

CIRCA

SPRING 2020



MAINE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
EST. 1822



MAINE

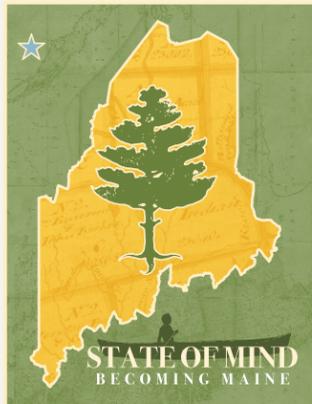
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MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY | CALENDAR



STATE OF MIND: *Becoming Maine*
Exhibit
March 13, 2020 to January 30, 2021

THE HEALTH OF MAINE'S COASTS
Panel Talk with Portland Ovations
March 14
Time TBD

Special Curator Tours
STATE OF MIND: *Becoming Maine*
March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

MY ISLAND HOME: *Recollections of Verlie Colby Greenleaf of Westport Island*
Exhibit
Through April 25

REDACT: *Obscuring the Maine Constitution*
Exhibit
April 3, 2020 to January 31, 2021

**SMITHSONIAN
MAGAZINE
MUSEUM DAY**
April 4
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



**CONNECTING MAINE'S CAPITALS
BY STAGECOACH**
Talk with Leland Hanchett
April 11
1:00 - 2:00 pm

**REPRESENTING RACE IN
MID-CENTURY MAINE**
Film Screening/Discussion of
Lost Boundaries
With University of Maine
April 30
6:00 - 8:00 pm

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK
May 1
BLACK GUARDS
exhibit opens with
Asasta Radcliffe
(see below)
5:00 - 7:00 pm

**A CONVENIENT
SOLDIER: *Black Guards Protect
Maine Railways***
Exhibit With
Guest Curator Asasta Radcliffe
May 1 to August 30



MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR
May 9
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



CONGRESS AT WAR
Book launch
With Fergus M. Bordewich
May 12
6:00 - 7:00 pm

FREEDOM'S WOODS:
The African American Community of
Peterborough in Warren, Maine
Talk with Dr. Kate McMahon
June 30
6:00 - 7:00 pm

CIRCA— SPRING 2020
EDITOR: Elaine Tselikis

DESIGNER: Patricia Cousins

CONTRIBUTORS: Ellen Alderman,
Steve Bromage, Brittany Cook, Tilly
Laskey, Kathleen Neumann and
Jamie Rice

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COVER PHOTO: Detail from
*Maine State Militia Flag, 1828. MMN
#105596*

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

MaineHistory.org



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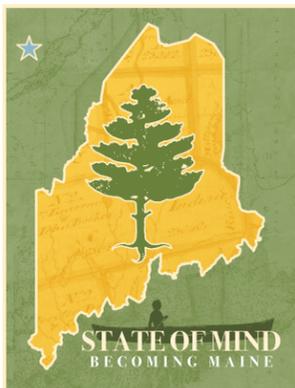
Map of Maine for the United States Gazetteer by Joseph Scott, 1795. MMN #9359

State of Mind: *Becoming Maine*

By Tilly Laskey
Curator

March 15, 2020 marks the 200th anniversary of Maine separating from Massachusetts. Maine Historical Society recognized that it would be impossible to consider Maine's Bicentennial without first acknowledging the 13,000 years of Wabanaki history in Maine, and planned two complementary and successive exhibits, starting with *Holding Up the Sky* in 2019.

On March 13, 2020, MHS will open our second Bicentennial exhibition, *State of Mind: Becoming Maine*. We explore Maine statehood through the experiences of the Wabanaki, and the earliest settlers—Acadien-French, Black, and English-speaking communities.



Working with collaborators—including James Francis, Bob Greene, Deborah Cummings Khadrui, Lise Pelletier, Darren Ranco, and Donald Soctomah—we grounded our curation in these questions:

- What was Maine before it was a state?
- How did Maine separate from Massachusetts?
- How has the Maine we experience today been shaped by thousands of years of history?
- How did Statehood affect existing communities?

