



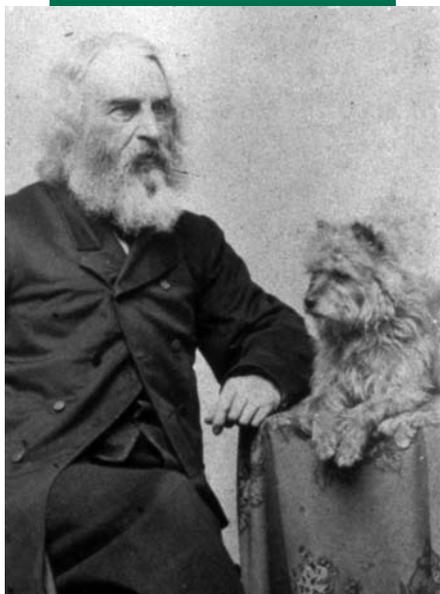
# Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Winter 2006/2007

## Celebrating Creativity

LONGFELLOW  
1807-2007



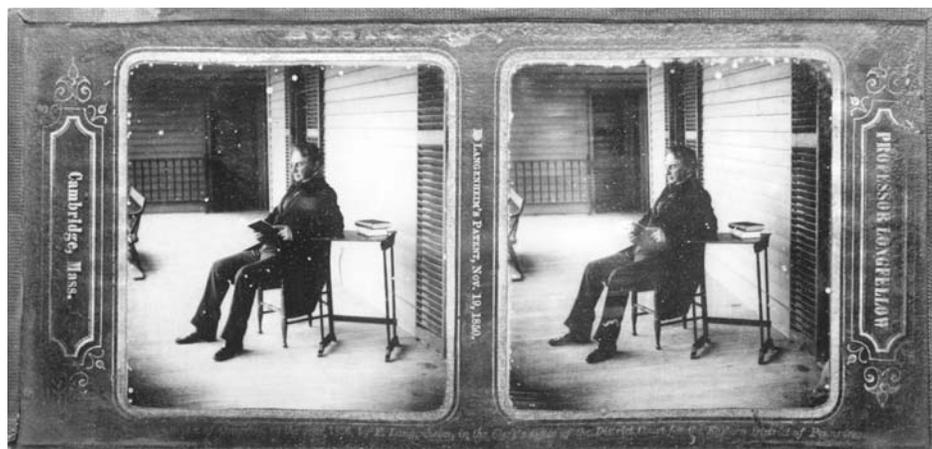
The Longfellow family had many pets, but “the last and greatest of all the dogs was Trap; Trap the Scotch Terrier, Trap the polite, the elegant, sometimes on account of his deportment called Turneydrop, sometimes Louis the Fourteenth” wrote Longfellow.

When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow turned 70, on February 27, 1877, the entire nation celebrated and poetry was in the air and every schoolroom. Now his 200th birthday is upon us, and Maine Historical, many Maine arts organizations, the Longfellow National Historic Site and friends in Cambridge, and fans across the country are about to launch a yearlong celebration of the boy from Maine who became America’s most beloved poet.

At MHS, the celebration will kick off on February 16th with the opening of a new exhibit — *Drawing Together: The Arts of the Longfellows*. Using never-before-seen works from many collections, the exhibit will reveal not only the family’s passionate interest in painting and drawing but the way creativity and imagination bound the generations together. [Read more on pg. 3] MHS will host its Annual Longfellow Birthday Party on Saturday, February 24, and then present a series of Spring lectures and programs designed to complement the exhibit and celebrate Henry’s life and career.

MHS will also issue an open invitation to poets, writers, public figures, students, and the general public to create their own works in response to Longfellow. Many of these will be posted on our Longfellow website ([www.hwlongfellow.org](http://www.hwlongfellow.org)) and some will be featured in a grand celebration/poetry festival/forum at MHS in October, which will culminate the year’s events.

