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Have a look at the cover. Do you recognize the scene and the buildings?

Many are amazed to learn about the beautiful bones of MHS’s museum building at 489 Congress Street, which MHS purchased in 1992. While the structure appears modern, it was actually constructed in 1826 and consisted of 5 storefronts. Alas, the façade and mansard roof from an 1864 renovation are long gone—part of a remodel done around 1949.

I love the glimpse this image provides and how it relates to what is going on at MHS, some of which you’ll read about in this newsletter.

Our new exhibit, *Home: The Longfellow House and Emergence of Portland*, and related public and education programs will use the Longfellow House as a prism to explore how Portland has grown and changed over more than 230 years. It’s a fascinating new way to look at the House, its relationship to the community, and Portland history. When Peleg Wadsworth built his house on Back Street in 1786, it was on the rural outskirts of Portland. By the early 1800s, the House was at the center of a bustling, modern New England city. Since then, Portland has boomed, burned, boomed again, busted, and reemerged as a vibrant, forward-looking city. Through it all, the Longfellow House has been a constant, and witness to the life of a thriving and constantly evolving community. The exhibit will use the stories of the Wadsworth-Longfellow family and an ever-changing cast of neighbors on this block—families, hotels, businesses, a bakery, tenements, etc.—to explore how Portland became the beloved, livable city we know today.

The timing of the exhibit is apt. You will also read about a new partnership we have entered with Portland Public Library. Both institutions are deeply focused on how we can best serve the changing needs of the public, and how our downtown campuses can be catalysts for the vibrancy of Congress Street, Portland, and the state. The shared collections management facility, described on page 4, will address a critical longstanding need—space to properly process, care for, and store the collections at the center of our work. It will also enable MHS and PPL to continue to reimagine use of public spaces on Congress Street. At MHS, we will begin to turn our campus and programs into a laboratory where we test the ideas and principles that will drive our work forward. We are focused on community engagement, visitor experience, and connecting MHS’s unique and significant resources to the contemporary needs and life of our community.

Recent debates over projects like Congress Square Park illustrate the need for continual education, ongoing discussion, and deeper civic dialogue. Too often such debates are reactive, and, hence, become flashpoints. As local and statewide communities consider what successful economic, physical, and community development might look like, it is essential that we articulate what we cherish about life in Maine, what we would like to change, and the values and criteria that we use to measure growth and assess quality of life in the future.

*Stephen Bromage*  
Executive Director

ABOUT THE COVER:

Congress Street, ca. 1912. For more information about the cover image, please read the article on page 3.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 HOME: THE LONGFELLOW HOUSE AND THE EMERGENCE OF PORTLAND
- 4 COLLECTIONS CARE: Laying the Foundation for MHS’s Future
- 5 NEW COLLECTIONS: The Petropulos Collection
- 6-7 MAINE MEMORY NETWORK: Escape from Mobile
- 8 CONTRIBUTING PARTNER: Moosehead Historical Society and Museum - Veneer and Whistles
- 9 IN HONOR OF BARBARA MILDGRAM THOMPSON
- NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
- 10 EDUCATION: Meet the New Education Team
- 11 PROGRAMS: Summer Programs and the 2014 Longfellow House Season

# Home:

## The Longfellow House & the Emergence of Portland

JUNE 27, 2014 - MAY 25, 2015

MEMBERS' EXHIBIT OPENING: THURSDAY, JUNE 26

The Wadsworth-Longfellow House has been a constant feature on Portland's changing landscape since 1786, the year Peleg Wadsworth built the house and his young family began to call it "home." For more than 100 years, the house sheltered two large families while the city of Portland developed from a small town on the Maine frontier to the vibrant commercial city we see today.

A number of events reshaped the house and the land around it. A fire in 1814 allowed Stephen Longfellow to add the third story, providing more room for his growing family. The family also changed the way they used the surrounding yard. The original working garden and orchard gave way to an ornamental landscape, buffering the encroaching commercial buildings and tenements.

Since 1901, the year Maine Historical Society received the house as a bequest from Anne Longfellow Pierce, the building has been a destination for tourists and local visitors who come to explore the story of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his family.

The *Home* exhibit explores how these events affected the Wadsworth and Longfellow families and the house they lived in. Artifacts, photographs, documents, and other historical materials will be on exhibit. A highlight is the 1784 deed for the property between John Ingersoll and Peleg Wadsworth. Historical objects include Samuel Longfellow's 1803 leather fire bucket (a requirement for members of Portland's Fire Protection Society), an 1810 soup tureen from Zilpah and Stephen Longfellow's "best china," and an 1846 hand shower and washtub. These items especially summarize the important focus of health and safety in the daily life of the family.