As you might expect, *State of Mind* features MHS's outstanding collection of documents, maps, and correspondence about statehood and the Missouri Compromise. There are many surprises, too, including contemporary artwork by Deontie &



Freedom Trail plaque, 2007 by Daniel Minter, MMN #105597

We explore Maine statehood through the experiences of the Wabanaki, and the earliest settlers—Acadien-French, Black, and English-speaking communities.

Brown, James Francis, Daniel Minter, and Thérèse L. Provenzano, as well as a grosse tête (giant head) used in Acadien tintamarre parades, and a diorama of an 1820 parlor. Be sure to come and experience *State of Mind: Becoming Maine* which will be on display through January 30, 2021. 🗺️

200 Years of Maine

By Steve Bromage
Executive Director

It is here! The long-anticipated Bicentennial of Maine Statehood. This will be a special year at MHS and beyond. You have heard me say that the Bicentennial isn't simply an opportunity to "celebrate" 200 years of Statehood; it is an opportunity to explore how 13,000 years of history shapes Maine.



Holding Up the Sky laid the groundwork—it helped fundamentally reframe how many are thinking about the Bicentennial. *Holding Up the Sky* made people more aware of the experience of Wabanaki people, of their stewardship, contributions, and enduring presence, and to understand why the Bicentennial is not something to simply celebrate.

This year, we will turn to Statehood itself. We have wonderful offerings:

- A new *Bicentennial Education Initiative* on Maine Memory Network features lesson plans, extensive content, and a platform developed with the Maine Bicentennial Commission for teachers to share and download lessons created by their peers;
- The exhibit *State of Mind: Becoming Maine* will explore Maine's separation from Massachusetts, the Missouri Compromise, and how communities perceived and experienced the Statehood debate;
- Public programs and Scholarly forums will discuss Statehood, the Imperial Crisis, and land use;
- The fall issue of *Maine History* devoted to the Bicentennial. In partnership with the UMaine Department of History;
- The Magical History Tour will feature Bicentennial-related sites;
- Republication of Ronald Banks' book *Maine Becomes a State* with the play-by-play of the Statehood movement;
- Publication of a new book, *Up for Grabs*, about Maine's Public Reserved Lands by Thomas Urquhart. Co-published with Down East;
- Publication of Dr. Jeremiah Barker's 1820 *Medical history of Maine Before Statehood* annotated by Dr. Richard Kahn. Co-published with Oxford University Press;
- Maine Memory Network offers vast resources to learn about Statehood and all aspects of Maine history.

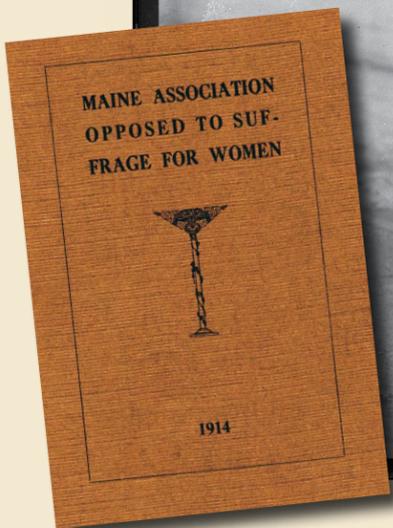
By now I trust you have been getting your daily dose of Maine history through the feature "*This Day in Maine History*" which MHS is producing with Maine Public. You can listen live and go to Maine Public's website to catch up on segments you miss.

We are excited to be working with the Maine Office of Tourism (MOT) to develop a series of travel itineraries that encourage people to discover new places in Maine they might not have known about, experienced or visited. Organized around Maine rivers, the itineraries—launched this spring—will provide information to help travelers plan day trips that introduce them to the history and identify of local communities.

