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Dear Members and Friends

I am delighted to formally announce that Stephen Bromage will be the next Executive Director of MHS. Many of you already know Steve and are familiar with his energy and fine performance in the position of Assistant Director over the past five years. Over the past six months, the Search Committee conducted a rigorous and lengthy national search, and we thank them for their diligence and commitment to the task. MHS has ambitious long term goals, and Steve is well-qualified to lead the organization and transform the vision into action. Since Steve is already so familiar with MHS, we expect the transition in leadership to be very smooth as Richard D'Abate passes the reins on June 2nd. Please join us in welcoming Steve.



I wish to once again express our appreciation and admiration for Richard's remarkable accomplishments in advancing and transforming MHS over the past sixteen years. We were pleased to see many of you at the Gala on May 5th, to help in celebrating Richard's tenure and honoring his legacy.

*Sincerely,
 Katherine Pope*



ABOUT THE COVER:

Carbon filament bulb with evacuation tip, ca. 1900
 Photo by Peter Macomber

"Wired! How Electricity Came to Maine" is a new exhibit that provides a showcase for the Central Maine Power collection and explores the way electricity has become a part of daily life in Maine. Opens June 21, 2012 through May 26, 2013.

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Maine Historical Society

Appoints New Director



The Trustees of the Maine Historical Society recently appointed Steve Bromage as the new Executive Director of MHS. Formerly MHS's Assistant Director, Steve was chosen after a lengthy and rigorous national search. "He's the very best choice," said Katherine Pope, President of the Board of Trustees, "someone who has played an intimate role in the success of MHS over the last ten years, but has the vision and creativity to lead us into the future."



Formerly Assistant Director since 2006, Steve has been responsible for an extraordinary growth in the MHS audience, both live and virtual. He has been responsible for planning and implementing all public programs at MHS, increasing numbers and diversity through better communications and partnerships with many Maine cultural organizations. He has been instrumental in the success of the Maine Memory Network – the Society's statewide, online collaborative museum – raising more than \$3 million in grants and designing new, innovative programs, such as the Maine Community Heritage Project, to help promote the role of history in creating community awareness and identity. A participant in the statewide development of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, and a frequent presenter at national conferences, Steve is a recognized leader in the field of digital history and community development.

Steve Bromage received his B.A. in English from the University of Richmond (VA) and his Masters in American History from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), where he focused on 20th century U.S. cultural history. He has served as a regular reviewer



Steve's other historical interests, time allowing, include antique vehicles. This is his 1942 military Harley Davidson which he restored a number of years ago. Look for him putting up and down Rt. 77.

for the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has served on the board of the Willowbrook Museum Village in Newfield. Before coming to MHS in 2001, Steve served as the Associate Director of the Disability History Museum and Learning Resource Center, a project of Straight Ahead Pictures (a non-profit media and education center in Massachusetts).

"In the past decade," says Steve, "we have seen the vibrant role that Maine history can play in the lives of diverse audiences throughout the state. History is becoming active, participatory, representative, and more integrated into civic life. There are exciting possibilities ahead, and heightened expectations for the role that MHS can play in Maine. It's essential that we build a sustainable foundation for growth, and approach the future strategically and with bold vision. It's a challenge I am ready to tackle."





← Students, teachers and families from Portland and Scarborough gather for the final celebration of “Local History, Local Schools.”

The recent “Dressing Up” exhibit led to creative student projects on every-day and special occasion dress, both historically and in the 21st century.

Docent Training at Bowdoin

↓ Wadsworth-Longfellow House Guides and Docents in front of the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library at Bowdoin College, March, 2012. l-r, back row, Charlie Kahill, Rosanne Graef, Bob Perkins, Peter Hall, John Babin, Bjorn Swenson, Peter Blackwell, front row: Diane Rood, Melissa Spoerl, Judy Toobey, Janet Kelley, and Bridget McCormick.

Wadsworth-Longfellow House guides and docents recently visited the Bowdoin College Special Collections and Archives to view materials related to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s days as a student and professor there. Archivist Marieke Van Der Steenhoven pulled an array of fascinating materials for the group to view and explore. Among them:

- a letter to Joshua Chamberlain thanking him for birthday greetings shortly before the poet’s death in 1882;
- Longfellow’s inaugural address to the College after he accepted the Professorship of Modern Languages in 1830;
- a manuscript copy of “The Rainy Day;”
- a 1911 edition of *The Song of Hiawatha* illustrated by Frederic Remington, Maxfield Parrish, and N.C. Wyeth.