↑ *Congress Street, ca. 1912. This remarkable image shows the bustle of commercial activity on Congress Street with the Wadsworth-Longfellow House seen in the shadows. Today, the storefront of Smith & Broe serves as the entrance into the MHS museum store.*

→ *Anne Longfellow Pierce in the Parlor, ca. 1890. Anne, sister of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, lived nearly her entire life in the house. Born in 1810, she witnessed the development of Portland from a small port on Maine's frontier to an industrial city. Anne left her home and property to Maine Historical Society when she died in 1901.*



↙ *The Wadsworth-Longfellow House in 1906. Built in 1786 and modified in 1814 after a fire, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House is a distinctive feature on Congress Street, and provides a rich environment to explore the history of Portland. This image was made shortly after Maine Historical Society opened the house to the public as a historic site.*

Exhibit themes will allow museum guides to interpret the house, garden, and our neighborhood in fresh ways. New information revealed about the commercial buildings bordering the house reflect dramatic changes in the city beginning in 1825, the year the Morton Block was built (now the MHS museum building). In 1864 modifications to this building caused Anne Longfellow Pierce to complain she could not keep her house clean, and to worry about the impact of the taller building on her garden. She mourned the loss of her "sylvan retreat."

The *Home* exhibit draws from a study of the MHS campus—a site bounded by Congress, Brown, Cumberland, and Preble Streets—and the various features that are part of the Longfellow Garden. This study will generate a thorough report about the property, and lead to new signage on campus, a project funded by grants from the Horizon Foundation and the Morton-Kelly Foundation.

John Mayer  
Museum Curator

# LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR MHS'S FUTURE



The collections management center consists of two buildings connected by a loading dock. Portland Public Library's building is shown on the left and Maine Historical Society's building is on the right. MHS's building design provides Class A and B storage space as well as rooms for exhibit preparation and other important behind-the-scenes activity for the organization.

In January we announced an exciting and innovative partnership between Maine Historical Society (MHS) and Portland Public Library (PPL). Together, MHS and PPL are developing a 35,500 square foot shared collection management center on Riverside Street in Portland. The collaboration between MHS and PPL sets the foundation for our futures—it establishes the infrastructure required to support our statewide work and programs, lays the groundwork for more dynamic use and continued development of our campuses on Congress Street, and is deeply tied to our long-term financial sustainability.

The collections center will allow both organizations to expand programs on Congress Street, and to meet the needs of our extended communities. The center will be a vibrant hub for both organizations—the place we manage, process, care for, prepare, and preserve our collections. Material will move constantly between Riverside Street and MHS's Brown Library and Museum, PPL's main and local branches, and across the state. The facility will support all of our programmatic activities.

The depth and structural nature of the collaboration is truly a unique and special partnership. All non-profits need to think deeply about their relationship to their communities, how their work relates to other organizations, and to find new ways to combine forces and

share resources. We have purchased the building and designed the fit-up jointly, are sharing construction costs equally, and raising all funds together. In the end, we will each own a condominium unit (a valuable asset) and maintain our own space but manage the facility together. When construction is complete, we will have prepared the facility for the unique programs of each organization, made it efficient to run, and addressed long-term capital needs.

For MHS, this means that we can begin to use our campus as a laboratory—a space where we test the ideas, principles, and activities that will drive our program in the future. Once construction is complete, we will immediately be able to move materials out of spaces not designed or well-used for storage—including the beautiful second floor reading room of the Brown Library, spaces adjacent to our museum gallery, and other areas. We will be able to redeploy those spaces for public use and engagement, and to expand a broad range of successful programs that serve diverse audiences.

Ultimately, the facility on Riverside Street will free 18,000 square feet of valuable space, give MHS a blank slate as we begin to plan a new museum facility, spur further development of our campus, and enable us to remake our presence as an anchor on Congress Street.

Let me describe several other intriguing elements of the project that we are pursuing.

The roofs of the buildings at Riverside Street have the capacity to generate enough solar energy to not only provide for our electricity needs there, but to subsidize PPL and MHS's energy usage on Congress Street. We are pursuing solar partners and investors. The 3-acre lot also has space for additional development, and we are actively exploring development opportunities with several potential partners with similar needs and interests.

We look forward to sharing further details about the project in the months ahead—the incredible collaboration, camaraderie, and leadership between the boards of PPL and MHS, the rigorous process we went through to arrive at this solution, and the significant contributions made by partners in the community.

Finally, this initiative signals MHS's deep commitment to the care, preservation, and continued development of its physical collections—the heart of our work.

There is still much money to be raised and work to be done, but this initiative is well underway and will be transformative for PPL and MHS. It will pay tremendous dividends to the community and to everyone whom our organizations touch.

