

(14) Century Old Ox Cart Brings Maine Spuds to President

Winter
2008-2009



(c) International News Photos, Inc.

Hereford oxen, driven by Len Hawkes, Cumberland Center, Me., right, brought oxcart load of Maine potatoes to President Hoover at Capital. Shown, left to right, Senator Hale, Maine; Commr. Washburn, of Me. Agriculture, President Hoover and Hawkes.

Maine Ox Cart Drives In New York Traffic

Potato Caravan Goes Through Times Square En Route To Hoover

New York, Nov. 16.—(AP)—Lenville Hawkes, of Cumberland Center, Me., drove a pair of prize Hereford oxen up Broadway today with a load of potatoes for the Hoovers.

Times Square, with a restaurant every few doors on both sides of the street, had seen potatoes before but never any that were being delivered to the President and his wife.

These were Maine potatoes, 40 bushels of 'em, in a cart guarded by two lines of mounted police. And Lenville Hawkes, 'Len' to the home folks, is a champion ox-driver.

The potato caravan moved from Forty-Second to Fifty-First Street through the maze of midday motor traffic without denting a fender, almost a record for driving anything in Times Square.

At the journey's end the oxen were loaded into a big van and driven to Philadelphia. The potatoes went also. After Broad and Market Streets have had a look at them it will be Baltimore's turn.

Ox Cart Load Of Spuds Reaches Philadelphia

Maine Growers' Gift To President Will Be Presented On Monday

1931.

Philadelphia, Nov. 18.—(AP)—"Gee" and "Haw" mingling with the rattle of street cars and honk of automobiles on Market Street today, told the progress of Lenville Hawkes and his ox cart from Cumberland Center, Me., to deliver 40 bushels of potatoes to President Hoover in Washington.

Hawkes guided the Herefords through the city as though he had been born there.

The potatoes are a gift from the Maine Potato Association. They will be presented Monday by Commr. Washburn of the Maine Department of Agriculture.

Len, Susan, and Bucks. 1934.



AGREEABLE NEWS: TWENTY YEARS OF COLLECTIONS PROGRESS

Also in this issue: MHS THANKS TO DONORS

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INCORPORATED 1822

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MAINE MEMORY NETWORK

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Generosity in Times of Trouble

Let's start with the cover of this issue. Why drive an ox cart of potatoes to Washington D.C. in 1931? It was a stunt, of course, but Mr. Hawkes was making a point. In the midst of a great depression, when cities, industries, and sophisticated financial institutions are failing left and right, the rural world continues to do its dependable work, feeding the nation. In times of trouble, in other words, you must depend on the generosity and values of the heartland. (Call it the "potato standard.") This sentiment, whether a political cliché or not, resonated throughout the 1930s, and it helped give Maine (among other American heartlands) a new regional pride.

Today our troubles seem every bit as serious as the 1930s, but no one is making the same argument. We live in a different world, except perhaps for one point. Generosity, especially in Maine, is still alive in a time of trouble. For evidence of this I present Exhibit A, our donor list for the fiscal year 2007-2008 (starting on p. 11). Hundreds and hundreds of people—please take a moment to scan the names— have made generous donations throughout the year to support the ongoing work of MHS (not to mention donors to our ongoing capital campaign—hundreds more—who will receive separate recognition next year when the campaign concludes). Why do they give in the face of financial difficulty and social turmoil? It must be that they believe in our work, believe that the preservation of history and the building of strong communities go hand in hand. Call it an enduring value, or better yet, the "potato standard": recession proof, depression proof, and good when baked or boiled.

Richard D'Abate
— Executive Director



ON THE COVER:

A page from the Hawkes scrapbook, 1931. In 1931, Lenville Hawkes of Falmouth drove a team of oxen through New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. where he delivered a cart of Maine potatoes to President Herbert Hoover. His widow Audrey Morrill Hawkes recently donated a scrapbook and several objects associated with his expedition.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 3: AGREEABLE NEWS: TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS AT MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Page 4: THE LIBRARY: MOVING BACK IN MAINE COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT - What's new?

