Presque Isle, ME. X7.

Main Street, Maine
According to the Bible: From Obama, to Lincoln, to MHS

As almost everyone knows by now, President Barack Obama took the inaugural oath of office with his hand on one of America’s rarest treasures: the Lincoln Bible. His choice evoked a rich mixture of historical memories—slavery, war, the fight for social justice—and it gave the day a special resonance. What fewer people know is that this was not Lincoln’s family Bible but one provided by the then Clerk of the Supreme Court, William Thomas Carroll. There is, in fact, a hand written testimony tipped into the Bible that reads, in part: “I, William Thomas Carroll, clerk of the said court do hereby certify that the preceding copy of the Holy Bible is that upon which the Honble. R. B. Taney, Chief Justice of the said Court, administered to His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, the oath of office as President of the United States.” But who was this fellow Carroll, and do we care? The answer is yes.

William Thomas Carroll was born into a distinguished Maryland family in 1802. His ancestors had signed the founding documents; his friends included Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln; his service to the Court lasted decades; and his children lived adventurous and notable lives. One of them was his daughter, Alida Catherine Carroll. It was Alida Carroll, you may remember, who met and married John Marshall Brown, of Portland—a hero of the Civil War, one of Maine’s leading citizens, and a guiding spirit of the Maine Historical Society. And it is for Alida Carroll and John Marshall Brown that the new MHS Research Library will be named. How satisfying. Thanks again to the descendant who made it possible, giving not only the gift of a distinguished name but a new connection to the roots of American history.

Richard D’Abate
— Executive Director

ABOUT THE COVER
PRESQUE ISLE

In the early 20th century, fraternal organizations played a more visible role in their communities than they do today. Here the Masonic Order of the Commandery marches on Main Street in Presque Isle, attired in black uniforms complete with sashes, swords, and plummed hats. State Street intersects with Main Street in the middle of the picture with the A. M. Smith Block on the left corner and the Bolton Block at the right. Built in 1891, the Bolton Block, with its distinctive tower, burned in 1943.
Main Street, Maine

DOWNTOWN VIEWS FROM THE EASTERN PUBLISHING AND ILLUSTRATING COMPANY
FEBRUARY 12 - MAY 3

Spring visitors to the MHS Museum will see an amazing collection of photographs of Maine towns taken from 1910 to 1940. Our new exhibit, Main Street, Maine: Downtown Views from the Eastern Publishing and Illustrating Company, is the result of a collaboration with the Penobscot Marine Museum.

The photographs offer a remarkable record of life at a critical transition in Maine: modern life was arriving across the state—as can be seen by the cars, gas pumps, electrical lines, and many other telling details captured in the photographs. Communities from every corner of the state are captured: Lille, Fort Fairfield, Ripley, Belfast, Norway, Mechanic Falls, Northeast Harbor, Saco, and Kennebunk, among others.

Several communities are pictured at their zenith. Lumbering, shipbuilding, maritime, and other industries in Maine had begun a gradual decline, rendered inefficient or obsolete by changes in technology, transportation, or the nation’s geographic focus. Others are poised to boom. The paper industry was thriving, automobile tourism was on the rise, and the creativity and entrepreneurship of local citizens fueled many small industries.

The photographs in the exhibit are drawn from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company glass plate negative collection, a storied Maine collection now owned by the Penobscot Marine Museum. The company made over 30,000 glass plate negatives between 1909 and 1947. Eastern Illustrating became the largest manufacturer of photo postcards on the East Coast, producing over a million postcards a year at its peak.

After the company went out of business, the glass plates were left in storage for the next 40 years. They survived a fire, a flood, and attempts to break up the collection. In 2007, it was donated to the Penobscot Marine Museum. Since then, Penobscot Marine has undertaken the Herculean task of stabilizing, organizing, cataloging, and providing access to this vast and important collection.

MHS is pleased to offer these revealing views of Main Street, Maine.