*Stephen Bromage*  
Executive Director

# From Potamia, Greece, to Lewiston, Maine:

## A Life of Service and Community

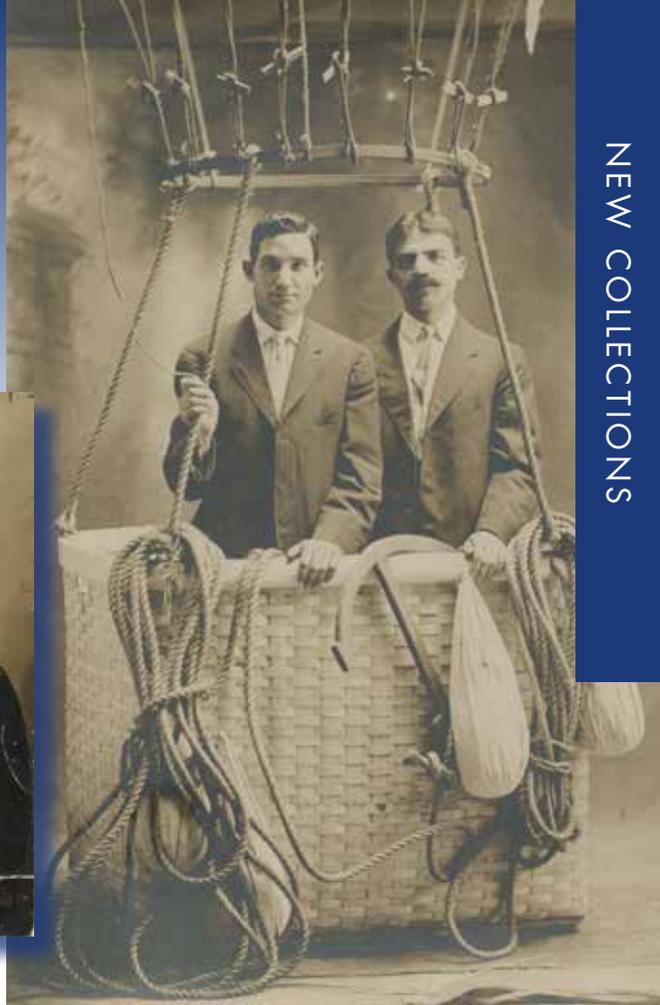
Maine Historical Society recently received a large collection documenting the life of Anthony Petropulos (1883-1972). The road from Greece to Lewiston, Maine, was a long one for Petropulos. One story goes that when he was a young man and recent immigrant from Greece, he traveled about New England lecturing on the Balkan War, which had just broken out, as well as Greek history on the stereopticon slide lecture circuit. He stopped in Lewiston and liked the town so much that he decided to remain and settle down. Another source says that Petropulos was friendly with Professor George M. Chase—who had taught at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and then at Bates College, both places where Anthony Petropulos studied—and this relationship may have drawn him to Lewiston. Regardless of the actual story, when Petropulos settled in Lewiston he made a full life for himself and his family, pitching himself into the local community through both political and social involvement.



Anthony Petropulos was born in Potamia, Province of Megalopolis, in Greece, in 1883. He immigrated to the United States through Canada at 14, and was naturalized in 1906, in Salem, Massachusetts. When he moved to Lewiston there were about 600 Greeks in the Lewiston-Auburn area. He married Anastasia Kargas in 1922 and they had two children, John and Roula. The Petropulos family was deeply involved in the Greek community, including membership in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Anthony was a joiner—a member not only of Greek organizations, such as AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), but also local fraternal organizations such as the Rabboni Lodge and Kora Temple. He was a popular local figure from his many years on the Lewiston police force (1918-1945), which he parlayed into a long political career after retiring. Anthony served as Alderman, sat on the Lewiston City Council and the Lewiston Republican City Committee, and was the Republican candidate for Sheriff.

One of Anthony's greatest interests was in the American Hellenic Club, a quasi-social and business group of twelve friends that pooled funds and invested in real estate, mainly in downtown Lewiston. Anthony was the treasurer of the organization from about 1930 until he died in 1972.

Collection 2722 documents Anthony Petropulos's life, as well as the American Hellenic Club. Of special interest are his beat books and newspaper clippings about his police career, a box relating to the Greek community, and information about his political career. Anthony kept scrapbooks about his early years. Numerous receipts show not only what he and his wife purchased, but also what Lewiston businesses operated during the mid-20th century. The collection also contains objects reflecting Anthony Petropulos' years as a police officer, including his uniform coat, whistles, and badge.



↖ Anthony Petropulos was a policeman in Lewiston from 1918 to 1945.

↑ Anthony Petropulos (left) and Eugene Dessureau (right) in a balloon, "Pittsfield in the Heart of the Berkshires." June 1909. Anthony Petropulos was residing in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he worked for General Electric.

Anthony and Anastasia's son John became a scholar of Balkan and Middle Eastern history, teaching at Amherst College. Materials relating to his life and career are in the collection.

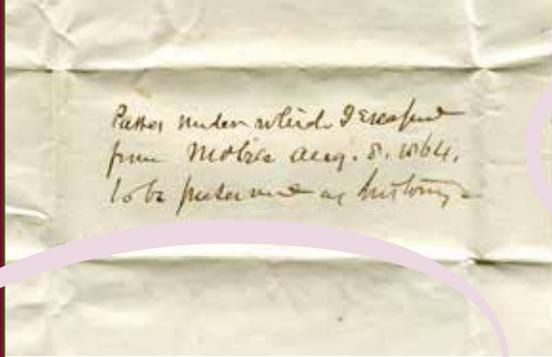
Overall, this collection gives an important window into a Greek immigrant who fully dedicated his life to his family, career, and community, in his adopted hometown of Lewiston.