The Bicentennial is going to draw much fanfare this year. Nonetheless, MHS is equally focused on what comes next: the role that history can play in ensuring Maine's vitality in its third century.

We are honored to provide the foundation—the stories, information, and context—that will help ensure the Bicentennial is a meaningful moment and experience for people throughout Maine. 🗺️

— Steve



ABOVE: *Bylaws, Maine Association Opposed to Suffrage for Women, 1914.*

The Maine Association Opposed to Suffrage for Women began in Portland in 1913. It gained nearly 2,000 new female members between 1913 and 1917. Many of these women believed in a Victorian "cult of womanhood," and the sanctity of the home. MMN# 5475

Anti-Suffrage Stamps, 1918.

These stamps represent anti-suffrage for women sentiment. The stamps were produced by the Maine Association Opposed to Suffrage for Women, which included male and female membership. MMN# 5470



BELOW: Signing of Women Suffrage Proclamation, 1917.

On Sept. 10, 1917, Maine Governor Carl E. Milliken signed a legislative resolution to hold a special election for a state constitutional amendment to grant women the right to vote in Maine. At the signing ceremony were (left to right) Mrs. Henry Cobb, Emma Chase Milliken, Gov. Carl E. Milliken, Deborah Knox Livingstone, Florence Brooks Whitehouse, Charles Milliken, Anne Macomber Gannett, Katherine Reed Balentine and Gertrude McKenzie Pattangall. After 40 years of effort, Maine suffragist forces got the resolution to the Maine Legislature, but the amendment was defeated. However, a woman suffrage amendment passed at the national level on August 18, 1920. MMN# 5471



Hard Won. Not Done.

The Fight for Suffrage Continues

By **Ellen Alderman**, Chair,
Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative

2020 MARKS THE CENTENNIAL of the 19th amendment declaring women have the right to vote. At the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative, we believe the anniversary is as much about the future as it is about the past, because to understand the suffrage movement is to understand why we are where we are today, and how to move forward.

Since the nation's founding, American women have agitated for their rights. Yet at the time of the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, women had almost no opportunity for education or employment. Those who married became legal nonentities – their assets became their husband's property, they couldn't have custody of their children, and it was not a crime to beat or rape your wife.

Winning the vote required a seismic shift in society's ingrained view of women, a shift we and our daughters are still reckoning with today.

Change did not come easy. Women arguing for the vote were shut down, ridiculed, harassed, and later, arrested, jailed and horrifically force-fed when they waged hunger strikes. The movement roiled from within as well, with divisions practical and pernicious. Coalitions splintered over tactics and divided along racial lines. A century later, those same divisions threaten to derail the women's marches of today.

Even when the 19th amendment finally was ratified into law on



Casting a Vote Ballot, ca. 1935.
A woman submits her voting ballot, perhaps for the 1936 presidential election. Collections of MHS/MaineToday Media, 2005.061.1305

August 18, 1920, it retained barriers to the right to vote that were not based on sex. It would be decades more before Native Americans, Asian Americans and others were enfranchised, and it took the Voting Rights Act in the 1960s to ensure African Americans the right.

And still, new obstacles to voting are thrown up every year, especially for those in already marginalized communities. So too, some of the suffragists' other causes—violence against women and unequal opportunities in education and work—remain today.

Despite the titanic victory of the suffrage movement, the fight for universal suffrage and true equality continues. That's why the slogan for the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative is "Hard Won. Not Done."

The Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative is a group of diverse organizations from around the state dedicated to commemorating the Suffrage Centennial.
mainesuffragecentennial.org

ABOVE: *Votes for Women, Maine Centennial Parade*

Just before the Maine Centennial Parade at Portland in 1920, a group of residents held the "Parade of Horribles," a popular parade genre that often included humorous costumes. This photograph appeared in the *Portland Evening Express* with the title "Indicative of What the Camera Can Stand-Views of Monday's Parade of Horribles."