Numerous letters give insight into the poet’s personality. In a letter to his sister Elizabeth in Portland, dated October 12, 1823, Longfellow described his living quarters as a student:



*But within! How shall I describe it!
Yellow floor! Green fire-place. Mantel and
window-seats, blueish white,—and three
great doors, mahogany color. But jesting
apart!—the room is a very good room,
although more pleasant for Summer than
Winter.*

The trip was an excellent way to learn new details about the Longfellow family and prepare for the upcoming season of tours at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. The House is open Monday-Saturday, 10-5, and Sundays, 12-5 through October.

*Bridget McCormick
Education Coordinator*

WALKING TOURS STARTING AT MHS

Beginning in July, Maine Historical Society will offer walking tours of the Old Port with a focus on history, architecture, and connections to the Wadsworth and Longfellow families. This program, formerly under the management of Greater Portland Landmarks, will complement traditional public offerings such as tours of the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and visits to the Longfellow Garden during the warmer months. Please visit www.mainehistory.org/programs_events.shtml to stay updated on the walking tour schedule and availability.

WIRED!

How Electricity Came to Maine

Exhibit on view: June 21, 2012 – May 26, 2013

In 2004 during the reorganization of Central Maine Power, the company archives and historical collections were donated to Maine Historical Society. It was a major gift that included many boxes (pallets actually) of records and thousands of historical objects. It took several years to develop plans and to fund the work, but in the fall of 2010 with support from a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, collections department staff launched a major project to catalog the entire Central Maine Power collection.

Eighteen months later and with the inventory project complete, a major archive of historical material and a collection of over 4,000 artifacts have been processed. Drawing from this material, a new exhibit will open in the MHS gallery this summer.

This exhibit explores the process of electrification of Maine, and how the people of a large and mostly rural state embraced the technology of the period. The story begins in the 1880s with small water-powered generation systems and provided the energy to light a single factory or a small series of street lights. Gradually, these small operations were merged into consolidated companies, and an electric grid developed.

Included in the exhibit is a variety of artifacts including early domestic meters, appliances, light bulbs, tools and equipment used by linemen, and period photographs that document the story. It's a fascinating history that is timely in its focus, given the current interest in the conservation of energy, the use of natural resources, and in developing new sources of power.



↑ Central Maine Power appliance store, Brunswick, ca. 1920. Not only did Central Maine Power generate and supply electricity, the company sold the electrical appliances customers bought for their homes. Lamps, washing machines, toasters, heaters, light bulbs and other electrical devices were available in company operated stores and encouraged the use of new electrical “conveniences” as well as the consumption of power.