Nancy Noble  
MHS Archivist/Cataloger



Anthony Petropulos in later years.

ALL IMAGES FROM COLLECTIONS OF MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Paper under which I escaped  
from Mobile Aug. 8, 1864,  
to be preserved as history

# Yankee Flees Mobile, 1864

Kiah Bayley Sewall was in debt, ill with tuberculosis, had not seen his wife in two years, and never met his 19-month-old daughter when he went to Mobile, Alabama, in March 1839 to improve his health.

By 1845, Sewall, working as a lawyer and “solicitor in chancery,” had reportedly made a fortune in cotton and “built an opulent estate” in Mobile. All that changed when Alabama seceded from the Union on January 11, 1861. Sewall, a Union man, fled the city in August 1864, escaping to Union lines.

Sewall’s account of his escape, “Incidents in the Life of a Unionist During the Great Rebellion,” is sentimental but reflects the strengths of sentiments on both sides of the “Great Rebellion.” He wrote in the third person, referring to himself as “Mr. R.”

A native of Phippsburg, graduate of Bowdoin College, and son of prominent minister Samuel Sewall, K. B. Sewall had gotten into debt in land speculation in the 1830s. After he and Lucretia Day of Portland married in May 1836, the couple went to New York where Sewall tried to resolve his debts. In April 1837, Lucretia was pregnant and went back to Portland to live with her parents as her husband was still in debt. They next saw one another in Mobile.

Lucretia frequently returned to Portland, especially in the summer, and several of their 10 children went to school in Maine. Sewall’s business interests also remained closely tied to the North.

In his “Incidents,” Sewall wrote, “Although an enthusiast in the study of Politics, his feet never pressed the dusty arena of party strife. Enlarged and comprehensive views precluded the pettiness of sectional feeling.” He added that he “carefully abstained from any expression of opinion that could provoke animosity.”

Nevertheless, his lack of outward support of the Confederacy made Sewall a target. He “was spoken of and marked as a ‘dangerous man.’”

When all able-bodied white men under age 60 were required in January 1862 to join militia units, Sewall, then age 54, refused to answer when asked his age. He was arrested and taken before a tribunal where he declined to sign an enlistment register and, after asking to know under what authority he was arrested, was released. Sewall and other Unionists prayed that Mobile would soon be captured by Union troops, which did

not happen until close to the war’s end.

Sewall wrote of life in Mobile during those years, “People at the North can have but a faint idea of Southern life at that time, even in localities distant from the actual scene of conflict. Persons grew old very fast ... lived in state of constant anxiety and suspense. The frightful expenses of living dissipated the earnings of years in a few months, with many, while some grew rich on the necessities of others.” He added, “We wore homespun and Confederate shoes and palmetto hats—we drank Confederate tea and coffee—we pasted paper over the broken glass in our windows and swept with Confederate brooms made of grass and sometimes of palmetto.”

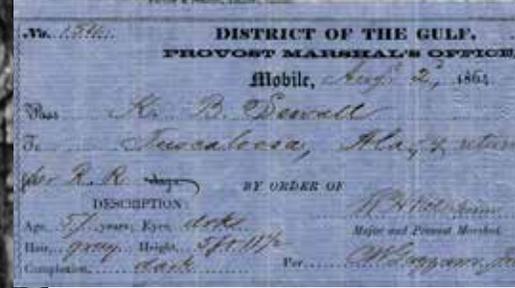
One morning, shortly after the Battle of Mobile Bay began and local residents became nervous about the future, Sewall stopped at a drug store, leaving his two young daughters in the buggy. He was surrounded by several men who told him he would be arrested unless he enrolled in a military company. His request for time to consider was denied, so he signed, and then begged to be allowed to take his children home.

He wrote, “He would rather have his arm palsied than raise it against his country and a prison was the only alternative.” His family urged him to flee. That evening, August 8, 1864, Sewall left Mobile, using a pass he already had to travel on business. He first sailed from Mobile to Okolona, Mississippi, where a friend sheltered him, but Sewall knew he needed to leave the Confederacy.

Traveling by mule, he headed northwest toward Memphis, 130 miles away. He wrote, “A suit of butternut homespun with a flannel shirt, an old soft hat and coarse shoes gave him the appearance of a quiet country farmer. A stout hickory sapling furnished a useful cane and completed his outfit.” On his journey, he avoided towns, went out of his way to avoid Confederate forces, and stayed at farmhouses where he declined to provide much information about himself, even as he tried to gain information from his hosts.

In Aberdeen, Mississippi, Sewall stayed with people to whom he had a letter of introduction. He asked directions from a black man hoeing a field, was questioned by some of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest’s troops, but not detained. Finally, he was befriended by a doctor who rode with him to Memphis. He described the second day of their trip, when they crossed Federal lines:

← Lucretia Day Sewall is shown with five of her 10 children, about 1849. The children probably are, from left, Somers, Ellen, Abby, Lucretia, and Eunice.



↑ K.B. Sewall saved this pass that gave him permission to leave Mobile during the Civil War – and provided the means for his escape. He wrapped it in a covering that noted, “to be preserved as history.”