This woman, dressed in a mask and patterned jumpsuit, carried a pennant produced by the Women's Political Union, proclaiming "Votes for Women." The national woman suffrage amendment was only about a month away from ratification at the time of this parade. Collections of MHS/MaineToday Media MMN# 31527

Suffrage Symbol Blooms in Maine

The daffodil was the flower symbol for Maine suffragists. With the help of dozens of volunteers, the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative has planted thousands of daffodil bulbs all around the state. The flowers will bloom this spring during the Centennial, and every year thereafter, as a living, lasting tribute to the right to vote. We hope Mainers will continue to plant daffodils in tribute, or post signs in support during the blooms. For more information visit mainesuffragecentennial.org.



OBJECT LESSON | *Maine State Militia Flag*

By Tilly Laskey
Curator

This Maine State Militia flag (circa 1828) featured potent symbols of Maine lifted from the state seal, namely, the white pine tree, a moose, and the North Star.

After separating from Massachusetts in 1820, Maine Adjutant General Samuel Cony was tasked with supplying flags for Maine's approximately 100 militia companies, because the Articles of Separation required Maine to return all of Massachusetts's militia flags. Needing a thrifty solution, Cony had this design engraved onto a copper plate and printed onto silk, the first known mass production of a militia flag. The process created "blank" flags that each regiment could later customize.

Ironically, the design, printing, and finishing of the flags took place in Boston. Printed during 1822 to 1861, only about 12 of these flags are known to still exist – including two that reside in the Maine Historical Society collections. 📖

STATE OF MAINE MILITIA FLAG SYMBOLISM DEFINED

DIRIGO:
Latin "I direct" or "I lead" is the state motto of Maine.

NORTH STAR:
Because Maine is the most Northern State in the Union.

BOW:
A luminous bow similar to the twisting light of the Aurora Borealis seen in Maine, especially during October 1819 when framers were writing the Maine Constitution.

WHITE PINE:
Stood as a symbol of all forest trees, and was eventually designated the Maine State Tree in 1945.

MOOSE:
Reflected the abundance and independence of Maine. Designated the Maine State animal in 1979.



Maine State Militia Flag, 1828. MMN #105596

IN THE GALLERIES | Showcasing Collaborative Stories of Maine

Islands, Redactions, and Convenient Soldiers

By Tilly Laskey
Curator

In addition to *State of Mind: Becoming Maine*, MHS has a robust and diverse rotating exhibition schedule featuring community collaborations.

MY ISLAND HOME:
Recollections of Verlie Colby Greenleaf of Westport Island
MHS Showcase Gallery
Through April 25

This collaboration with the Westport Island History Committee is first in the series of MMN Contributing Partner exhibitions. It centers around the recorded words and photographic collections of Verlie Greenleaf (1891-1992), who bore witness to over a century of Westport Island's history during her 100-year life.



Verlie Colby, circa 1909, Collections of Westport Island History Committee/MMN #101524

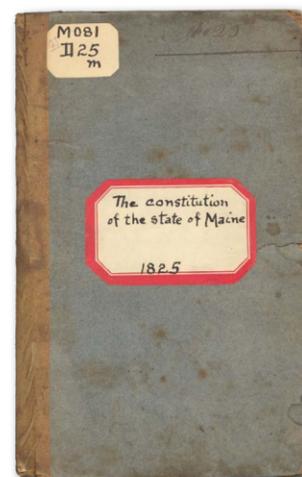


Black Guards including Officer Leonard Parks, center, Pvt. Arthur Williams, and Pvt. Richard Sullivan, on duty in 1942. MMN #18993

A CONVENIENT SOLDIER:
Black Guards Protect Maine Railways
MHS Showcase Gallery
May 1-August 30

A collaboration with artist and scholar Asata Radcliffe. The Black Guards were African American army soldiers sent to guard Maine railways from terrorist attacks from 1941-1945 during WWII. This installation looks at the day-to-day lives of these loyal citizen-soldiers who stood watch during a time of a racially segregated country and military.

