assortment of maritime sights and sounds. We hope you make a visit, and while you're at it, please check out our programs and library resources.

TEMPERANCE AND THE GRANGE: *Two Great New Library Collections*

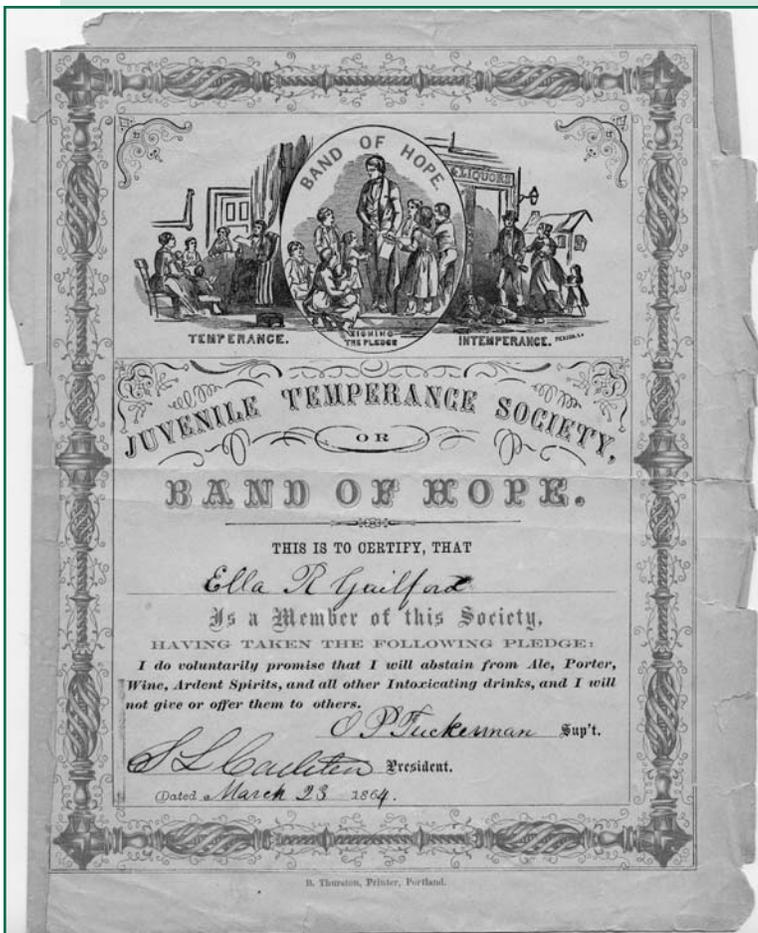
MHS is always seeking ways to represent the great Maine stories in its collections. For that reason we're very pleased to introduce the *Burden Temperance Collection* and the *Maine State Grange Collection*, both of which contribute significantly to understanding the social history of Maine from before the Civil War to the mid-20th century. The collections have been archivally processed and are available for research.

Dr. Charles Burden of Dresden recently donated to MHS his *Temperance Collection* (Coll. 2093) assembled over a period of many years. Maine was the national leader of the temperance movement in the 19th century, when fighting the devastations of alcohol was a moral cause that took its place beside the abolition of slavery and the fight for women's suffrage. The Burden collection documents the movement from the 1830s, when Portland's Neal Dow and "The Maine Law" of 1851 pointed the way, through the State of Maine Regulations of 1955. It's rich materials include books, pamphlets, sheet music, meeting programs, poetry, balloting and voting information, photographs, postcards, certificates, broadsides, newspapers, journals and correspondence, tavern accounts, chapter minutes and signed pledges ("I took the Pledge"). There are stories of Francis Willard, founder of the W.C.T.U., as well as various treatments for alcoholism. Maine people and organizations featured include the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars, Temperance Watchman, Rechabites, the Neal Institute, the W.C.T.U., and activists Lillian M. N. Stevens, and her daughter Gertrude Stevens Leavitt, among others. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Burden for this wonderful gift. (If you'd like to know more about Temperance in Maine, please check out our 1998 exhibit, Rum, Riot and Reform—available on our website, mainehistory.org.)

