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EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL... WHAT'S YOURS?

In January, Maine Historical Society launched *My Maine Stories*, the first participatory storytelling portal for sharing the personal stories of Maine people.

Through a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, individuals are now able to contribute to Maine Memory Network for the first time. Anyone, anywhere, can share their story, in their own words, in the comfort of their homes or through programs we will be offering with our local Maine Memory partners. *My Maine Stories* gives voice to the experiences of all people who have a connection to Maine, and diversifies the perspectives documented in Maine history.

The recently-opened *Making Paper, Making Maine* is the second exhibition at MHS inspired by and drawn from *My Maine Stories* contributions.

In addition to shaping Maine's economy for nearly a century, the paper industry provided a livelihood, identity, and sense of connection to people and communities throughout the state. *Making Paper, Making Maine* recognizes the historic transition taking place in Maine's paper industry, and asks, what's next for Maine's economy?

Also on view at MHS is *Creative Maine: Trade Banners and the Crafts That Built Maine*, an exhibition featuring MHS's beautiful 1841 Maine Charitable Mechanic Association trade banners—originally marched through the streets of downtown Portland in support for their members' various skills and trades—and exploring the creativity and ingenuity that created the Maine economy as we know it today.

You'll recall that in August 2010, 16 Maine museums and their supporters came together in an unprecedented collaboration to save these remarkable banners. The heroic effort, led by Maine Historical Society, included Portland Museum of Art, Maine State Museum, Maine Maritime Museum, the Maine State Historian, Bates College Museum of Art, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, and Colby College Museum of Art as well as a number of individual, corporate, and foundation donors. This exhibition celebrates that story and Maine's wonderful cultural community.

In other big news, the 3rd annual Magical History Tour brought over 800 people together to explore Portland and enjoy history. Finally, MHS is proud to be on the bright side of history with a solar panel installation at our offsite collections management facility—funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities—allowing for sustainable preservation of MHS collections.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at MHS!

Steve Bromage
 Executive Director

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ABOUT THE COVER:

1841 blacksmith banner by Joseph E. Hodgkins.

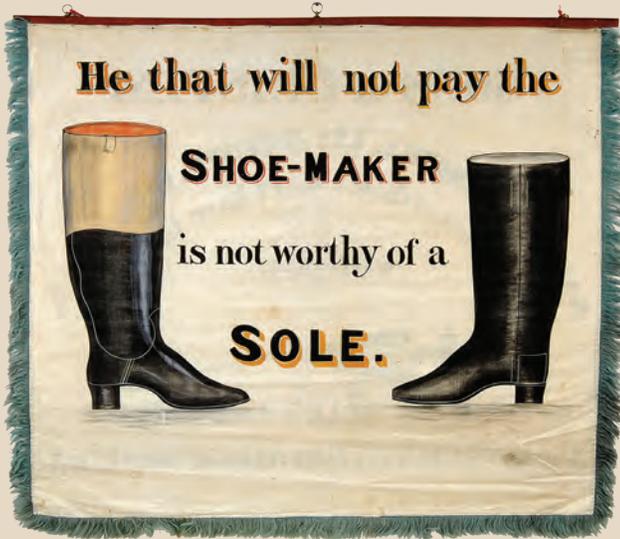
Collections of Maine Historical Society.



In 1841, Maine Charitable Mechanic Association (MCMA) members marched through the streets of downtown Portland carrying brightly colored banners to advertise their skills and promote their individual trades, as well as rally support for the craftspeople struggling to earn a living wage in the changing economy.

Creative Maine: Trade Banners and the Crafts That Built Maine is a new exhibition that explores the creativity and ingenuity that created the Maine economy as we know it today using these historic banners produced by members of MCMA. The exhibition share the stories of the individuals who led the organization, were skilled in their trades, and who created successful industries for Maine. Each exquisitely-preserved banner is on display alongside both a historical account of a craftsman, and a contemporary example of that same trade as it exists today.

Creative Maine is on view at Maine Historical Society June 22 through January 13, 2018.