Who can attempt to fathom the emotions of such an hour, save those who like him, have been driven from their homes, pressured and oppressed because they were true to their country and the right and after much weariness and privation and torturing anxiety find themselves safe.

12; and Sammy, 9, traveled via Chicago and Niagara Falls on their way to return to Portland. Sewall's bouts of illness continued. When the party stopped in Boston, he became sicker and died there on August 18, 1865.

Candace Kanes  
Maine Memory Network Curator

ALL IMAGES FROM COLLECTIONS OF MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sewall obtained a pass to travel out of Memphis. Under the name “W.S. Bayley,” he took a steamer to Cairo, Illinois, then went by train to Washington, D.C., where he sought to meet with government officials to let them know of the situation in Mobile and the necessity of capturing the city. He offered to provide information or other assistance.

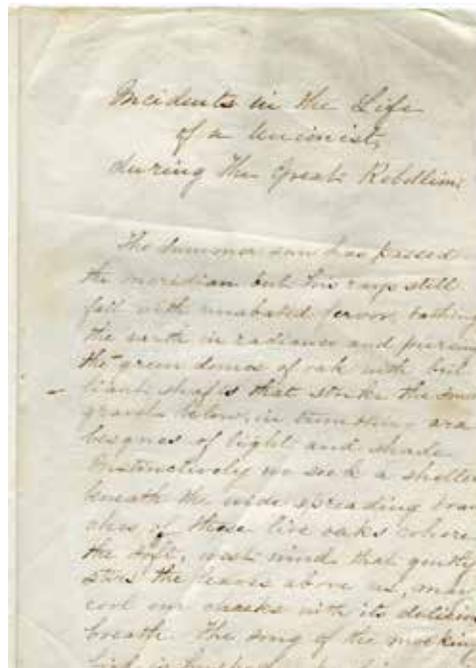
↖ ↓ K.B. Sewall wrote an account of his time in Mobile during the Civil War and his escape in August 1864.

By the time he got to Washington, he was ill from exposure, the rigors of his trip, and his anxiety. Over the course of the next seven months—until the war ended—Sewall traveled to Boston, Portland, New York, and Washington, pressing his case for Union intervention in Mobile and visiting friends and relatives. He continued to have bouts of illness.

↘ Kiah Bayley Sewall, pictured about 1860 in Boston, spent most of his career as a lawyer involved in the cotton trade in Mobile, Alabama.

By the end of April 1865, Sewall was back in Mobile with his family. He took food and clothing with him to help relieve the shortages they had suffered during the war. In the 26 years they had lived in Mobile, Kiah and Lucretia Sewall had built a house and business, and added nine children to their family. Two, Josephine and Amy, had died there. During the few months Sewall was back in Mobile, he became involved in attempts to set up a new, Unionist government in the state—and in cotton trading.

In August 1865, a year after his escape, Sewall and his family left Mobile. Daughters Lucretia, 20, a Confederate supporter, and Abby, 17, planned to stay behind. Their parents, along with Eunice, 28; Ellen, 24; Ada,



SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK CONTRIBUTING PARTNER

## MOOSEHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUMS

# *Veneer and Whistles*

**FOUNDED:** A group of local residents interested in preserving the rich and colorful history of the Moosehead Lake region founded the Moosehead Historical Society and Museums in 1962.

**MISSION:** To collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the history of the greater Moosehead Lake region, and to perpetuate the contributions of the early settlers who populated the area.

**FACILITIES:** The Moosehead Historical Museum and the organization's offices are located in a Victorian-era mansion, carriage house, and barn that were bequeathed to the Historical Society by Julia and Philip Sheridan. Built in the early 1890s, the house and grounds were once part of the old Moosehead Inn property.

The Center for Moosehead History and Moosehead Lake Aviation Museum are located in the former Universalist Church, built in 1904, and known as the Community House.

**COLLECTIONS:** Photographs, paper ephemera, three-dimensional artifacts, tools, and genealogy and cemetery records.

**VISITING:** Carriage House (Offices, Lumberman's Museum, Library): Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. year round. Guided tours (Eleventh-Crafts-Sheridan house): Wednesday through Friday 1–4 p.m., mid-June to early October.

Center for Moosehead History & Moosehead Aviation Museum: Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., mid-June to early October.

Moosehead Historical Museum  
444 Pritham Avenue, Greenville Junction

The Center for Moosehead History and Moosehead Lake Aviation Museum  
6 Lakeview St., Greenville

**CONTACT:**  
PO Box 1116, Greenville, ME 04441  
207-695-2909  
www.mooseheadhistory.org  
E-mail: mooseheadhistory@myfairpoint.net

At the turn of the 20th century, the veneer plant on the eastern shore of Moosehead Lake in Greenville was the region's largest employer. It had an audible as well as an economic impact on the community before it closed in about 1975.

Raw materials were readily available in nearby forests, and Moosehead Lake and a growing network of rail lines provided transportation for timber and finished goods. The market for veneer products was booming.