Steve Bromage
— Assistant Director

All photos contributed by the Penobscot Marine Museum.
CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION
It’s happening. Workmen are swarming over every inch of the Library to make it as perfect and complete as possible. Take the engine room for instance, a thing of complex beauty. Those who’ve seen it, ladies and gentleman alike, tend to gasp. There are pumps to dry, chillers to cool, boilers to warm, humidifiers to moisten, and fans to drive the cultured air—all computer controlled and web accessible. Or take the new security controls, fire protections system, and compact storage units on every floor. Or notice the careful joining of historic character and modern design. What does it all mean? A new seriousness of purpose at MHS. A new era in the preservation and sharing of Maine history.

WHERE THE FUNDING STANDS
Thanks to hundreds of year-end gifts, MHS met the Kresge Foundation Challenge, bringing the total funds raised-to-date to $8.7 million. Thank you! Thanks to all who have brought us this far, sometimes against a very stiff economic tide. We are extremely grateful. And the final goal is in sight: about $800,000 away. It’s the last leg of the race, and we will need your help. Please remember, gifts of $5,000 or more can be spread over the next four years. If you have not pledged to the campaign, please consider doing so. If you have, but wish to increase your gift, please call us at 207-774-1822, ext 203.

RESERVE A PIECE OF HISTORY
Many naming opportunities are still available in the MHS Brown Research Library: from the new wing itself ($750,000) to a new chair ($500). In between are beautiful rooms, garden features, handsome reading tables, new bookcases, and much more. It is a wonderful way to honor the memory of loved ones or to leave your own mark on history. For a complete list of what is available, contact the Development Office: 207-774-1822, ext 203.

MOVING BACK, OPENING UP, FINISHING THE GARDEN
The library is expected to be substantially complete by February 23, with the move back from temporary quarters scheduled to take about three weeks. This suggests a “soft” opening for members and researchers in late March. Exact dates will be posted on the MHS website, www.mainehistory.org. Exterior construction tasks that had to be postponed because of winter—landscaping and planting the Longfellow Garden foremost among them—will be completed in the spring, just in time for the grand celebration.

CELEBRATIONS!
A grand public celebration, coinciding with the MHS Annual Meeting, is scheduled for June 26th and 27th. It will include an open house, tours of the new library, ceremonies, talks, and the launch of a new exhibit: Open Sesame: Wonders and Discoveries in the Maine Historical Society Library. Hold the dates. We hope to see you!
OPEN SESAME: WONDERS AND DISCOVERIES IN THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

As staff and visitors acclimate to the new and renewed MHS Brown Library, planning is underway for an exhibition about this unparalleled collection. Open Sesame: Wonders and Discoveries in the Maine Historical Society Library will reveal the depth and scope of what is arguably the state’s most innovative research facility for the study of Maine history.

Books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, broadsides, ephemera, newspapers, periodicals and architectural and engineering drawings all contribute to the richness and breadth of the resources found within the library walls. Objects will range from monumental presentation drawings to miniature books and official boundary maps to intimate family correspondence. Rare treasures will abound, including one of few original copies of the Declaration of Independence, printed on July 4, 1776 by John Dunlap in Philadelphia. Berwick resident John S. H. Fogg acquired it while collecting autographs of the original signers of this vital American document.

These materials herald the Society’s commitment to collecting, preserving, and making the history of Maine and its people accessible and meaningful. The exhibition, curated by Laura Fecych Sprague, opens June 26 and will run through December 2009.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE GRAND CELEBRATION AND RE-DEDICATION OF THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S ALIDA CARROLL AND JOHN MARSHALL BROWN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

INVITATIONS TO FOLLOW

^ Charles Buckles Falls, ca. 1918. Books Wanted for our Men in Camp and ‘Over There’ / Take Your Gifts to the Public Library. Lithograph, Coll 463.

Independence and Challenges: the Life of Hannah Pierce

At first glance, Hannah Pierce (1788-1873) of Baldwin seems rather unremarkable – and not very happy.

While in her 20s, she taught school, one of the few occupations open to women in the early decades of the nineteenth century. After a few years, she returned to her parents’ home, where she remained for the most of the rest of her life. As a single woman, she often helped care for sick relatives or those who needed help in various ways. In her later years, she repeatedly writes in letters that she is lonely and isolated.