Collaboration is another theme of 2007, and we are partnering with many organizations to help celebrate Longfellow 200. In Maine, Longfellow Days in Brunswick, Portland Stage Company, Portland Ballet, and the Stone Coast Writers program, among others, are all participating. In Cambridge, the Longfellow National Historic Site, the friends of the Longfellow House, the Houghton Library, and many other organizations have a full calendar of events planned (see their site [www.longfellow200.org](http://www.longfellow200.org).) For a full database of Longfellow’s poems, information about his homes and family, and up-to-date news, please check [www.hwlongfellow.org](http://www.hwlongfellow.org).



Above Left: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his dog Trap, 1864-65, contributed by the Longfellow National Historic Site.

Above: This stereograph shows Professor Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, (1807-1882), at his summer home in Nahant, Massachusetts in 1850. Maine Historical Society collection.

## *From the Collections —* **Small Rug Tells A BIG STORY**

Each year, MHS receives many donations of objects that strengthen our museum collections and increase our ability to interpret the history of Maine. Collecting involves working closely with donors to gather documentation and record background information about each artifact, all of which is retained in the object files. This assembled material deepens our understanding and appreciation of each artifact and provides a starting place for interpreting Maine stories.

As an example, recently MHS was given a rug made in Center Lovell, Maine. The rug, about 2.5' x 4.5', was made as part of what was called “the Sabatos Rug industry” and dates to around 1902.

It was donated to MHS in memory of Mrs. Mavis Chubb Gallie and given by her children — Thomas Muir Gallie, Watson Chubb Gallie, and Rosalind Gallie Tufts. Around 1902 the rug was either purchased from or given by a Sabatos rug maker to the family, and remained in their cottage in Center Lovell until donated to MHS this past spring.

For a rug over 100 years old, it is in remarkable condition – with very little evidence of wear or fading. The rug was made from locally spun wool and was hooked and then knotted to a linen webbing or base. The yarn was colored using vegetable dyes, including an indigo blue, a light green and a red, and drawn into a pattern that is reminiscent of Native American Indian designs.

This rug has a number of associations that place it in a national context. A small supporting pamphlet, printed in 1902, describes the efforts of the painter Douglas Volk, his wife Marion, and their son Wendell to “revive a few of the old industries carried on in the farm houses fifty years ago.” The Volks lived most the time in New York City but summered in a cottage in Center Lovell. Their efforts to establish a traditional-arts community in rural Maine are an expression of their concerns about the nature of modern life and the loss of community, concerns that are at the basis of what has come to be known as the Arts and Crafts movement.

This rug is a recent addition to the collection and has already started a process for further study.

## Celebrating in a Changing World: *A Longfellow Family Christmas* *circa 1850*



*The day after Christmas, December 26, 1895. This photograph comes from the albums of the Hicks family.*

### **PUBLIC TOURS**

**FROM 12:00 TO 5:00 EVERY DAY  
 (LAST TOUR LEAVES AT 4:00).**

**\$7 ADULTS, \$6 SENIORS/STUDENTS,  
 \$3 CHILDREN 5-17, MEMBERS FREE**

**GROUP TOURS AVAILABLE**

Tour the Wadsworth-Longfellow House this December and enjoy the holiday season as it was celebrated in the 1850s. The house will be decorated and open for tours daily from Friday, December 1st through Saturday, December 30th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm.

The 1850s were a time of great change in the United States, and Maine was right in the thick of it. In 1851, the temperance movement scored a victory with the “Maine Law”, which prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcohol in the state. The following year, Brunswick resident Harriet Beecher Stowe rallied abolitionists with the publication of Uncle Tom’s Cabin. At the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, Anne Longfellow Pierce and her aunt, Lucia Wadsworth took a break from their civic involvement to celebrate the holiday with family. Learn more about these fascinating women and experience an authentic 19th century Christmas on a special holiday tour of the house.

Following the tour, guests are invited to enjoy Children’s Activities and the annual Holiday Book Fair next door at the Maine Historical Society.