The V. W. Macfarlane Veneer Box and Panel Company began operating in 1890. The *Piscataquis Observer* in 1892 described the work done there, starting with logs drawn up a "slip" from the lake, cut into lengths, then steamed overnight in one of two large wooden ovens. Next, the bark was removed and a cutter, which operated like a large lathe, peeled the log into strips of veneer from an eighth to a thirty-second of an inch. After the veneer was cut to required sizes, it was dried on long racks in a drying house for two or three days before being packed for shipment. The plant also made hubs for wheels.

In 1905, the plant burned. A trade publication, *The Barrel and Box*, reported in December 1905, under the headline "Have Formed Immense Company," that the mill would be rebuilt in a 30-foot long, 100-foot wide building with an engine house of 50 by 70 feet. It was to employ 100 people and produce 2 million feet of hardwood boards annually, manufacturing "packing boxes, car linings, panels and general veneering of all kinds, from various kinds of stock."

After another fire in 1918, the mill was sold to Nelson & Hall, who operated it as Veneer Products from 1919 to 1925. Homes for employees were built close to the mill. After 1919, the mill mostly produced wooden boxes, but continued to make veneers.



*Two employees of Atlas Plywood Co. in Greenville in about 1955 set a large log on the truck to be moved by the overhead hoist. The man in the foreground holds a device to measure the logs.*



*Veneer Products Co., also known as Atlas Plywood, was the area's largest employer for many years. Workers, shown here in about 1930, were regulated by a whistle that blew 10 times a day – regulating when they woke up, arrived at work, took breaks, and left for the day.*

Atlas Plywood Corp. of Boston bought it in 1925 and produced boxes, bases for airplane propellers, bombs for the war effort, and other products. After yet another fire, John Stover bought the mill in 1960.

What many Greenville residents remembered about the veneer plants was the mill whistle that blew 10 times a day. Clocks were optional in Greenville when the mill was in operation.

The whistle blew a 6:45 a.m. wake-up blast, a 7:20 a.m. warning that the 7:30 whistle and start of work was approaching, a 9:30 coffee break notice and 9:40 return-to-work notice, blasts for the beginning and end of the 11:30–12:30 lunch break, afternoon coffee break notices at 2:30 and 2:40, and, finally, the end of the workday whistle at 4:30 p.m.

ALL IMAGES FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF  
MOOSEHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Barbara Mildram Thompson

Maine Historical Society would like to honor Barbara Mildram Thompson, a long-time volunteer who passed away in February of this year. What staff members remember most is hard to quantify—how much fun she was to have around, her great sense of humor, and her endless funny stories. What we can describe in detail is how hard she worked to make MHS a better place.

Barbara began her work at MHS in the late 1980s shortly after returning to Maine following a career in education. Barbara “tried out” several non-profit organizations to see where she would choose to donate her time and skill. Happily for us, MHS won her support. Though she volunteered at her local library and for other organizations, MHS was her first priority.

Initially, Barbara helped out at events such as our Christmas celebrations at the Longfellow House. Later she researched and answered genealogical inquiries. When we were without a cataloger, she learned how to generate catalog cards on the computer. After an assignment sorting duplicate postcards, however, she announced that we needed to make better use of her time. So, by 1990, she was doing virtually all of the very necessary paperwork of a registrar.

Countless gifts to the Library—books, pamphlets, manuscript letters, diaries, account books, photographs, and yes, postcards—that came through the door were evaluated, described, recorded, and acknowledged by Barbara. She created and maintained donor records, and tracked the Certificates of Gift, which are necessary to document additions to the collections. She also recorded purchases, and transferred objects to the museum collection.



Asked in an earlier volunteer profile for the newsletter about why she did it, she said: “There was clearly a need.” For her invaluable work, Barbara was awarded the 21st Annual Elizabeth Ring Award, given by MHS in recognition of those who have rendered years of unselfish service. She continued to faithfully volunteer every Wednesday until she was about 90 years old, more than 20 years of service.

Besides her work at MHS, she traveled to dozens of New England cemeteries and gathered records from town halls in order to document the Mildram, Sewall, and Weston genealogies. This hard work yielded a 300-page document, which she reproduced and gifted to family members and genealogical societies in Maine.

Barbara lived her life as a strong, independent woman with many friends. MHS employees enjoyed watching a late-life romance unfold between her and the Reverend William Thompson of Falmouth, who she married at the age of 87. She leaves behind many friends, her Mildram family, her family by marriage, and the family she made here at MHS. We will never forget all she accomplished for our organization.

*Nicholas Noyes  
Curator of Library Collections*

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS JUST REACHED A WHOLE NEW LEVEL!



MHS is pleased to announce our new and improved membership benefits. Starting now, members will have access to some new perks. Some of these new benefits include free or discounted admission to programs, guest passes to the MHS campus with a Contributor level membership or higher, and discounts on space rental for Supporter level members.

Of course, being a member is about so much more than perks. Your gift of membership helps preserve Maine history and sustain the team of librarians, museum curators, and educators who are dedicated to bringing Maine history to life, making it meaningful, relevant, and accessible.

Support from our community has never been so important and we hope you will enjoy these new membership benefits—we cannot do it without you. Thank you!