Maine Historical Society is proud to be a Blue Star Museum that offers free admission to military personnel and their families. Blue Star Museums is a

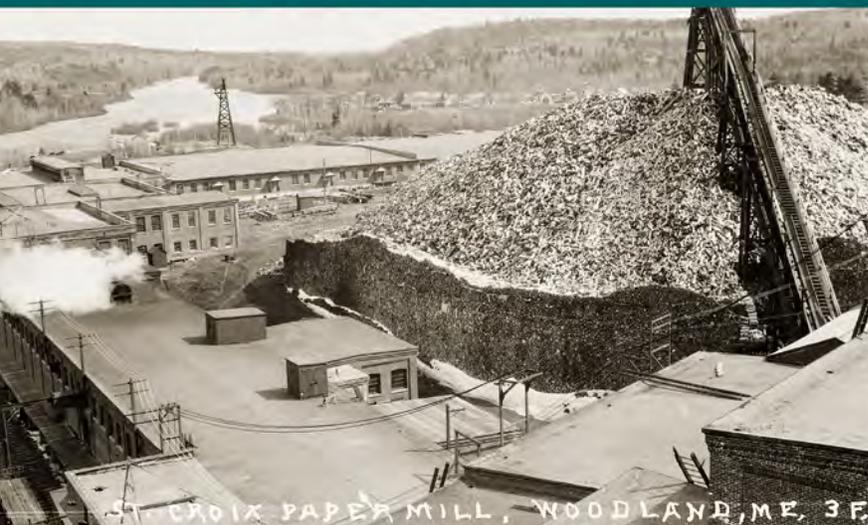
collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense. More information can be found online at arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

Get Social

Connect with us on Facebook (Maine Historical Society) or Twitter and Instagram (@mainehistory) for regular doses of history and news! Use #MaineHistory whenever you're sharing related content. And if you haven't already, be sure to sign up for the MHS e-Connection, a weekly update from Maine Historical Society to your inbox: mainehistory.org/econnection.



MAKING PAPER, MAKING MAINE



When Hugh Chisholm opened the Otis Falls Pulp Company in Jay in 1888, the mill was one of the most modern paper making facilities in the country, and was connected to national and global markets. For the next century, Maine was an international leader in the manufacture of pulp and paper. Paper has shaped Maine's economy, molded individual and community identities, and impacted the environment throughout the state.

Through first-person accounts, photographs, schematics, and period artifacts the exhibition *Making Paper, Making Maine* explores the extraordinary scale and scope of the paper industry in the Pine Tree State. Recognizing the historic transition taking place, the exhibition asks, what's next for Maine's economy?

Making Paper, Making Maine is on view at Maine Historical Society June 2 through October 28, 2017.

— MY MAINE STORIES —

MHS is actively preserving the stories of the people and communities who have driven the paper industry via *My Maine Stories*, a participatory storytelling forum that provides an online space for sharing your recollections about Maine. Stories can include experiences in Maine; memories of family, ancestors, or town; work life; or impacts of a historical Maine event. mainememory.net/mymainestories



Mike Luciano talks about his 41 years working and living in a Maine paper making community.

On the Bright Side of History

A \$300,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)—and additional assistance from Jane's Trust and Horizon Foundation—made possible the installation of a solar energy system at Maine Historical Society's offsite collections management facility. This state-of-the-art edifice is home to many incomparable collections, including materials from Bangor Theological Seminary, Central Maine Power, and Great Northern Paper.

Specifically designed to help museums and libraries operate more sustainably, the grant is part of \$36.6 million given out by NEH to support 212 humanities projects administered by institutions and independent scholars across 42 states—MHS is one of just three Maine organizations awarded funding. This is the first time the NEH has funded a solar project designed to support the long-term preservation of historical materials.

Installed in April by ReVision Energy, the 126kw solar installation generates enough electricity to cover the needs of climate-control—an energy-intensive necessity for the long-term preservation of art, artifacts, manuscripts and other materials—as well sufficient power to subsidize usage at MHS's Congress Street campus. Furthermore, the facility allows for the freeing of nearly 18,000 square feet of space at the campus, and increases MHS's ability to engage and serve the people of Portland and communities throughout Maine with expanded programs, services, and outreach.

Visit solar.mainehistory.org to view the facility's real-time solar energy production.



Zach Good of ReVision Energy guides a forklift lifting solar panels onto the roof of MHS's offsite collections management facility in Portland.



Jack Doherty of ReVision Energy carries a new panel across the roof.

A Room of His Own

Do you have a special place in your home where you go to be alone and work on something important? When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's father used the family sitting room as his office, the small adjoining space was a waiting room for his clients. As a child, Henry enjoyed sitting here to write, until his father moved his office out of the house and Henry's mother turned this room into a china closet.