This installation looks at the day-to-day lives of loyal citizen-soldiers who stood watch during a time of a racially segregated country and military.



The Constitution of the State of Maine, 1825, MMN #101558

REDACT: Obscuring the Maine Constitution
MHS Shettleworth Gallery
April 3, 2020-January 31

Here we examine the redaction of Maine's 1820 Constitution in 1875. Working with James Francis (Penobscot), Darren Ranco (Penobscot), Donald Soctomah (Passamaquoddy) and Catherine Burns, we explore the ramifications that ceasing to print sections 1, 2, and 5 of Article 10 had upon Wabanaki communities and public lands. 📖

MHS and the Impact of Learning Maine History

By **Brittany Cook**
Bicentennial Fellow

[EDITOR'S NOTE: MHS received a grant from Jane's Trust to hire a Bicentennial Fellow and work with the Maine Department of Education and Maine Bicentennial Commission to meet an important need: create a new and participatory history curriculum resource for all Maine teachers. Brittany Cook has been collaborating with teachers to create Maine history lesson plans, free to all Maine students and teachers with an Internet connection. This project aims to have a lasting impact on student learning and dialogue about Maine's past, present and future.

Now available on Maine Memory Network, the Bicentennial Education Initiative supports Maine's Pre-K through adult educators in sharing ideas and best practices for implementing effective lessons that commemorate Maine's Bicentennial. Teachers can search the web page by grade, topic, standard, and other fields for incredible ideas to engage learners of all ages.]

As we commemorate Maine's Bicentennial of Statehood and reflect upon the past 13,000+ years of human history in this region, MHS is also connecting with teachers statewide through an online database of Bicentennial-inspired lesson plans. Some units developed have been presented in classrooms and are ready to download from the Bicentennial Education Initiative web page of Maine Memory Network. They include: *Maine Statehood and the Missouri Compromise*; *Maine's Acadian Community*; *Sporting Maine*; and a *World War I Newspaper Project*.

The goal is to provide diverse resources on Maine history topics to K-12 educators that align with each strand of the new Learning Results for Social Studies. K-12 and postsecondary teachers are also encouraged to share their own lesson plans by visiting mainememory.net/bicentennial/education.



Brittany Cook

Photo: Patricia Cousins

A DAY IN THE LIFE | With Brittany Cook, *Bicentennial Fellow*

Q: Tell us about your background in history and museum education.

A: History has always been a large part of my professional and personal interests. My background includes working at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine, and Victoria Mansion. In my museum work, I've engaged with the public through interpreting, designing and delivering programs. I'm very passionate about museum relevancy and accessibility and am working toward my Master's in Museum Education at Tufts University.

Q: What compelled you to apply for the MHS Bicentennial Fellow role?

A: I think the Bicentennial will generate a lot of interest in Maine history. I was drawn to the fact that what I would be creating would help educators find resources and make connections between Maine's past, present, and future. Previously, I volunteered for MHS and appreciate the dedication that goes into their exhibitions and programs. I'm very grateful to MHS for this opportunity, and to Kathleen Neumann and Tilly Laskey for their guidance.

Q: What are your responsibilities and some goals for the Bicentennial Education Initiative?

A: I'm creating lesson plans for K-12 classrooms aligned to Maine's Learning Results, related to various Bicentennial themes and Maine history.

Lessons I design utilize Maine Memory Network (MMN) collections, gathered into a new page of that site, which educators and students can access throughout 2020 and beyond. I also present lessons I've created throughout Maine classrooms, at no cost to teachers/schools.

The MMN Bicentennial Education Initiative website not only hosts these lesson plans but also serves as a hub for Pre-K to postsecondary teachers statewide. They can upload their own lesson plans to the site, and search for lessons for their classrooms. It provides resources for teaching and learning about countless aspects of Maine history. I look forward to seeing what teachers contribute to this project, to fostering more learning opportunities when *State of Mind* opens, and presenting more lessons in classrooms.