To reminisce with any rural Maine native of a certain age is to hear warm tales of community activities focused around the Grange. Founded in Maine in 1874, ten years after the national organization, the Grange was an important political and social force well into the mid-20th century. By 1907 there were 419 granges and membership was up to 55,212. Its political activism brought rural free delivery and prohibition; its social activities brought communities together and

it provided important new leadership roles for women. *The Maine State Grange Collection* (Coll. 2098) includes a variety of documents from 1875 to the 1990s, arranged by local grange halls, as well as publications of the national group. There are business files, correspondence, manuals, membership applications, minutes, and 80 volumes of the *Journal of Proceedings for the Maine State Grange* (1897-1985). These new materials, acquired with the assistance of Linc Merrill, President of MHS, join a significant run of the Grange newspaper, *The Maine Farmer*, already among the Society's holdings.

Jamie Kingman, a summer intern with the Simmons Graduate School program, catalogued the Temperance collection and summer intern Sue Flaherty, a recent University of South Carolina graduate, who is now working at the Society as Library Assistant, catalogued the Grange collection. Thank you both for your good work.



Juvenile Temperance Society or Band of Hope pledge signed by Ella R. Guilford, March 23, 1864

IMAGE REPRODUCTION SERVICES: *Taking a New Look*

The archives of Maine Historical Society are rich and vast. To share this wealth, MHS has long offered copying, photo reproduction, and licensing services to members, researchers, collectors, publishers and museums throughout the country. Over the past eighteen months we have been reviewing and improving our ability to provide this important service, helped by grants from the Maine Community Foundation and consultants from Common Good Ventures, a group devoted to promoting better business practices for non-profit organizations.

The review had two basic parts. The first was a thorough analysis of our internal operations. This included the real cost of running the service (staff time, related expenses, conservation of the collections); the efficiency and timeliness of our systems; and the quality of the products we produced. The second part of the review looked outward to the market. We did extensive research on the pricing of historic image reproductions in our region and across the country, paying close attention to comparable non-profit institutions as well as commercial ventures. The goal of all this analysis was quality and sustainability: to develop a better service at a fairer price.

That goal is within reach. Led by Dan Kaplan, Director of the Maine Memory Network, and Christine Albert, Images Services Coordinator, MHS is implementing a new approach to image reproduction that will ultimately clarify services, products, prices, and discounts. We see four standard



*One of our new images online:
Atherton Furniture Store on Lisbon Street in Lewiston
promoted Glenwood Ranges, giving away cookbooks
to those who bought ranges*

options in the year ahead. With improved color copying technology in the Library, good quality **study prints** of graphic items up to 11x14 will be available for a small fee. For those who want photographic **quality prints** for framing or other personal uses, we will offer beautiful 8"x10" black and white, sepia tone, or full color digital copies. For publishing,

licensing, or other graphic purposes, high resolution **digital files** will be available electronically, either over the internet or on

CD. Finally, reproduction of over-sized, non-standard, or research intensive items will be treated as **custom orders**, available at rates that cover the higher costs of providing this service. Society members will receive a **discount** for all image reproduction products and services. Significant discounts will also be available for bulk orders, non-profit organizations, and corporate supporters.

In the next few months, we will also be introducing a new website for image sales that will streamline the ordering process and result in improved customer service. This site will allow you to choose from over 4,000 historical images from the Society and partner organizations across the state and New England. We'll announce the launch of this website soon, but in the meantime, you can still place image reproduction orders through Christine Albert in the Research Library (207-774-1822 ex. 217), or through the Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net). If you would like more information about prices, fees, and services please email Chris at calbert@mainehistory.org.



Please Join Us!
The Maine Historical Society
Spring Gala

Saturday, May 15th, 2004
at
The Woodlands Country Club
Falmouth, ME
With the Phil Rich Big Band

Invitations to follow

SAVE THE DATE! **ANNUAL MEETING** *in Boothbay Harbor* *Saturday, June 5th, 10:00 a.m.*

Every other year the Maine Historical Society hosts its annual meeting away from the Portland campus. We choose a site we think our members would enjoy visiting while also learning something new about Maine history. What could be more delightful on an early June day than heading to the Boothbay Harbor region? Our meeting will be held at the restored 1847 Town Hall at the Boothbay Railway Village. Beyond the historic structures on the grounds and the steam locomotives ready to give us rides, there is a superb display of antique cars and fire fighting equipment.

We're hoping to make this an event that can be enjoyed by the whole family, so think about bringing the children or grandchildren. Details will follow in an invitation to our members later in the spring. Please do mark your calendars! Program details to follow by mail.