When this happened, in 1829, in a letter to his sister Henry lamented, "...no soft poetic ray has irradiated my heart since the Goths and Vandals crossed the Rubicon of the front entry, and turned the sanctum sanctorum of the little room into a china closet." (As Henry was 22 when he wrote these words, we can assume this dramatic prose was in jest.)



Lady Pepperell Mill, Biddeford. Collections of Maine Historical Society.

Driving Innovation in Maine

At one time, Biddeford was home to the largest textile manufacturing facility in the United States. With its neighboring Saco community, Biddeford/Saco was considered the heart of the York County Region. Its extensive mill network hummed with activity, weaving together the lives and livelihoods of numerous individuals. While technology constantly shifted the industrial landscape, the fabric of the community remained based on pride in craftsmanship, a strong work ethic, and innovation in production.

MHS is collaborating with the recently-formed Biddeford Mills Museum to create a pilot exhibition in the mill exploring Maine's industrial heritage and evolving economy. The exhibit will serve as an introduction to the Pepperell Mill campus and the community of Biddeford itself, focusing on the contribution of the mill and its workers to creating the city of Biddeford as it stands today.

Biddeford/Saco: Driving Innovation in Maine is expected to open in September, 2017.

Pepperell Mills weavers, Biddeford, ca. 1925. Collections of McArthur Public Library.



Today, we've made the china closet a writing space again. Visitors to the Wadsworth-Longfellow House can sit and write a poem or a note and leave it behind for others to enjoy.

Go to mainehistory.org/visit and plan a trip to Henry's house today!

Magical Day *in* History

The 3rd annual *Magical History Tour* on Saturday, May 13 unlocked the history of 10 secret sites in Portland: American Legion Andrews Post 17, Chapman National Bank / Time & Temperature Building, Church of the Sacred Heart, Circus Maine / Thompson's Point, Cross Jewelers, Forest City Boxing Gym / Fork Food Lab, Alice Longfellow's 1913 Rolls Royce, the State Theatre, Waynflete School, and the winner of our People's Choice site from the past two years, the City Hall Clock Tower.



↑ A tour-goer inspects the clock gears atop City Hall's tower.

↓ The view overlooking Monument Square from inside the old Chapman National Bank lobby.



If you weren't able to join us or didn't get to visit all of the locations, full historical information for each site is available on the MHS Blog: mainehistory.wordpress.com.

← History fans of all ages enjoy Alice Longfellow's 1913 Rolls Royce.

Every third Tuesday we invite you to join us for beer and snacks, a rare opportunity to enjoy our historic garden in the evening, and a chance to see some very special artifacts from our collections! Coming up this summer and fall is Founding Fathers (July 18), Botanical History (August 15), Historic Firearms (September 19), Past Medicinal Practices (October 17), and Traditional Toys & Games (November 21).

For more info and a list of upcoming *Beer in the Garden* programs, visit mainehistory.org/beergarden.



Listen Up!

Audio recordings of public lectures, programs, and other events at Maine Historical Society are available online at mainehistory.org/podcasts. Tune in and explore the diverse experiences of Maine people in a changing world.

SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY
NETWORK CONTRIBUTING PARTNER,
WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY COMMITTEE

Westport Island

The Westport Island History Committee is an official committee of the Town of Westport Island dedicated to the pursuit, preservation, and promotion of the Island's history and cultural heritage. They have participated in Maine Memory Network (MMN) since 2014 and have uploaded over 100 items and one exhibit to MMN.

The town's historical collections encompass photographs and archival records from the 1800s to the present day. These include quilts, school-books used on the Island, school record books dating from the early 1800's to 1889 when the school districts—which at one time numbered six—were discontinued; materials related to the Grange; and town government records, such as vital records, and proceedings of town meetings and other town business.

Other resources include accounts for more than 70 cemeteries, information on historic structures, and nearly complete tax valuation records dating back to 1828, when Westport, formerly Jeremysquam, separated from the Town of Edgecomb and incorporated as its own town. The tax records provide a view of the evolving ways that people traveled on and off the Island—boat, bridge, causeway, ferry, and car—and how that affected everyday life.