# FOUR GENERATIONS OF CREATIVITY

## *Drawing Together: The Arts of the Longfellows*

Tuesday, February 27, 2007, marks the two-hundredth anniversary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's birth. As a tribute to the poet, a new exhibition at Maine Historical Society will explore the lives of Longfellow and his family through the art they created. *Drawing Together*, organized by museum curator John Mayer and guest curator Laura Fecych Sprague, features works from the collections of Maine Historical Society, the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge, the Houghton Library at Harvard University, and others. Opening Friday, February 16, it will run through June 3, 2007.

The poet Henry has long garnered world attention, but many other Longfellows were extremely accomplished in their respective fields, from the cartography of Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Henry's brother, to the architectural history scholarship of William Pitt Preble Longfellow, Henry's nephew. Based on thousands of sketches, drawings, watercolors, and doodlings, *Drawing Together* explores the family's deep commitment to art of all types. A skilled artist himself, the poet was especially fond of drawing to teach, encourage, or entertain his children. The Longfellows' strong inter-generational efforts are supported by dozens of drawings composed by parent and child together. Drawing was vital to the lives of Henry's son, Ernest, a professional artist, and the poet's niece, Portlander Mary King Longfellow, an accomplished watercolorist.

The exhibit will feature a large number of little-known works, ranging from drawings of Tripoli made in 1804 by Henry Wadsworth, the poet's namesake, to sketches made by Henry and his brother Alexander for and with their children. The Longfellows, keen observers of the world around them, created compelling, and often very humorous, works with the rudimentary pencil and pen and ink. The objects in this exhibition will reveal not only how drawing, painting and other artistic pursuits were central to the Longfellows' daily lives but also how they reflect the rise of educational training in nineteenth-century America.



*Left: Bathing Cove, Castine, August 24, 1878, a pencil sketch on colored paper by Mary King Longfellow (1852-1945) from the MHS collections. Painting, drawings and other forms of art made by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and many other family members will be featured in this exhibition.*

*Below: Mary King Longfellow, the poet's niece, grew up on South Street in Portland, trained at the Museum School in Boston, and became a skilled and widely-recognized watercolor artist during the nineteenth-century.*



*A photograph of Mary King Longfellow painting in her studio in Craigie House, Cambridge, MA — courtesy of the Longfellow National Historic Site.*



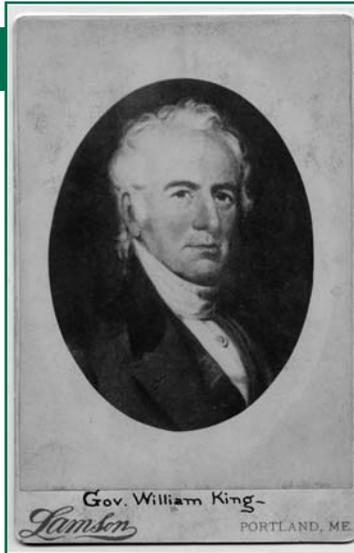
## HISTORY ON A TIMELINE

A new feature of Maine Memory Network is a Timeline of Selected Events in Maine History.

Maine Memory Network developed its timeline in response to users of Maine Memory Network and visitors to the Maine Historical Society website who wanted quick answers to questions such as “*When did Maine become a state?*” or “*What happened in Maine during the American Revolution?*”

In addition, the timeline can help visitors put the items from MMN into a broader context. “*What was going on in 1870 when this photo of my great-grandparents was taken?*”

The timeline is intended to cover selected events in a variety of areas: settlement, politics and government, religion, education, labor and industry, and the arts and culture. It does not cover all events or people, but should be useful to students of all ages and the general public in understanding the chronology and breadth of the state’s history. It can be found under the “Exhibits” section of MMN (on the Homepage or inside pages in the Exhibits area).