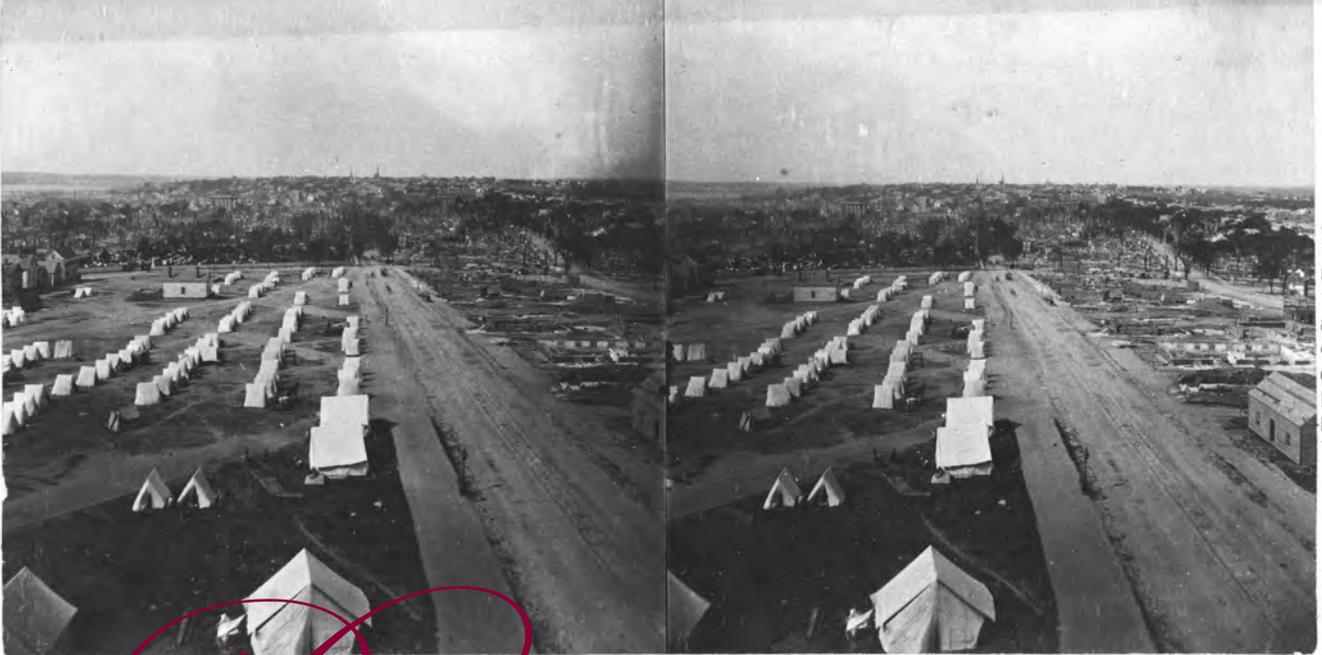


↑ Gulf Island Hydro Station under construction, Lewiston, ca. 1926. The Gulf Island Hydro Station is located on the Androscoggin River, four and a half miles upstream from Lewiston and Auburn. When completed in 1927 it was the largest hydro station in Maine and produced 20 megawatts of electrical power – more than half of Central Maine Power’s hydroelectric generating capacity at that time.



← Portland street lights on Congress Street, ca. 1920. Electric street lights were one of the earliest applications of electric power. The Portland Electric Light Company was formed in 1883 and provided power for arc lights on city streets. This view shows an improved lighting system installed in the 1920s.

RUINS OF THE
GREAT FIRE IN PORTLAND, ME,
JULY 4TH, 1866.



Photographed July 12th, 13th, and 14th,
—BY—
J. P. SOULE.

No. 490. Panoramic View of Burnt district, looking down Congress Street, from Observatory.

RESURGAM, 1866

↖ *Stereograph view of Congress Street, looking west from the Portland Observatory after the fire. Tents provided for those left homeless filled the open spaces on the street.*

The eleven-deck headline in the *Portland Daily Press* on Friday, July 6, 1866 announced, in dramatic terms, punctuated by exclamation points, what most Portland residents already knew:

- TERRIBLE FIRE!**
- THE LARGEST THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE UNITED STATES!**
- 1500 BUILDINGS DESTROYED EIGHT CHURCHES BURNED!**
- ALL THE BANKS DESTROYED!**
- THE SUGAR HOUSE AND SEVERAL FOUNDRIES AMONG THE RUINS!**
- ALL THE LAW OFFICES DESTROYED! CITY HALL DESTROYED!**
- EVERY NEWSPAPER OFFICE IN THE CITY BURNED DOWN!**
- SIX HOTELS BURNED!**
- GENERAL SWEEP IN THE BUSINESS PART OF THE CITY!**

A swath of Portland from about High and Commercial streets northeast to the base of Munjoy Hill burned, starting on Wednesday afternoon, July 4. The paper noted that the fire was still burning at 3 p.m. Thursday. It attributed the destruction to a firecracker thrown into wood shavings, to the dry weather, and to the wind direction.

“There was a high wind prevailing at the time and the flames and cinders were blown directly upon the extensive buildings of the Portland Sugar House Company. Soon these were all on fire,” the story reported.

Despite its descriptions and statistics of loss and ruin, the newspaper could not provide the same level of emotion and description as do accounts from private letters. These express in personal terms the shock and horror of the huge fire, as well as the hope these residents found even as the fire was still smoldering. John Marshall Brown, 29, wrote to his fiancé, Alida Carroll of Maryland; and Ruth Pierce Crocker, 72, wrote to her sister and niece in Baldwin. Both letters are dated July 6, the same day the newspaper was published.

Brown, a son of Portland Sugar Co. founder John Bundy Brown, wrote, “the general results of this conflagration unparalleled in the history of the country you have had in the newspaper, but you can have no idea of it until you see the ruins.”

Brown had been about to leave a July 4 picnic when “a man came riding up most furiously & shouted out “The Sugar House is on fire.” He and his eldest brother, Philip, rode at a gallop to the scene where they found “the whole of the immense building was in flames. we saw that all attempts to save it were fruitless.”