Yet, Hannah Pierce, the eldest of 10 children of Josiah and Phebe Thompson Pierce of West Baldwin, was more remarkable than the brief description of her life suggests – and was far from the stereotype of an unhappy, bitter “old maid” (as she sometimes called herself).

Hannah’s letters, written between 1814 and 1866, mostly to her siblings, offer insight into how one single, independent woman in rural Maine negotiated family, intellectual pursuits, and finances. Never particularly enamored of teaching, Hannah at 26, teaching in Fryeburg, wrote to her brother Josiah in 1814 that she had “upwards of forty Scholars, some of whom are wise, and some are otherwise even to an extreme.” She could not understand the students’ lack of academic ambition. She sometimes discussed books with Josiah or her other siblings in their correspondences and her letters suggest her interest in ideas and current events.

Hannah had benefited from her father’s attitude that education was important for his daughters as well as his sons. Their education, like that of many youths of the time, came both at home and at academies, which they attended sporadically. Josiah “Squire” Pierce, among the first residents of Flintstown (later Baldwin), owned considerable property and was involved in mills, canals, lumbering and other pursuits. He sent two of his three sons on to study at Bowdoin College.

By 1817, Hannah wrote to her brother Josiah, “I am sick of school keeping and think if I can ever obtain any other employment by which to support myself I shall never engage in it again though I should not earn so much.” That probably was the last year she taught.

Hannah went back to West Baldwin, traveling some to visit and assist various siblings and caring for her aging parents. Again, her father’s attitudes helped her. When he died in 1830, he left comparable estates to each of his children. Hannah inherited the family homestead and farmland. Her mother remained at the homestead with Hannah until her death in 1839.

Even then, Hannah was not alone. Her brother Daniel, who owned some of the farmland, and his family also occupied the farm for a few years. A young neighbor, Lydia Jane Bachelder, moved in sometime before 1860 to help with household and farm chores (another neighbor-...
hood girl probably had lived with Hannah before that). In addition, her niece, Phebe Elizabeth Sanborn and her young daughter, Nancy, also moved in sometime before 1860. Sanborn was a widow and lived with her aunt until Hannah Pierce's death in 1873.

In a substantial collection of letters between Hannah Pierce and her siblings, especially her brother Josiah of Gorham (1792-1866), Hannah writes about her finances, her increasing isolation as she ages, her health issues, concerns and problems in running the farm and finding people to farm the fields, and her “little family” – Lydia Jane, Elizabeth, and Nancy. Hannah had investments in real estate, banks, factories and other concerns. She often asked Josiah for advice and their relationship remained close.

She often refers to herself in a somewhat lighthearted manner as an “old maid.” When she writes about being lonely, it is often winter when bad weather or illness has kept family and friends from visiting her and her from getting out to visit. Especially in her younger years, her letters exhibit good humor and enjoyment of life. Even in winter, she writes about being “happy and contented.”

Hannah sought her brother’s advice on hiring farmers and other questions related to her property, yet made many decisions on her own – and often did farm labor. In 1853, when she was 66, she planned to do the dairying herself. The next winter, she sold her pigs and sent her cows to a neighbor’s. She and the “girls” had plenty of wood and water, but, she said, “I fear the great snows and long winter.” She planned to spend part of the winter with Josiah and his family, while the “girls” went to Limerick where Elizabeth’s father lived.

In January 1858, she wrote to Josiah about prospects for leasing the farm and noted, “I should indeed be very glad, of some money, as for the first time in my life, I am entirely destitute, of that article.” By then, Josiah, a successful lawyer and judge, also was in financial straits.

But Hannah survived financially and outlived all but one of her siblings, Ruth Pierce Crocker (1794-1875). She continued to live on the farm until her death in 1873, earning money by leasing fields or taking a share of the farm profits from live-in farmers, by selling apples and hay, and by managing her investments.

In a family in which many of the men achieved notice in politics, business and civic engagement, Hannah Pierce’s life centered on family and homestead, but also stands out as a model of how a single woman could achieve independence, financial and business acuity, and engagement with others. Many single women lived with siblings or other relatives as dependents in their households. Lonely and isolated as she aged, she strove to remember the blessings of her home, her health, and her independence.