## A Timeline Sampler: 1820

- Maine enters Union as 23rd state on March 15 as a result of the Missouri Compromise that balanced slave and free states. The state’s constitution had been adopted a year earlier
- Maine’s population is 300,000
- William King of Bath elected as first governor; state capital is at Portland

*Governor William King of Bath, (1768-1852) served as the first governor of the state of Maine.*

# The Great Portland Fire of September 1929



Three photographs donated to the Maine Historical Society recently by a member vividly picture the aftermath of one of Portland’s most spectacular waterfront fires, that of September 17, 1929. Sparks ignited oil floating on the harbor’s waters and the quickly spreading fire threatened the whole city of Portland. One of the photographs, likely taken the next day, shows lines of curious onlookers gathered on the “Million Dollar Bridge” connecting Portland to South Portland. Another shows Portland Terminal Number One still ablaze with heavy black smoke bellowing from the ruins. An even more dramatic photograph shows firemen working on a heavily damaged collier.

The headlines of the Press-Herald demonstrated the extent of the blaze:

- **\$400,000 Fire Sweeps Portland Terminal Pier;**
- **Unloading Plant, 23,000 Tons of Sulphur Are Destroyed;**
- **11 Firemen, Two Civilians are Overcome By Fumes;**
- **Schooner and Freight Sheds Menaced — Cities Send Aid.**

Perhaps the most chilling headline was **Three Cars of Dynamite Shunted Out.** The fire story stated that three freight cars, partly filled with dynamite, directly in the path of the flames, were moved out of danger about two minutes before the blaze swept the spot. One can speculate what could have happened if the fire engulfed the freight cars. Photographs accompanying the newspaper account show the black smoke carried well into the heart of the city. The fire also torched the roofs of several nearby houses whose owners and tenants worked furiously to wet them down. A related story reported that the crew of the *Plymouth* threatened mutiny when the fire broke out on the schooner and panicked members of the crew who, fearing for their lives, attempted to launch boats against the orders of their officers. Four jumped into the water and were later rescued by fishing boats.



# MAINE GRANITE INDUSTRY

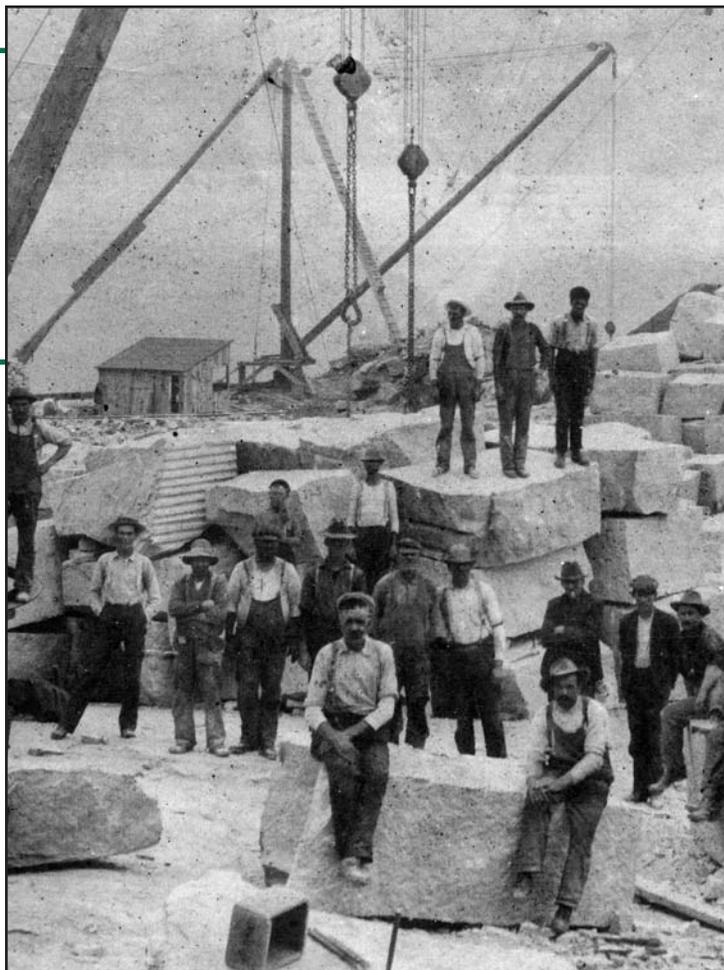
*Featured Contributing Partner of  
Maine Memory Network*

The Maine Granite Industry Historical Society in the town of Mount Desert is committed to providing education about the quarrying industry. The society is open year round and has granite cutting demonstrations several times daily during the warmer months. At the museum are photographs, stone cutting tools and machinery, documents related to local granite companies, and granite specimens from Maine quarries.