“For five hours we fought the fire but to no purpose,” Brown wrote to Alida. “Everything was destroyed. It seemed to me as if I had the strength of ten men I worked in the hottest places, sometimes holding with the firemen the engine pipe; in the very face of the fire. Once I was nearly pushed off a high ladder & got badly bruised, once I was obliged to drop down holding the ladder with my hands. Of course I was drenched with water & thoroughly blackened with smoke, one of my eyes was burned also but thank Heaven I received no serious injuries.”

→ John Marshall Brown, ca. 1860

→ Page 1 of Ruth Pierce Crocker letter, July 6, 1866. Courtesy of the Pierce Family.

He added, “the magnificent building was entirely consumed with its contents & the labor of 25 years seems blotted out altogether...” Later in the letter, he wrote, “Our house that is the firm of J.B. Brown & Sons are the heaviest losers, fathers individual loss being over a quarter of a million dollars but we have not lost our courage or our faith.”

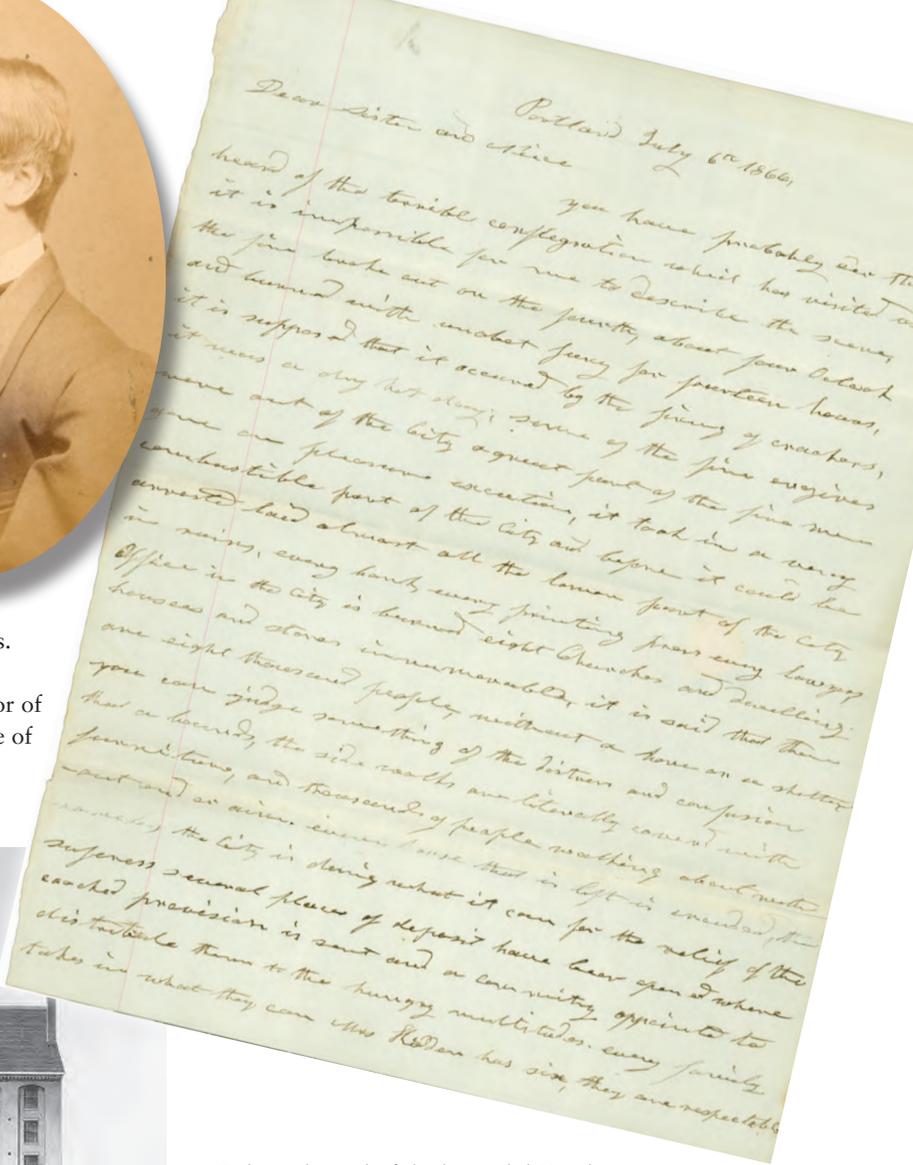
The brothers then went to their grandmother’s house a mile away. Brown wrote, “I took her in my arms, put her in a wagon & carried her to Bramhall [his parents’ home]” He and Philip returned to remove possessions. Brown described what happened next: “in less than a half hour afterward the house was destroyed. You cannot conceive the horror of the scene the frame building seemed to burn up instantly; the noise of the flames was like a hurricane & wherever the hot blast swept everything went down before it.”