Q: How will you know the Initiative is succeeding and meeting needs?

A: When we see more lessons submitted to the Bicentennial Education site and track how people interact with materials. I'm grateful for the interest and feedback in my classroom visits, as I share new materials teachers can reuse in future lessons. Some school visits coming up this spring have great local history ties that can be re-utilized.

Q: What other experiences can you share about the project?

A: It's always fantastic to facilitate dialogue in classrooms and hear how students and teachers react to the material and make connections to what they've learned or to something in their community. A real challenge is distilling thousands of years of history into one- to three-day lessons. Maine history is full of thought-provoking stories and impactful movements, people, and events – it's hard not to include it all!

Q: Personally, why do you feel this project is so important to Maine teachers and students – and anyone else?

A: History can be a nebulous topic in schools. During my own K-12 experience, classes covered the ancient world and some U.S. history through the Civil War, but then became electives in high school. I never had the opportunity as a student to learn about Wabanaki history and contemporary culture.

An event like the Bicentennial puts the State of Maine at the forefront of a lot of people's minds and can prompt conversations with neighbors about local, state, and regional history. I want to try to answer some of those questions in the lesson plans I'm designing, and point teachers toward more resources.

With so many great resources available online, in print and other media – along with, more regrettably, inaccurate or outdated ones – it can be hard to know where to begin. The Bicentennial Education Initiative hub will hopefully provide a starting point and community for teachers to share resources, such as activities based on primary source documents or a deep dive into a town's history.

As a museum educator, I want people to feel connected to history, especially stories that surround them where they live. I think starting students off interacting with primary sources and discovering how Maine fits into the history of the United States and the world can help them see the past as approachable rather than daunting, and hopefully provide educators with material for great teachable moments in the classroom.



Students at Maine Historical Society

Photo: Patricia Cousins

MHS Public Programming

By **Kathleen Neumann**
Manager of Education and Public Programs

As part of Maine Historical Society's mission to preserve and share Maine's story, we provide programs that make history meaningful, accessible and enjoyable, and that empower others to preserve and interpret the history of their communities and our state. We are committed to providing diverse and high-quality public programs for our audiences throughout the year.

Maine's Bicentennial (1820-2020) offers the unique opportunity for MHS to help lead a participatory statewide commemoration and reflection of 13,000 years of history. Bicentennial programming will explore a wide range of topics in Maine history, including the path to Statehood, slavery, the environment, and stories of the diverse communities of Maine including Wabanaki people, Acadian, African American, and English-speaking people. As we move forward, MHS will also focus on opportunities and partnerships that bring the community together not only to learn, but also to foster connections and engage in meaningful discussion and exchanges.

LEARN ABOUT MAINE STATEHOOD & YOUR COMMUNITY ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK

MMN is a unique and growing digital resource administered by Maine Historical Society that hosts thousands of historical items submitted by over 270 contributing partners. Learn about the origins of your community, enjoy online exhibits, discover Maine History Online, and contribute your experiences on the *My Maine Stories* forum. Visit mainememory.net to explore a treasure trove of knowledge about Maine history!

MAINE
Memory
NETWORK

THE STATE OF FASHION

Evening Attire of Sally Brooks Holmes

By **Jamie Rice**

Director of Collections & Research

Maine Historical Society is currently undertaking an historic costume initiative, supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which includes processing, photographing, researching and preserving historic clothing within its collection. In relation to the Bicentennial exhibition *State of Mind: Becoming Maine*, the project allowed for inclusion of three dresses owned by Sally Holmes.

Sarah Brooks Holmes (1773-1835), known as Sally, lived in Alfred with her husband, John Holmes who was instrumental in Maine's separation from Massachusetts and was one of Maine's first US senators after statehood. The couple also lived in Washington, DC through Senator Holmes' two non-consecutive terms between 1820-1833, during the presidency of James Monroe.