Candace Kanes
— Maine Memory Network Curator

Josiah Pierce of Gorham, Hannah’s brother and frequent correspondent. Contributed by the Maine State Archives.
SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK
CONTRIBUTING PARTNER

The Stanley Museum

AN ARTIST AMONG INVENTORS

Chansonetta Stanley Emmons (1858-1937) dreamed of being an artist. She went to college at the Western State Normal School in Farmington to be a teacher, but that occupation had little appeal. When “Netta” was 22, living at home in Kingfield with her father and several siblings, the 1880 Census listed her occupation as “artist.” She was painting rural scenes and portraits and teaching art and drawing.

Netta Stanley’s mother died in 1874, and her six siblings, all brothers and all but one older than she, were teaching, farming, and starting families of their own. Two of her brothers, twins Freelan O. and Francis E. Stanley, influenced her in a number of ways. The brothers are best remembered for developing the first mass-produced dry plate process for photography (which they later sold to George Eastman) and for the “Stanley Steamer” automobile they invented and manufactured in Watertown, Massachusetts. The dry plates and a painting teacher eventually led Netta into photography, which became her artistic passion. From the time of her marriage in 1887 until her husband’s death in 1898, her focus was not on photography, however.

After her husband’s death, Netta Emmons became the artist she had dreamed of. Her brothers helped her financially and she developed her artistic style, focusing on recreating rural scenes that reminded her of her childhood, and on people. She is described as a “pictorialist,” applying principles of painting to photography.

In her lifetime, female photographers were uncommon. Emmons reportedly did not see herself as a pioneer, but she was independent and ambitious. She gave lectures and participated in exhibits in the early decades of the twentieth century. Like many artists, however, Chansonetta Stanley Emmons has been recognized more since her death. Her brothers gained fame as inventors; she as the artist she dreamed of becoming.

< Netta Emmons picture of blueberry picking in Kingfield about 1901. Her daughter, Dorothy Stanley Emmons, is second from right. All images contributed by the Stanley Museum.
At Your Leisure: Accessing Books Online

When researching families, it’s often difficult to travel to the source. The Internet now offers access to library books from the comfort of one’s home. Listed here are two sources to find books online at no cost, 24 hours a day.

**First** is Google Books. Their goal is: “to make it easier for people to find relevant books – specifically, books they wouldn’t find any other way such as those that are out of print – while carefully respecting authors’ and publishers’ copyrights.” It’s great for finding town histories or genealogies.

- Go to www.google.com; click on the “More” link at the top, click on “Books,” begin the search. Some books have full views (every page scanned), others have snippets or no view (due to copyright restrictions).
- Search for a surname and location to see what comes up. You might find a book you didn’t know existed, or it may contain an important clue. If the whole book can’t be viewed, click “Find this Book in a Library” which will list libraries that carry that book. Try requesting it through interlibrary loan from your local library.
- If the full view is available, download the book to your computer. Pages can be printed as needed. With a Google account, the book can be added to your virtual library.

**Second** is the Family History Archive at http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/. The archive includes histories of families, county and local histories, how-to books on genealogy, genealogy magazines and periodicals (including some international), medieval books (including histories and pedigrees), and gazetteers.

- Searching by surname, author, or title will result in a list of all the qualifying books.
- Browse each book, or search within its text. There are books here that are not available from any other site.

Several sites are accessible through local libraries or by subscription, such as Heritage Quest Online, GenealogyBank.com and Ancestry.com. They offer even more books, but finding free resources can be especially rewarding!

*Kathy Amoroso
— Director of Digital Projects*
The Maine Community Heritage Project

The Maine Community Heritage Project is a partnership between MHS and the Maine State Library, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services. It is currently working with eight communities throughout the state to explore local history and create websites as a means to share that history.

PRESQUE ISLE MCHP FORMS HISTORY CLUB AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Presque Isle MCHP team, made up of the Historical Society, Middle School, Turner Memorial Library, and University of Maine at Presque Isle, has crafted an interesting approach to their project. While researching local history themes and scanning collections, they are also creating long-term programs and partnerships that will serve their community into the future.

As part of the brown bag lunch lecture series at the middle school, Presque Isle Historical Society members Richard Rand spoke about the history of potato harvesting and Kim Smith about Victorian etiquette.