↑ John Bundy Brown's Portland Sugar House, York Street, ca. 1850

Ruth Crocker, a widow who lived at 44 Brackett Street, wrote to her sister Hannah Pierce and niece Phebe Freeman Sanborn in Baldwin, “You have probably since this heard of the terrible conflagration which has visited us! it is impossible for me to describe the scene ... some of the fire engines were out of the city & great peril of the fire men gave an fearsome execution, it took in a very combustible part of the city and before it could be arrested had almost all the lower part of the city in ruins ... it is said that there are eight thousand people without a house or a shelter you can judge something of the distress and confusion that a bounds, the sidewalks are literally covered with furniture...”

Crocker continued, “it would make your heart ache to see the sad disconsolate faces, and despairing looks which abound I can at present give you no account of the amount of property destroyed or the suffering endured.”



Only at the end of the letter did Crocker mention her own situation: “we were providentially situated where the fire did not reach us, and suffered only from anxiety.”

Both Brown and Crocker offered positive assessments of the situation even as they related the nearly indescribable tragedy. Brown, besides commenting that they had not lost faith, told his fiancé, “Father begins tomorrow to build some stores on the burn lots & as soon as we can clear away the debris we shall start another Sugar House.”

Crocker wrote that the city was “doing what it can for the relief of the sufferers several places of deposit have been opened where [?] provisions is sent and a commity appointed to distribute them to the hungry multitudes. every family takes in what they can Mrs Kidder has six ...”

Brown’s sentiments were much the same: “Everything is being done that can be done & the thousands of people that were turned homeless and penniless into the streets are being cared for. God help them they need it.”

Brown, especially, expressed the belief that Portland would soon live up to its city motto, “Resurgam,” and again rise from the ashes as it had in at least three previous devastating fires. The motto probably was adopted in 1832 when Portland changed its status from “town” to “city.”

Candace Kanes
Maine Memory Network Curator

SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK CONTRIBUTING PARTNER:

BALDWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chadbornes of East Baldwin

The Joshua Chadbourne homestead, a Federal style structure in East Baldwin, reflects some of the town's important historical moments.

Joshua Chadbourne (ca. 1797-1861) and his wife, Charlotte Westcott Chadbourne (1802-1854) arrived in Baldwin in about 1830 and bought 80 acres of land from one of the town proprietors, Josiah Pierce. By 1834, Chadbourne had built the first house in East Baldwin. Josiah Pierce's homestead was in West Baldwin. Joshua and Charlotte Chadbourne named their eldest son Josiah Pierce Chadbourne, suggesting the ties between the two families.

Joshua was a merchant who became Justice of the Peace in 1831, and was active in Baldwin town affairs. He and Charlotte had six sons and one daughter.

The homestead as the Chadbornes built it in the early 1830s had a barn behind the house. Sometime in the 1880s, the family added the ell to the house and moved the barn to the location pictured. The Portland & Ogdensburg Railway, chartered in 1867, but not built until the 1880s. It would have run between the Chadbourne house and barn, prompting the ell and barn relocation.

All but one Chadbourne son went to California in the Gold Rush after 1849. A school in Fremont, California, is named after one of the sons, Joshua Chadbourne. The only son who remained, Josiah P. Chadbourne (1828-1890), was the eldest. He and his wife, Caroline S. Libby Chadbourne (1824-1914), had five children. They lived in the



family homestead and later built another Federal style house next door for their son Joseph, when he married Emma C. Douglass in 1883.

The youngest child of Josiah and Caroline, Nettie (1870-1960), remained in the house until her death, which ended the family's ownership of the property. A newspaper article in 1951 noted that the road the house once faced had been discontinued, making the former back of the house its new front by that time. Interior features also reflect the new road and the home's changed orientation. Nettie Chadbourne's death marked another milestone for the house: indoor plumbing was added. ■

Josiah P. Chadbourne built this house, next to the Chadbourne homestead, for his son Joseph on the occasion of his wedding to Emma Douglass in 1883. The building later became Riley's Ice Cream Parlor and post office.