Page 5: MHS LIBRARY MAINE HISTORY JOURNAL ONLINE

Page 6: PEOPLE AND EVENTS MHS Maps Maine History Teacher of the Year

Page 7: SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS Genealogy Conferences: A Great Deal

Page 8, 9: MAINE MEMORY NETWORK Maine and the Space Age

Page 10: SPOTLIGHT ON MMN CONTRIBUTING PARTNER- Portland Harbor Museum

Page 11-15: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - MHS Thanks Its Donors





Agreeable News — Twenty Years of Progress at Maine Historical Society



Tour group at WLH, 2007: The recent restoration of the WLH, the expanded exhibit schedule, and new types of programs effectively reach new audiences.

Cover, *Agreeable Situations*: *Agreeable Situations* was published in 1987 and remains a valuable catalog of Southern Maine collections.

In 1987, four collaborating institutions – the Brick Store Museum, Old York Historical Society, the York Institute (now Saco Museum), and Maine Historical Society – worked together and published *Agreeable Situations*, a ground-breaking catalog of the decorative arts in Southern Maine.

For Maine Historical Society, the project was a starting point for a twenty-year period of institutional development that continues today.

Over this period there has been an impressive -- even mind-boggling -- resume of achievements for the Society. The scope of these projects shows a progressive pattern of growth and accomplishment. Each has been guided by the leadership and creative energy of staff, trustees, and many others and with a thoughtful commitment to professional standards for museum and library practice.

Here is a list of the major accomplishments –

1989 – Completed *Historic Structures Report* of the Wadsworth Longfellow House –

Just as *Agreeable Situations* cataloged the collections – the HSR defined the history of the Longfellow House and established priorities for preservation. This document was a vital resource that guided work to preserve the structure, and inform the reinterpretation and furnishing plan for the house.

1994 – Purchased 489 Congress St. and Created the *Center for Maine History*.

Since 1907, MHS had operated in the Longfellow House and the Research Library. The acquisition of 489 Congress St. was a bold and challenging step. This building provided new space for the organization, and with it came the opportunity to

introduce an exhibit gallery, a program auditorium, a gift shop, staff offices, and collections storage. In many ways 489 formalized and made tangible the operations of a public museum.

1999 – Launched *Maine Memory Network*.

Cutting edge and clever, the MMN has been a vibrant and effective strategy to reach a statewide audience. It has proven to be a powerful tool that brings information and historical content to users, and gives partner organizations a way to share collections. Today there are nearly 180 contributing partners and hundreds of thousands of annual users.

2002 – Completed the Restoration of the 1785 Wadsworth Longfellow House.

Guided by the *Historic Structures Report* and supported through a capital campaign, this project involved a thorough refurbishing of interior rooms, conservation of collections, and a new interpretive approach to the House and the Longfellow story.

2007 – Began the Restoration and Expansion of the Research Library.

This major campaign will restore the historic library and provide a new wing that will provide much needed collection storage and staff spaces. The project is underway today. The restored building will re-open early in 2009, while funds continue to be raised to complete the campaign.

Of course there are many other accomplishments not on this list ranging from initiatives to provide electronic access to the collection to the introduction of new programs for school-age and adult audiences.

Every now and then it is interesting and useful to stop, take stock, and look at where we have come. Twenty years is not such a long period – yet the growth of the organization over this time has been significant. If the past twenty years are any indication, when 2028 arrives Maine Historical Society will be leading the way with new and creative ways to bring Maine history to our audiences.

John Mayer
— Museum Curator



Object Record

	Object #	2006.146
	Object Name	Model, Ship
	Other Name	Model of Battleship Georgia
	Description	Model of the Battleship "Georgia." Two masts, three smokestacks with black tops (made of paper?), and gun/cannon turrets at front, back, and sides. Some string rigging. Top painted yellow, sides white and red. Carved as if it were in the water with blue and white waves. "Georgia" written on stern. Black stencilled letters on bottom, perhaps a reused packing crate?
	Date	1904 circa
Image	0122006146.JPG	

PastPerfect Online: Over the past twenty years, inventory and cataloging projects have made both library and museum collections accessible on the world wide web. PastPerfect Online allows internet users to search the museum collections from the "Online Resources" section of the MHS website.