Middle School Librarian, Gail Hagelstein, and UMPI Professor, Kim Sebold, have brought UMPI students together with seventh graders, the older students mentoring the younger ones in researching local history. These enthusiastic seventh grade volunteers formed a club, learning research methods that include oral history. They kicked off their work with a scavenger hunt at the cemetery. No ordinary scavenger hunt, it was designed to call attention to dates, personal details, and/or unique designs that bring the story of the past alive for the kids.

Applications for the second cohort of eight Maine Community Heritage Project teams will soon be available on the website (www.mainememory.net/MCHP). All Maine communities are eligible to apply; teams should include a school (Grades 6-12), a library, and an historical organization. Teams work together to study local history and create websites that showcase their work within the Maine Memory Network. Please contact Stephanie Philbrick or Kristie Littlefield for eligibility and application requirements.

Presque Isle Middle School students have been scanning collections for both Presque Isle Historical Society and the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library as a part of their participation in the MCHP. This photo (MMN #19376) shows Main Street looking north in 1895. From the Collection of the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library.
Art of the People: STUDENT QUILTS

“Local History/Local Schools,” a museum-school partnership between Maine Historical Society and the Portland Elementary Schools was started in fall 2005 to involve students more deeply in the study of Maine’s heritage and culture. As part of the program, students work with museum educators in their classroom and at the museum on a final project tied to the exhibit on view.

Last fall, the eight participating classes from Hall, Lyseth, Peaks Island, and Reiche Schools created quilts inspired by the objects on view in “Art of the People: Folk Art in Maine.” These quilts, previously on view for the fall semester student celebration, will hang in the MHS Showcase Gallery along with a selection of objects from the exhibit.

The quilts will be on display from February 12 – May 30.

At the museum, students sketched an object of their choice. Back in the classroom, they used their sketch as a pattern. In this image, the student puts the finishing touches on her interpretation of a nineteenth century portrait miniature.

The student shown here is cutting her sketch into pattern pieces.

All eight quilts were on display as part of the program’s final celebration.

Students chose from hundreds of different fabrics to perfect their visions.

Over two hundred people crowded into the lecture hall to celebrate the students and their achievements.
Leadership in a Time of Crisis: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Symposium

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009, 9AM-3:30PM
ABROMSON CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Sponsored by the Maine Historical Society, Maine Humanities Council, and the American & New England Studies Program at the University of Southern Maine

Join us for a celebration and re-examination of Abraham Lincoln’s legacy. One of the most influential and revered figures in American history, Lincoln led the nation at a critical juncture—through the Civil War and end of slavery—and his life and career still has a tremendous amount to tell us about race, religion, politics, and presidential leadership in America. Preeminent scholars will share insights into Lincoln’s career and lead small group discussions. Presentations include:

- The Rise of Abraham Lincoln, Bruce Chadwick, New Jersey City University
- Lincoln's High Wire Act, Patrick Rael, Bowdoin College
- In the Aftermath of the Lincoln Assassination, Elizabeth Leonard, Colby College
- The Afterlife of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Brown, University of South Carolina

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS, LUNCH, AND PARKING):
$45; $40 FOR MHS MEMBERS AND TEACHERS (CEUs AVAILABLE). $25 FOR STUDENTS.
TO REGISTER, CALL THE MAINE HUMANITIES COUNCIL AT (207) 773-5051 OR REGISTER ONLINE AT:
HTTP://WWW.REGIONLINE.COM/CHECKIN.ASP?EVENTID=686492

FIND SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN OUR MUSEUM STORE AS WE CELEBRATE LINCOLN’S BICENTENNIAL!

- 20th Maine Regiment Battle Flag poster $12.95
- Tried By War $35.00
- Gettysburg Address $6.95
- Lincoln Doll $16.99
- Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln $5.95
- Lincoln, President-Elect $30.00
- An Unlikely Friendship, A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley $6.95
- Mr. Lincoln Goes to War $30.00
- Abraham Lincoln Activity Kit for ages 6 and up $19.99
- Abraham Lincoln, Friend of the People $6.95
- Abraham Lincoln, From Pioneer to President $5.95
- American History playing cards $12.00