The Joshua Chadbourne homestead in East Baldwin was built about 1831. The ell was built sometime before 1867, and the barn moved from behind the house.



FOUNDED: The Society was organized in 1991. Before that, the Brown Memorial Library historical committee served to organize historical materials donated to the library and placed in the historical wing.

MISSION: The purpose of the society is to develop and promote interest in the history of the town of Baldwin, and to collect, preserve, research, and disseminate historical and genealogical information relating to Baldwin and its inhabitants. The Society is responsible for the care, preservation, cataloging, and display of the historical collection of the Brown Memorial Library Association.

FACILITIES: The Society is located in the historical wing downstairs in the Brown Memorial Library, 2 Norton Place, East Baldwin, ME 04024 (at the intersection of Routes 113 and 107).

ACCESS: The history room is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES: The Society meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the William Curtis Pierce Community Room at the Brown Memorial Library. These regular meetings are open to the public. Each meeting

consists of a short business meeting followed by a program and refreshments. In addition, members of the Society receive the BHS newsletter, which is printed quarterly. An annual potluck supper meeting is held in April at which time officers are elected.

CONTACT: The Baldwin Historical Society
P.O. Box 159, East Baldwin, ME 04024
e-mail: bhs1802@gmail.com

IMAGES CONTRIBUTED BY BALDWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



From Trolleys to Technical Education: *Maine Memory Grants Produce Diverse Material for the Network*

↑ *Surry Middle School students speak with local resident Jane Smith during a “Round Robin” event early this year that allowed students to interview community members about historical artifacts. The students are contributing to the Surry MCHP website that will be unveiled in late May.*

MHS has been providing grants, training, and support to communities for a full year through an Institute of Museum and Library Services’ National Leadership Grant. The program is designed to increase the capacity of participating communities while adding locally-produced historical material to Maine Memory Network. To date, we have awarded twenty grants, and led workshops throughout the state that have served more than sixty libraries and historical organizations.

Through the program, hundreds of historical items have been digitized and added to Maine Memory, and new online exhibits are being added regularly. To access these exhibits, go to www.mainememory.net, click on Exhibits; they are listed alphabetically by title. Recently launched exhibits include:

- The Seashore Trolley Museum’s “*The Trolley Parks of Maine*” and “*A Field Guide to Trolley Cars,*” introducing readers to a once-important form of public transportation.
- Houlton’s Cary Library’s “*Shepard Cary: Lumberman, Legislator, Leader, and Legend*” tells the story of the Aroostook County businessman and his impact on 19th century northern Maine. In the 1830s-40s, he employed over 2,000 people!
- The L.C. Bates Museum’s “*Goodwill-Hinckley: Building a Landscape*” includes the original plans for the Goodwill-Hinckley campus and its evolution over time.
- Kennebec Valley Community College has created “*KVVTI’s Gilman Street Campus*” and “*Carlton P. Fogg, Advocate for Vocational Education.*” They explore the development of technical education in Maine.

In late May, teams from three communities—Strong, Surry, and Swan’s Island—unveiled new websites within Maine Memory that explore the history of their communities.

To learn more about the program, how to apply, and projects still in development, visit www.mainememory.net/share_history. You can also sign up for our eNewsletter to receive updates on this and other MHS programs, friend us on Facebook, and/or read our Maine Memory Network blog: mainechp.wordpress.com. ■

→ *In 1983, Secretarial Science students type in their Gilman Street campus classroom at the Kennebec Valley Vocational Technical Institute in Waterville. By the time it was phased out completely, KVVTI had a number of transfer agreements with other colleges and universities.*

MAINE MEMORY NETWORK AWARDS GRANTS

The following organizations were recently awarded MMN grants to help digitization projects or online exhibits, during the recent spring grant cycle.

- BALDWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- BRIDGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- HARTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
- MAINE IRISH HERITAGE CENTER (PORTLAND)
- PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
- STETSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- WATERFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Maine Community Heritage Project grants were awarded to two multi-town teams, one from Mt. Desert Island, and the other from RSU #10--the “Western Foothills Region” of Maine.