The Westport Island History Committee has actively collaborated with Maine Historical Society on several exhibition projects. The story of Westport Island resident and World War II veteran Vera Cleaves (1914-2017) was featured in MHS's *Veterans' Voices* exhibition and was one of the first *My Maine Stories* entries. Photographs from Edwin Cromwell's logging operation for Pejepsco Paper Company on MacMahan Island are featured in MHS's *Making Paper, Making Maine* exhibition. The Committee has done extensive research and documentation of the Tarbox family, some of the first residents of Westport Island. Most recently, an exhibit on the maritime-themed murals in the Cornelius Tarbox, Jr. House have been published on Maine Memory Network.

Gaye Wagner & Mary Coventry
Co-Chairs, Westport Island History Committee



*Top: Causeway "Dedication parade," Westport Island, 1950.
Middle: Vera Cleaves with her grandfather, Westport Island, 1922.
Below: Cornelius Tarbox House entryway, Westport Island, ca. 1858.*

Westport Island History Committee
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ALL IMAGES FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY COMMITTEE. TO SEE MORE, VISIT MAINEMEMORY.NET AND SEARCH FOR WESTPORT ISLAND.



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Call ahead for holiday hours

BROWN RESEARCH LIBRARY

May 1 – Oct 31: Tue-Sat, 10:00am-4:00pm
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Closed holidays and some holiday weekends,
and the last two weeks of the year

LONGFELLOW HOUSE AND GARDEN

May 1 – Oct 31: Open to public
May: Mon-Sun, 12:00pm-5:00pm
Jun-Oct: Mon-Sat, 10:00am-5:00pm
Sun: 12:00pm-5:00pm

Call for tour times
Garden open to the public during the season
from 10:00am-5:00pm

MUSEUM AND MUSEUM SHOP

Jun 1 – Oct 31
Mon-Sat: 10:00am-5:00pm
Sun: 12:00pm-5:00pm
Nov 1 – Apr 30
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Mon-Fri, 9:00am-5:00pm
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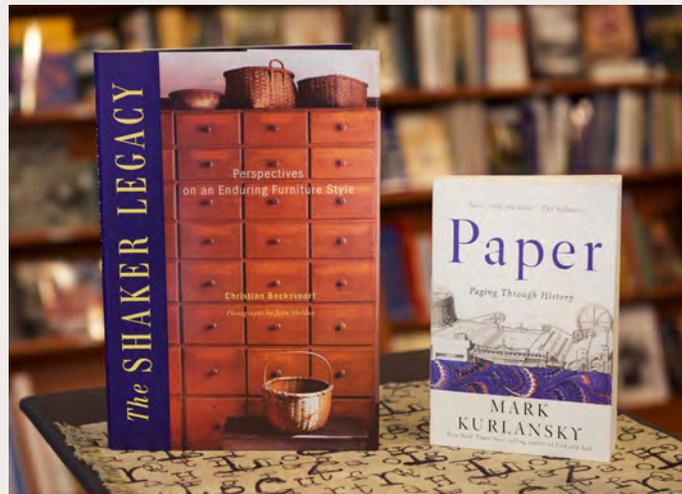
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These titles and many more available now in the MHS Museum Store!

The Shaker Legacy: Perspectives on an Enduring Furniture Style
by Chris Becksvoort

Solid construction and honest functionality make Shaker furniture one of the most popular and timeless design categories. Based on extensive research and personal experience with the last working Shaker community in Maine, this book traces the roots of Shaker design to Shaker belief, which inspired the clean lines, careful craftsmanship, and signature details that define the style. The author also discusses the less known Victorian period of Shaker design and shows how this style has influenced subsequent ones. A bibliography, glossary, and index are included.

Paper: Paging Through History
by Mark Kurlansky

Amid discussion of “going paperless”—and as speculation about the effects of a digitally dependent society grows rampant—we’ve come to a world-historic juncture. Thousands of years ago, Socrates and Plato warned that written language would be the end of “true knowledge,” replacing the need to exercise memory and think through complex questions. Similar arguments were made about the switch from handwritten to printed books, and today about the role of computer technology. By tracing paper’s evolution from antiquity to the present, with an emphasis on the contributions made in Asia and the Middle East, Mark Kurlansky challenges common assumptions about technology’s influence, affirming that paper is here to stay.

MHS MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% OFF IN OUR STORE AND ONLINE AT VINTAGEMAINEIMAGES.COM