This Boothbay Railway Village photo taken at the turn of the century depicts a Maine two foot gauge locomotive with plow and flanger (directly behind engine) plus passenger cars.

Members Only: *The Very Idea!*

In our last newsletter we announced that MHS would soon make two exclusive research tools available to its members. These were HeritageQuest, an extraordinary collection of historical and genealogical research databases, and the digital Sanborn Maps for the State of Maine. These resources are, in fact, already available in the Research Library, but even more exciting is the possibility that they will soon be available to all members with the click of a mouse.

We expect to have these and other research services available through our website — mainehistory.org — by the spring. To do this we will have to do two things: 1) create a special “members only” area on our site, and 2) provide each MHS member with a unique login number that will grant access. It sounds more complicated than it is, and we're working to perfect the system now. In March we'll be mailing you your membership number and providing instructions on how to use this great resource. Membership benefits. The very idea!

BEQUESTS SUSTAIN THE FUTURE OF MHS

In July 2003, director Richard D'Abate received a sobering phone call, informing him that long-time member Clyde R. Hamlin, of Orlando, Florida, had passed away. He also learned that Mr. Hamlin had left the bulk of his estate to the Maine Historical Society. While the estate is still in probate, it appears that Mr. Hamlin's legacy to MHS may total nearly \$400,000.

Mr. Hamlin was born in Otisfield, Maine, in 1927. He attended Portland schools, joined the merchant marine as a young man and eventually entered the Air Force, where he became a sergeant, serving in Germany through the 1960s. He retired to Florida where he became a genealogical reference assistant at the Orange County Public Library. He was a faithful member of the Society and a reader of all its publications. In many ways MHS was a link to his home state and his true heritage.

Decisions about where to leave a lasting financial impression are not easy to make. Mr. Hamlin's generosity exhibited a



Clyde Hamlin in the service in Germany c. 1965

deep commitment to the future of our institution and the preservation and promotion of Maine history. We are sincerely grateful. If you would like more information about including the Society in your estate plans or planned giving opportunities, please contact Leslie Hahn in the Society's Development Office at (207) 774-1822, ext. 203 or by email at Lhahn@mainehistory.org. (Inquiries about planned giving opportunities at MHS are held in confidence and without obligation.)

MUSEUM WEB-STORE *Expanded and Updated*

The Maine Historical Society Museum Web-Store has been updated and expanded to include many more books and gift items. Check it out at www.mainehistory.org. If you would like to be notified electronically of our special sales and new publications, please email your contact information to museumstore@mainehistory.org, or call the store at (207) 774-1822 x 208.



Seeking Volunteers for 2005 Genealogy Conference

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference is coming to Portland in 2005! The theme is "New England Crossroads, 2005" and it will be held from March 31st to April 3rd.

It's never too early to plan, so we are seeking volunteers for the hospitality committee and table.

If you are interested in helping genealogists from all over the country get the most out of their visit to Maine, please help us create a great hospitality table. Contact Kathy Amoroso at 774-1822 x227.

FILM PREMIERE A SMASH!!!

It was quite a sight: a Thursday evening in November, crowds lined up along Congress Street to get into the Maine Historical Society, many turned away at the door. The event was the premiere screening of selections from the City of Portland Film Collection, a remarkable color film record of life in Portland in the early 1940's. The film—seven 16mm reels taken in 1940 and 1941—was discovered a few years ago in the attic of City Hall and donated to MHS. With the help of a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation, the film was conserved and viewing copies made.

It was only then that it became clear what an incredible resource this film represents. It reveals a rare, animated portrait of community life in Portland just before World War II. It shows crowds ice skating in Deering Oaks Park, children twirling batons on the Eastern Promenade and racing in a soap box derby on Park Avenue. It shows how labor intensive a process it was to unload freighters on the waterfront and to remove the trolley tracks from Congress Street. It includes aerial views of the city, harbor, and waterfront, and documents many familiar landmarks.

The premiere in November was just the beginning. Now the research begins. As far as we've been able to determine, the film was commissioned by the City's Public Works Department. We have not yet figured out why they did so, what the final product was meant to be, or who the intended audience was. But now that the film is available, promising leads are beginning to come in. We are also currently making plans for additional screenings in the community, access to the film in our Research Library, and the creation of VHS and DVD edited versions. More soon! If you have any information about these films, please call Steve Bromage, (207) 774-1822.