↑ *42-foot-long double-truck parlor trolley car built in 1899 and owned by the Lewiston, Augusta, & Waterville Railway. The interior was finished with mahogany. This lovely car was scrapped in 1923.*



Discoveries in the 1940 Census

My father was born in October 1930, six months after the 1930 U.S. Federal census was taken, so it was my goal, when the 1940 census records were released, to find him first. Monday April 2, 2012 was the day. At 9:15 a.m. I logged onto the Internet and in about 10 minutes of browsing page by page, I landed on page 20B of the correct enumeration district in Lewiston. There he was—Murray Bolduc, age 9, living in the house on 101 Elm Street with his father Antonio (42), mother Margaret (38), brother Paul (8) and baby sister Claire (1). What kind of other information did I gather from this one entry? The enumerator was Joseph Norton and he visited the house on May 22, 1940. Antonio Bolduc, my grandfather, worked as a salesman and in 1939 he worked 40 weeks and earned \$2,300. Since this was during the Great Depression, he was a lucky man to have a job. He was born in Maine, completed 4 years of high school, as did my grandmother and father. The house they owned was worth \$3,500.



↑ *Bolduc Family 1940 census: line 69 shows Antonio (listed as Anthony) Bolduc and his family at 101 Elm Street in Lewiston.*

← *Margaret, Claire, and Tony Bolduc in 1947*

The 1940 census included several standard questions such as name, age, gender, race, education, and place of birth, but it also introduced some new questions. For example, the enumerator was instructed to mark (with a circled x) who in the household responded to the census questions. Another question included whether the person worked for the

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Progress Administration, or National Youth Administration during the week of March 24-30, 1940.

When you are ready to dive into the 1940 Census, or any other previous census records, stop by the MHS library and we will be happy to guide you. Happy Hunting!

*Kathy Amoroso
Director of Digital Projects*

The 1940 Census is not indexed by name so the trick is finding the correct enumeration district (ED). To find this you should know where your relatives lived in 1940. Use city directories if you can. Once you learn the address, I suggest going to www.stevemorse.org/ed to find the ED. Once that is obtained, you can search Ancestry.com or 1940census.archives.gov to find the scanned pages of the census.

SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS

THE LEGACY OF MARY JANE EMERSON CLAPP

AS REVEALED IN THE ARCHIVE

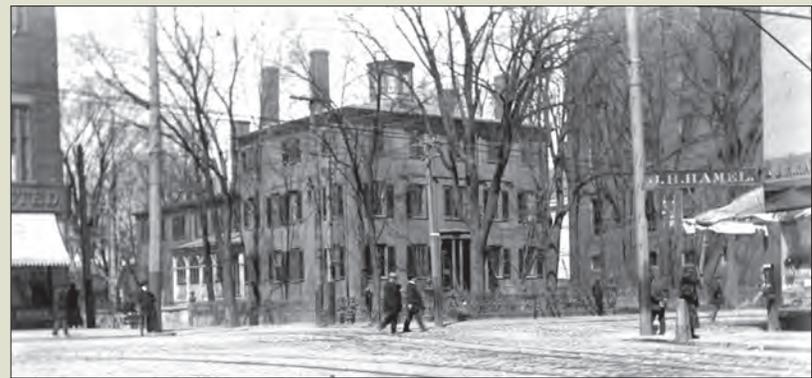
A recent gift of the Mary Jane Emerson Clapp estate reveals a fascinating story about this eccentric Mainer.

Granddaughter of the famous ship merchant Asa Clapp, she grew up in very prominent Portland social circles. Even after processing the six linear feet of legal paperwork, Miss Clapp proved to be an elusive character. The records reveal that she left no part of her fortune to family members, although she was unmarried and had no immediate next of kin.

Newspaper articles from the early 20th century reveal something quite odd in her will. After her death in 1922, she had the family's mansion torn down and a carriage hired by John Hancock burned. Nobody is quite sure why she left these instructions.

During her final days she locked herself up in the Lafayette Hotel and told only her caretaker nurse about the plans.

As a result of her lengthy and enigmatic will, a string of court cases lasted from her death until the late 1980s. The Clapp Memorial Building now stands across from the Portland Public Library on the site of the original Clapp mansion. The estate records give a fascinating historical narrative, developing through personal letters and estate trustee accounts. To now see



Asa Clapp (1762-1848) was Portland's wealthiest landowner in the early 1800s. He made his fortune as a ship owner, in banking, and in real estate. The artist is Thomas Badger (1792-1868).

the modern cityscape standing in place of what was once a very stately home is a surreal experience for this observer.

*Vincent Dubay
Intern*

Ann Cascoline Merrill Staples, ca. 1835, attributed to the artist, William Matthew Prior (1806 – 1873). Oil on canvas.