To review all the benefits of your membership, please visit [www.mainehistory.org/membership/signup/](http://www.mainehistory.org/membership/signup/).

# Meet the Education Department

As **Director of Education and Interpretation**, **Larissa Vigue Picard** is responsible for heading up the department responsible for education, training, public programming, and gallery interpretation.



Larissa has been at MHS for five years and was originally hired to run the Maine Community Heritage Project, a Maine Memory Network program. Prior to joining MHS and returning to her home state, Larissa lived in Vermont for 15 years. The second half of that time was spent as Director of Community Programs for Vermont Humanities Council, for which she designed and implemented literature, history, cultural-heritage, and grant programs for the general public. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in English Literature from Bates and Middlebury Colleges, respectively.



**Kathleen Flynn Neumann** started in February as **Manager of School and Interpretive Programs**. She is responsible for developing and implementing curriculum, programs, and interpretive strategies for students and the general public at MHS, as well building relationships with Maine teachers, schools, and community partners.



Formerly, Kathleen taught Social Studies at the middle and high school levels in Massachusetts and Connecticut for seven years. As a teacher, she worked closely with Mystic Seaport as a consultant on educational best practices and as a Mystic Seaport for Educators Fellow. She also worked seasonally as a Park Guide at Adams National Historical Park, and spent one summer as the Assistant Tutor to the Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in History with a certificate in Public History from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**John Babin** was promoted to **Visitor Services Manager** last fall. John is responsible for overseeing the paid guides and volunteer docents who give tours in the Longfellow House, and on the Longfellow Trail and Old Port Walking Tours. John also coordinates school groups for house and museum visits.

*Larissa Vigue Picard, Director of Education and Interpretation; Kathleen Flynn Neumann, Manager of School and Interpretive Programming; and John Babin, Visitor Services Manager*

John was formerly a volunteer docent, paid guide, and site coordinator for the Longfellow House. John holds a real estate broker's license from the State of Maine and is a trained specialist in historic homes and architecture.

## The 2014 Longfellow House Season: What's New



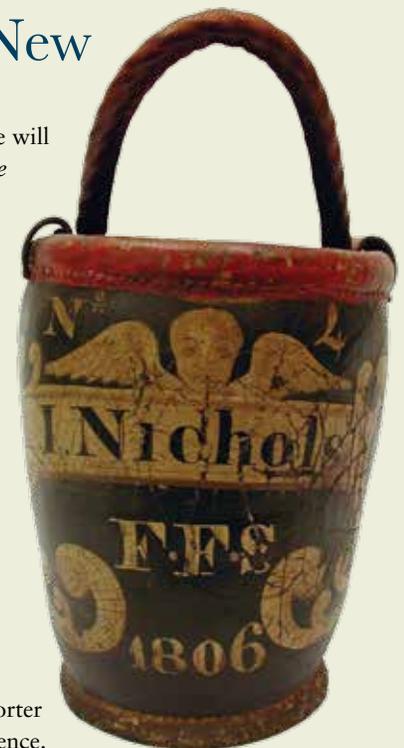
*Guest room, Longfellow House, Portland, 1902. MHS Collections*

For the 2014 season, interpretation at the Longfellow House will be revamped to tie in with the upcoming exhibit, *Home: The Longfellow House and the Emergence of Portland*, which will explore the development of the city through the lens of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's childhood home, connecting the evolution of the house to the development of the city around it.

New topics to receive more attention in the house's interpretation include how fire affected the building and family, both as a dangerous element and as a source of heat; and water, including how it was accessed, and the role it played in changing understandings of health.

Goals of the new interpretation include closely linking the house to the exhibits in the gallery and creating a narrative that visitors can relate to their own experiences.

This year we will continue to provide superior customer service by giving traditional tours, as well as shorter tours and walk-throughs upon request. Our primary goal is to make your visit to MHS a positive experience.



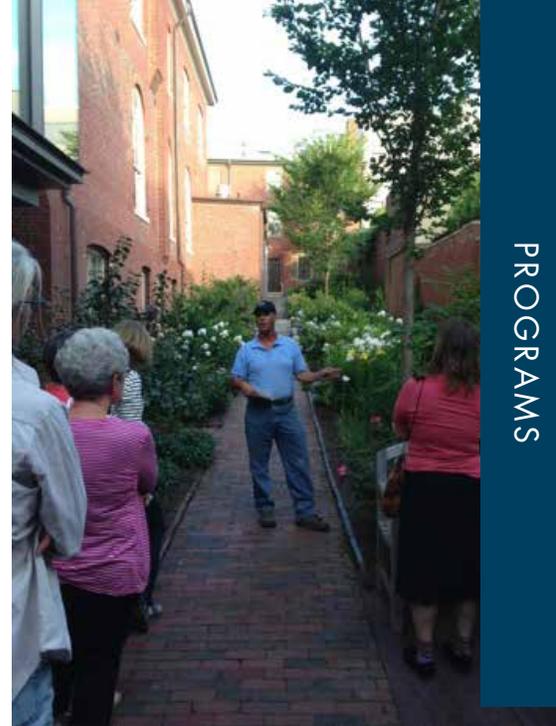
*Fire Bucket, ca. 1806. MHS Collections*

# Lots to Do at MHS This Summer

While our summer public program schedule is still in the planning stages, we can give you a sneak peek at some of the exciting things planned for June, July, and August, 2014. To stay abreast of developments, bookmark our public programs page at [mainehistory.org/programs](http://mainehistory.org/programs) and make sure you are receiving our weekly e-Connection newsletter (you can sign up from our home page).