What is Going On Here? Update

The scene in the photograph featured in the Winter 2003/2004 newsletter was identified as a brickyard. The horse in the foreground is turning a “pug mill” to



grind the clay mixture used to form the bricks, some of which can be seen drying in the sun on the left. After they were sun baked, the bricks would be fired in a kiln, likely located in the large open shed in the background. Also visible in the background are the many cords of wood necessary to run the kiln.

Several of the workmen are shown barefoot and wearing aprons. Apparently, brickyard workers wore as few clothes as possible, as the clay mixture would ruin whatever clothing they had on. The exact location remains unknown, but several people suggested Danville or Brewer as possibilities. Many thanks to Nick Dean who was the first to contact us with this information, and receives a copy of *Blue Ribbons and Burlesque: A Book of Country Fairs* by Charles Fish. Recognition is also due to Linc Merrill, Deborah Pulliam, Robert Vogel, Dorothy LaChance, Scott Stevens, Barbara Rumsey, Mrs. Edward Cobb, Mark Snow and Patty Hutchins, all of whom provided additional information. Thanks to them, an unidentified photograph in our collection is now identified, and therefore much more historically valuable.

What Is It?

Can you help identify this object? It is obviously some type of press, perhaps for book making, but that is unconfirmed and undocumented. It is attractively and thoughtfully made of oak, mahogany and forged iron, and measures 15 inches high, 17.5 inches long and 6 inches wide. The frame is held together by pinned mortise and tenon joints. Screws on the piece indicate that it dates to the early 19th century. We have no other information about this object, and would like to know how this press was used. Any ideas? If you have any information that you can back up with documentation, please send it to Holly Hurd-Forsyth, Registrar, care of MHS, or e-mail her at hhurd@mainehistory.org. The first person to provide us with documentation confirming what this device is will win a copy of the book *Tales of New England Past*.



MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Incorporated 1822*

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Rick Asam, *Outreach- North*

SPRING HOURS

Maine Historical Society

MHS Research Library (ext. 209)

Tues-Sat 10-4:00
Closed Holiday Weekends

Wadsworth-Longfellow House

Open for school group tours: April 1
Open to the public: May 1,
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Museum/Center for Maine History

February, March, April:

Mon-Sat 10-5:00

May 1- 25: Mon-Sat 10-5:00,
Sun 12-5:00

Museum Shop (ext. 208)

February, March, April:

Mon-Sat 10-5:00

May 1: Mon-Sat 10-5:00, Sun 12-5:00

MHS Administrative Offices

Mon-Fri 9-5:00

Tel: (207) 774-1822

Fax: (207) 775-4301

E-mail: sarchbald@mainehistory.org

Mailing Address:

Maine Historical Society
489 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

Websites:

www.mainehistory.org
www.mainememory.net

Upcoming Events at The Maine Historical Society

Ongoing

Camera's Coast: Historic Photographs of Maritime New England

Current exhibit open Mon-Sat, 10 – 5, Feb.19 through May 30
Admission: \$4 Adults, \$2 Children

March

Maine Cabinetmakers & the Coastal Massachusetts Tradition, 1780-1830

Thursday, March 18, 7:00 pm. Lecture by Laura Fecych Sprague, Independent Museum Curator; Thomas B. Johnson, Curator of Collections Old York Historical Society; Thomas Hardiman, Keeper, Portsmouth Athenaeum. RSVP requested.

The Arts of the Sailor: Sailor's Valentines

Saturday, March 20, 9am – 12 noon. Ages 5 & up.

Reservations required, and children must be accompanied by an adult.
Admission: \$5 materials fee/child, adults free.

An Eye for the Coast: The Maritime & Monhegan Photographs of Eric Hudson

Saturday, March 20, 9am – 12 noon. Recommended for ages 5 & up.

Reservations required, and children must be accompanied by an adult.
Admission: \$5/child, adults free

April

Exploring Federal Census Records and Using HeritageQuest Online

Saturday, April 3, 9:30am – 12:30pm. Registration required. \$35. Members \$30.

The Florescence of Maine Shipbuilders

Tuesday, April 13, Noon. Skip Brack, Curator, The Davistown Museum, and Proprietor, Liberty Tool Company. Free and open to the public.

May

The 2004 Neil Allen Lecture

Wasting Away in Margarettaville: Local History and the Politics of Narrative

Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm. Richard D'Abate, Executive Director, Maine Historical Society. RSVP requested.

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
489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101-3498



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