RECENTLY CONSERVED AND READY FOR LOAN

An important aspect of our museum program involves loaning collection objects to other museums. Often as part of this process, objects will be conserved and cleaned so they can be enjoyed and studied in the best possible condition. For the lending institution, collections are cleaned, cared for, and seen through a new perspective; and for the borrowing institution a diverse group of objects are brought together often for the first time.

The portrait of Ann Cascoline Merrill Staples is a wonderful example of the benefits realized through this exchange. This portrait is not signed – but is attributed to William Matthew Prior a prolific painter who was born in Bath. Prior began painting in the early 1820's in Portland and eventually moved his studio to Boston. The portrait was made around 1835 and represents Prior's "fully-rendered" style of work. The attribution is made by curatorial research and comparison of other paintings signed by Prior.

To prepare for the show, the portrait received a thorough conservation treatment that involved cleaning, revarnishing, and a new stretcher. The frame was also conserved.

The Staples portrait will be included in a major exhibit of Prior's work at the Fennimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York. The exhibit, *William Matthew Prior Revealed: Artist and Visionary* opens on May 26, 2012 and will be on view through January 2013. ■

SPOTLIGHT ON MERTON HENRY:

A Life of Philanthropic Leadership

How did you first get involved with MHS?

I first became aware of MHS when I was an undergraduate at Bowdoin, after World War II. I was a history major and was doing my senior thesis on William King, the first Governor of Maine. My professor at the time, Edward Kirkland, suggested I look at his papers housed at MHS. So I took the train from Brunswick and the trolley car up to MHS. They supplied me with a folding bridge table and a chair in front of the wooden shelves which housed the collection in the basement. The collection was not cataloged—it was in boxes—completely out of order! I agreed to sort it all for the librarian so it could be later catalogued.

Later during the 1970s, George Lord convinced me to join the Finance Committee, and I helped organize the first planned giving committee at MHS. My wife Harriet, who was Maine's first woman judge, joined the Board in the 1990s, after she retired.

What do you enjoy the most about MHS?

I am very interested in genealogy and the Great Migration. I can trace most of my ancestors back to the 1600s. I also have an interest in the Civil War—especially since I had two great-grandfathers who fought in it.

You have been a loyal Annual Fund donor for many years as well. What is the single most important reason you continue to give to us? I think the preservation of Maine's history is important. There is also a strong connection between Bowdoin and MHS and I take that bond seriously. I've been an MHS member for 63 years!

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about supporting the organizations that I have been involved with over the years: MHS, Bowdoin, Maine Medical Center, Hospice of Southern Maine, and Piper Shores. I think every lawyer has a responsibility to give back to and take a leadership role in their community.

You have been a big proponent of planned giving. What do you wish other people knew about planned giving? I wish more people understood that their gifts through their will can really make a tremendous difference to an organization and to their own financial situation. Right now Charitable Gift Annuities have great appeal for senior citizens because they offer an immediate tax deduction and a higher rate of return for life than regular investments such as CDs.

What motivated you to make your gift? Our planned gift was a result of a capital campaign solicitation. Harriet and I decided to pledge in both cash and as a Pooled Income Fund gift, of which I still receive income. It helps both the present and the future of MHS.

What impact do you hope your gift will make?

Well, with Richard's retirement, I hope that our gift will help the Board meet the long range needs of MHS. ■



"I THINK THE PRESERVATION OF MAINE'S HISTORY IS IMPORTANT. THERE IS ALSO A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN BOWDOIN AND MHS AND I TAKE THAT BOND SERIOUSLY. I'VE BEEN AN MHS MEMBER FOR 63 YEARS!"



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↑ Elizabeth Astor, Richard D'Abate and Leslie Merrill
↓ Bob BaRoss and Jim Millinger



SUPPORT MHS

We hope you enjoy this newsletter edition and that it provides you with a window into all that MHS does—preserving valuable historic treasures, helping communities use Maine Memory Network to share their local history, providing thousands of elementary school students with a unique museum experience, maintaining Longfellow House and Garden and much more.

Despite challenging economic times, MHS has remained strong, thanks to generous friends who value and support the work we do. The Annual Fund is an essential part of this support—it provides approximately 20% of the MHS budget and supports core activities across the organization.

Our Annual Fund goal for this fiscal year is \$260,000. Our fiscal year ends September 30 and we need your participation. Please support the MHS Annual Fund with a gift online by going to www.mainehistory.org. Our thanks in advance for recognizing the importance of our work.