- Vintage Baseball will kick off MHS's summertime fun as the Massachusetts-based Essex Base Ball Organization faces off against Maine's own Dirigo Vintage Base Ball Club at Southern Maine Community College on Saturday, June 21. Stay tuned for more details on this triple-header extravaganza!
- Our July 4th reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place on the appointed date at 12 p.m. in front of the Longfellow House. Join us to kick off the holiday historically, complete with flags to wave, and stick around for lemonade and cookies.
- Look for programming related to the forthcoming exhibits, *Home: The Longfellow House and the Emergence of Portland* (main gallery), and the Portland Tax Records (July and August in the lecture hall).
- We'll be rolling out another four-part Summer Garden Series after last year's successful pilot. Look for live music, poetry, nature programming, and more amid the blooms and lush greenery of the Longfellow Garden.
- An original Maine film series is in the works. One big highlight: A screening of the "First Look" short by the two men working on a film adaptation of *Lost on a Mountain in Maine*, the timeless story about Donn Fendler's nine-day ordeal on Mt. Katahdin in 1939. (We're hoping a certain special guest will join us!)
- After piloting "Student Spotlight" talks last year, we will schedule a couple more for 2014. These talks are by Maine college students or graduates doing noteworthy research on Maine history.
- We'll bring back the popular history of Portland Harbor schooner cruise in August.
- And, of course, more book talks, including one on a forthcoming History Press publication by a local author about Portland's "foodie" evolution. (Yes, we're already working on the refreshments for that one!)

**Note:** As of May 1, we instituted a new admission fee structure for most of our public programs. For MHS members, public programs are either free or discounted. For non-members, ticket prices depend on the program; the minimum price is \$5. Fees are noted on the programs page of our website and in all other publicity.



Top: Jeff O'Donal of O'Donal's Nursery gave a hands-on historic gardening workshop as part of the 2013 Summer Program Series in the Longfellow Garden.

Middle: Jim Millinger, former MHS Trustee and Casco Bay Lines skipper, entertained guests with the history of Portland Harbor on board the Bagheera the summer of 2012. This popular program will return in August.

Bottom: The Essex (Mass.) and Dirigo Base Ball clubs enjoyed the 2013 match at Southern Maine Community College.

Maguire Anuszewski of Winthrop (left) portrays Donn Fendler in the proof of concept short film "Lost on a Mountain in Maine." Image courtesy of Ryan Cook and Derek Desmond.



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## SUMMER HOURS

CALL AHEAD FOR HOLIDAY HOURS

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### LONGFELLOW HOUSE AND GARDEN

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SUN – 12-5:00  
(LAST TOUR AT 4:00)

### MUSEUM EXHIBITS

CLOSED JUNE 1- 25  
*HOME: THE LONGFELLOW HOUSE AND  
THE EMERGENCE OF PORTLAND*  
OPENS JUNE 26

### MUSEUM STORE

MAY 1 – OCT 31: OPEN TO PUBLIC  
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 [INFO@MAINEHISTORY.ORG](mailto:INFO@MAINEHISTORY.ORG)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

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## MHS Annual Trip

Oct. 29 - Nov. 9, 2014

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## MHS ESSAY CONTEST

### YOUR MAINE HOME: HOW HAS IT CHANGED?

MHS wants to hear more of your stories. After the success of last year's Civil War Family Legends essay contest, we decided to offer a new contest and invite you all to participate.

This time we want to hear about **defining moments in the history of your Maine home or neighborhood.** Home can mean a house, apartment, cottage, or any other physical dwelling you or a family member lives in now, or did in the past. Neighborhood might mean just your street or a larger section of a town or city. The defining moment must have reshaped the structure of your home or neighborhood in some way—perhaps due to natural disaster, urban development, economic changes, family events, or another major turning point. The event could have been within your lifetime or an ancestor's.

Submissions should be 300 – 500 words. Please include a title, your name as you would like it to appear in print, and your city and state. Images are encouraged! A committee of MHS staff will judge the essays and the winner will be published in the fall 2014 newsletter. Essays will be judged on their relevance to Maine, clarity of writing, richness of detail, and the overall nature of the story. The winning essay, as well as the first and second runners-up, will be published on the MHS Blog.

To submit an essay to the contest, please email a Word document to Laura Webb at [lwebb@maine-history.org](mailto:lwebb@maine-history.org) by July 11th. Winners will be announced in the fall newsletter, scheduled for publication the beginning of September. Questions about the contest should be directed to Laura Webb at (207) 774-1822 x201 or by email.

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