One of their daughters, Sarah Ann Holmes, also lived in Washington with them. Fashion was on the mind of 18-year-old Sarah, who wrote in 1823, "high life and fashion are such a thief of time." She described the bi-monthly "levees" at the White House that she attended with her mother, Sally.

Because historic clothing is fragile, MHS decided to rotate three of Sally Holmes' dresses over the course of the

eleven-month *State of Mind* exhibition. The dresses will be switched every three months, starting with a circa 1820 embellished evening gown, followed by two gowns worn by Sally Holmes during the later years of her husband's senatorial terms.

The three dresses demonstrate evolving fashion trends, such as sleeves and fabric choice, as well as Sally Holmes's changing tastes. The two demurer dresses from the later years (closer to 1830) are both a reflection of trend and Mrs. Holmes' preferences. All three pieces were donated to MHS in 1947 by Mary Wilcox, a descendant of Sarah Ann (Holmes) Goodnow. 📖

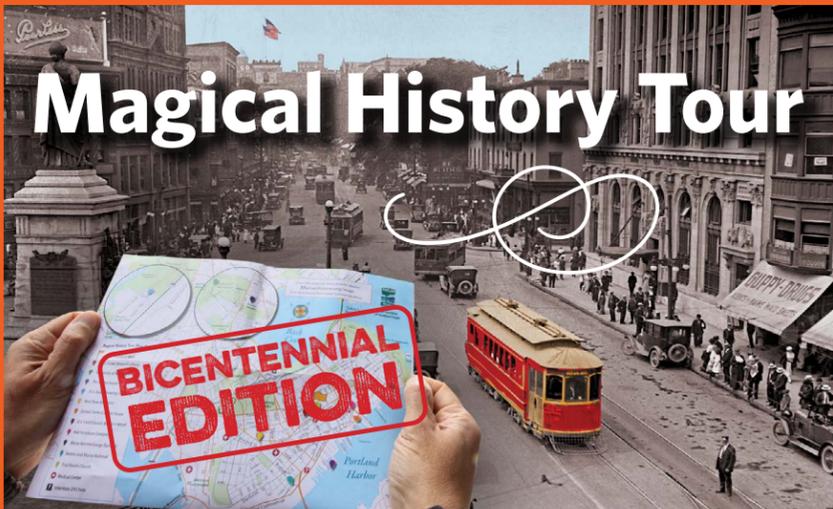
At right: Cream silk gown with a heavily embellished bodice, trimmed with silver metallic ribbon threads, silk chenille, and beaded leaves. Dress dated between 1820 and 1824. A86-154

Far right: White satin dress with "vandyked" sleeve caps over puffed sleeves, and embellished skirt. The skirt has a subtle a-line shape typical of the late 1820s and early 1830s. A86-736

Photos: Gail Dodge



SAVE THE DATE!



Magical History Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020
10 am - 4 pm

★ **NEW!** 8:30 - 10 am ★
Breakfast for Patrons and Sponsors

Join MHS for our sixth annual Magical History Tour — an amazing self-guided experience of historic sites in Greater Portland that aren't usually open to the public. This year brings new excitement with Maine's Bicentennial!

★ Look for sites connected to Portland life in the early 19th century at the time of Maine Statehood as well as a special Breakfast for Patrons and Sponsors featuring Maine historian Earle G. Shettleworth. ★

★ For more information or to register, visit mainehistory.org/mht.
Early Bird ticket discounts through March 31!



Join MHS as a member of the 1822 Leadership Circle during Maine's Bicentennial year!

1822
Leadership
CIRCLE

Help lead the way in supporting MHS's work to preserve and share Maine stories to enrich our communities today.



mainehistory.org/1822Circle

For more information, contact Christina Traister, Director of Institutional Advancement, at 207-774-1822 ext. 231 or ctraster@mainehistory.org.