Students at nearby Mt. Desert Island High School created digital images from the collection and wrote record descriptions for display on Maine Memory Network. Twenty-six images are online; check them out at [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net).

The Society is located at 62 Beach Hill Crossroad, Mount Desert, ME 04660, 207-244-0175.

*Arthur McMullen Granite Quarry Company operation showing  
Scottish, Swedish and Italian immigrant quarry workers at Hall Quarry  
on Mount Desert Island, 1905.*



## GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES *go Online*

MHS will add valuable genealogical indexes and databases to the Members Only area of [www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org) during November. Beginning November 1 current members have remote access to the *Portland Voter Registration 1891-1902* through their online accounts. This database includes names of registrants, as well as the registration date, address, occupation and many birth dates for over 18,700 individuals. The *Deering Naturalization Records 1873 – 1898* will follow online soon. Volunteers abstracted both databases from Collection 4 in the MHS Library. As additional resources for family history research become available online, we will announce them in the Members area of our website.

NOTE: As of October 31, 2006, the company ProQuest has, for business reasons, stopped remote, home-computer access to HeritageQuest Online and the Sanborn Digital Maps of Maine. This unhappy decision applies to all historical and genealogical society members around the country. We are working with the Maine State Library and other regional library centers in Maine to restore statewide service, but in the meantime please remember that HeritageQuest Online and the Sanborn Maps of Maine, as well as AncestryLibrary.com, are still available for use in our library, and our staff is there to help you — perhaps the best in the state when it comes to genealogical research. *Hope to see you soon!*

# MUSEUM SHOPPERS DAY

Saturday, December 9 from 10am-3pm

Your favorite shops all in one convenient location!

\*Free Parking\*  
\*Free Entry\*

Portland Harbor Museum Store  
Portland Head Light Museum Shop  
Maine Audubon's Nature Store  
Children's Museum of Maine Explore Store  
Maine Historical Society's Museum Store

\*Author signings  
& activities\*

Thomas Room Banquet Facility  
Broadway, South Portland  
(directly across from Captain Newick's)



## MHS and You...A Partnership in Giving

The work of collecting and preserving Maine's cultural history is important not just for ourselves, but for those who come after us. There are many ways to support MHS to meet your current and future financial needs.

### *If you are looking for...*

- guaranteed income for life for you and/or your spouse
- a tax deduction this year, retirement income for future years
- increased income from low-yielding, highly appreciated securities
- the feeling that comes from being able to make a significant charitable contribution

### *...a charitable gift annuity can benefit you and the Maine Historical Society*

#### Current rates of return for a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity at MHS

DONOR'S AGE	RATE	ANNUAL INCOME	INCOME TAX DEDUCTION
65	6%	\$600	\$4,041
75	7.1%	\$710	\$4,750
85	9.5%	\$950	\$5,440

For a confidential illustration and a specific rate based on your date of birth, contact our planned giving staff at (207) 774-1822, ext. 231 or e-mail [bvance@mainehistory.org](mailto:bvance@mainehistory.org).

## Interested in Volunteering from Home?



Maine Historical Society would like to make more of our records available online. The library needs volunteers to help transcribe records. This can be done over the Internet if you have a computer and an Internet connection. If you would like to volunteer for MHS from your home, please contact Kathy Amoroso, Director of Digital Projects at [kamoroso@mainehistory.org](mailto:kamoroso@mainehistory.org). Requirements: computer with Microsoft Excel program and Acrobat Reader, email capability.

### • CORRECTION •

In the last issue of our newsletter a photograph caption mistakenly identified Allie Kurlanski as the granddaughter of MHS supporter Dot Lachance, both shown in this picture. Ms. Kurlanski is the granddaughter of Virginia Moore, a close friend of Dot's.



# SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS

## Something Old, Something New

Collection 21, *The Thomas Gilbert Thornton Papers, 1798-1824*, at the Maine Historical Society incorporates the only known copy of the 1820 United States Federal Population Census for Houlton Plantation and Madawaska, Maine, in modern day Aroostook County. At the time of the census, this area was part of Washington and Penobscot counties. The schedule provides a list of names from the region. The Houlton Plantation portion of the census is labeled as such directly on the document, while the Madawaska portion has been compared to the Rev. Charles W. Collins' 1902 publication, *The Acadians of Madawaska, ME*, in which a partial listing of the census is published.

Rev. Collins' publication of this material is the only known duplication. The current federal reproductions of the 1820 US Census for Maine, on microfilm or electronic, are not known to include the individuals listed on the item from Collection 21. Efforts have been made to locate the named individuals by using electronic formats of the 1820 census, and research thus far has deemed Maine Historical Society's manuscript as the only existing copy, in state or federal hands.

It has not yet been determined if Rev. Collins conducted research using the item while it was part of the collections of Maine Historical or while in the possession of the previous owner. Accession records at MHS reflect Collection 21, in its entirety, came to Maine Historical Society prior to 1923, but without provenance.

The names which appear on the census have been transcribed and are available with the Coll. 21 finding aid in the library reading room. For those individuals researching Aroostook County, the addition of this schedule provides wonderful insight to an often under documented region of Maine. While contemporary efforts to research the region increase, the 1820 census provides much needed surnames and statistics which only a census can provide.

Please be aware that while the original item is available for research, it is in fragile condition and special restrictions will apply.



*Roy House — Maison Roi, 1790; Constructed with hand hewn logs, this house comes from "les concession des Boniface" in Hamlin Plantation. Contributed by L'Heritage Vivant Living Heritage, Van Buren.*



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**WINTER HOURS**  
*Maine Historical Society*

**MHS Research Library ext. 209**  
Tues-Sat 10-4:00  
Closed Holiday Weekends

**Wadsworth-Longfellow House**  
**December Hours:**  
Mon-Sun 12-5:00  
Closed 2:00 Dec. 24  
and all day Dec. 25, 31  
Closed January through April

**Museum, ext. 208**  
**December Hours:**  
Mon-Sat 10-5:00, Sun 12-5:00  
Closed 2:00 Dec. 24, and all day Dec. 25, 31  
**Closed for January**  
**Opens Feb. 16:** Mon-Sat 10-5:00

**Museum Shop ext. 208**  
**December Hours:**  
Mon-Sat 10-5:00, Sun 12-5:00  
Closed 2:00 Dec. 24, and all day Dec. 25, 31  
**After January 1:** Mon-Sat 10-5:00

**MHS Administrative Offices**  
Mon-Fri 9-5:00  
**Tel:** (207) 774-1822 • **Fax:** (207) 775-4301  
**E-mail:** sarchbald@mainehistory.org

**Mailing Address:**  
Maine Historical Society  
489 Congress St.  
Portland, ME 04101

**Websites:**  
[www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org)  
[www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net)  
[www.vintagemaineimages.com](http://www.vintagemaineimages.com)

**HISTORIC IMAGES MAKE THE PERFECT**  
*Holiday Gift*



*Image #20468 from the MHS collection: Girls from the Portland YWCA swim class in 1928 are, from left, Helene Harper, Marion Smith, Loraine Flaberty, Evelyn Kaplan, Barbara Billington, Thelma Hayes, Shirley Lowell, Rhoma Devine, Katharine Allen, Mildred Ring, Jane Whitney, Eleanor Packman, Thelma Martin, Jeanelle Skillings, and Carol Harper.*

- Visit [VintageMaineImages.com](http://VintageMaineImages.com), a project of MHS
- Purchase prints online or by calling Image Services, 774-1822, ext. 217

~ 20% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS IN DECEMBER ~

The Maine Historical Society, founded in 1822, is a charitable, educational, non-profit corporation which devotes its resources to the discovery, identification, collection, preservation, and interpretation of materials which document the history of Maine and its people.

Maine Historical Society  
489 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine 04101-3498



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