Maine Community Heritage Project — What's New?

MCHP Team Updates

Farmington: After a walking tour of downtown, the Farmington group identified several topics for exhibits: corn canning, 19th century musician Supply Belcher, inventors and early settlement among others.

Hampden: The Library and School began to delve into Hampden history by researching the stories of local homes. Their current focus is to help the Historical Society update equipment, thereby making their team – and their community - stronger.

Islesboro: A public brainstorm session (25 people!) brought to the fore themes of isolation, transportation, and their impact on the island. The Islesboro team will use these ideas in their exhibit planning along with resources from the Historical Society.

Lubec: Concentrating on maritime history, the Lubec group is creating exhibits on smuggling, fish processing, and shipping. Oral histories and other local resources will round out the existing exhibits from the McCurdy Smokehouse Museum.

New Portland: This group identified eight topics for exhibits, including ice cutting, the New Portland Fair, and the Wire Bridge. They used the New Portland Fair in September to promote the project. A brochure describes their plans and will help solicit stories and collections.

Presque Isle: This team is researching a range of topics including the potato harvest, military impact on the area, agriculture, and Micmac culture. An exciting partnership between the middle school and a University of Maine Presque Isle history class has developed.

Thomaston: This project plan includes oral histories about the Great Depression, exhibits on Henry Knox, shipbuilding, and the Civil War. It builds on the foundations of Thomaston history which may be familiar, while adding many little known aspects.

For more information about the team activities and to follow their progress, visit the MCHP blog at <http://mainechp.wordpress.com/>.

[This nationally recognized program, a partnership between MHS and the Maine State Library, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services, is currently working with eight communities throughout the state to explore local history and create websites as a means to share that history.]

Bath Students Kick it Off

The Bath Community Team held a daylong MCHP kickoff event for an eager group of 7th graders. Groups of four students each will study one downtown building, its architecture and business use, along with the people and events related to that structure. In the process of learning about local history and developing research and writing skills, they'll create exhibits for their MCHP website.

The students first brainstormed what they already knew about Bath and what they wanted to learn about their community. They also created their own maps, indicating places they believed to be important in the city. These introductory activities will serve as a beginning benchmark. The students will revisit their questions and assumptions throughout the year.



Historian Robin Haines leads Bath 7th graders on a walking tour of downtown Bath on October 1st.

On kickoff day the students:

- Completed a walking tour and scavenger hunt of the downtown;
- Were introduced to the MCHP and the Maine Memory Network;
- Learned about collections at the Bath Historical Society and how they can be used to investigate history.

The day was truly engaging and went off without a hitch – aside from the drizzle that plagued the walking tours. The students were great, asking questions and making associations from one session to the next. They were impressed to learn that they are part of the first eight towns in the country to be doing this and that they are the first to have access to the new Maine Memory Network tools to build web pages. But the kids were just as interested to learn that Maine's first governor was from Bath and quickly remembered "that monument near Domino's Pizza." Perhaps from now on they'll think of Domino's as being located next to the Governor King monument!



Moving Back to a New and Renewed Library

The expansion and renovation of the MSH Research Library—soon to be called the Brown Research Library—is proceeding on schedule. We anticipate “building delivery” in early January 2009, followed by a six week period to enable library staff and volunteers to move and re-shelve our great collections. This means a temporary suspension of all library services in the months of January and February. The new building will contain state-of-the-art collections storage on three levels with offices, a conference room, special projects room, and the Maine Memory Network. Most exciting: a staircase hall with elevator! The original building will have renovated and restored reading rooms, technical services processing areas, a photo studio, painting storage, and three new bathrooms. There will be climate control throughout. A tunnel under the Garden will eventually connect to the Museum building. The Longfellow Garden will be replanted in the spring according to the original plan and the wall will also be replaced.

Look for further announcements as moving days draw near. Plans are in motion for dedications and public celebrations in late spring.

Nick Noyes
- Head of Library Services

Library Campaign Goal: \$9M by Year End

— HELP US MEET THE KRESGE CHALLENGE!

As you can see from this page, the renovation and expansion of the MHS research library is nearing completion and plans are underway for moving back in the first two months of the new year. It’s a very exciting time; librarians are already imagining what it will be like to ride that strange new luxury, an elevator. Nonetheless there’s still some very important business to do, and it’s pressing. We must finish the campaign.

To date we have raised approximately \$8M in gifts and pledges from nearly two hundred individuals, corporations, and foundations. It is a very significant sum, but not yet where we need to be. The Kresge Foundation has issued a challenge and given us to the end of the year to make it: raise up to \$600,000 by December 31st, 2008, and Kresge will leverage those gifts with an additional \$400,000, bringing us to \$9M. Raise \$9.5M and we can eliminate the cost of long-term financing. The freedom to plan our future requires meeting our goals today. To do this we must have your help.

We encourage you to consider giving to the MHS Library Campaign as you make your year-end plans for 2008. Yes, these are not easy times, but as our director, Richard D’Abate, notes in this issue, giving in troubled times has always been part of the Maine way. Please be as generous as possible. Maine history is a part of us! For more information about the campaign, pledge cards, or credit card transactions, please call Leslie Hahn, 207-774-1822, or simply send your check directly to MHS Library Campaign, 489 Congress St. Portland ME 04101. Thank you!



A CHAIR IN HISTORY: \$500

There are many naming opportunities left for generous donors to the campaign. Consider taking (or giving) a chair! The Maine furniture designer, Huston and Co., is creating a new chair especially for Maine Historical Society. Handsome in rich oak and leather, there will be 43 new chairs in the main reading room. A named chair can memorialize a friend, a loved one, or yourself. Have a seat at history’s table! For this and other opportunities, call the development office at 207-774-1822.

MHS Maps of Great Interest to Canadians



North shore of Lake Huron showing Bilberry and Hill Islands, by David and Samuel Thompson, ca. 1819.

Library staff member Frances Pollitt traveled to Quebec City for the International Federation of Library Associations World Library and Information Congress to present a paper on part of the Thomas Barclay collection (Coll. 26) related to the important Canadian mapmaker, David Thompson. The

paper is entitled, "Mapping the international boundary between British Canada and the United States: the letters and maps of David Thompson, 1817-1826" and may be read online at the IFLA Annual Conference website: <http://www.ifla.org> or at the MHS Research Library.



Fran Pollitt, MHS Map Collection Cataloger, traveled to Quebec City for map presentation

David Thompson (1770-1857) was the British surveyor for the boundary along the Great Lakes westward to Lake of the Woods. The Society holds one hundred or so very rare letters by Thompson to Anthony Barclay (1792-1877), the British Commissioner for the boundary work. Also in the collection are beautiful manuscripts and printed maps drawn by David Thompson and his son, Samuel, presented to the Boundary Commissioners.

Maine History Teacher of the Year

Once again, Maine Historical Society teamed up with the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History and Preserve America to award the Maine History Teacher of the Year. Pictured is this year's award recipient, **Dianna Dionne-Morang** from Gardiner Area Middle School, along with State Senator Earle McCormick and State Representative Stephen Hanley. In addition to the plaque, collection of books for the school library, and \$1000 that Ms. Dionne-Morang received from Gilder Lehrman, her achievements were noted in a legislative certificate presented by Mr. McCormick and Mr. Hanley.



Important New Benefit for MHS Members

- ESSENTIAL RESEARCH TOOL GOES ONLINE

Back issues of the MHS journal, *Maine History*, are now available to members through the MHS website, www.mainehistory.org. The journals, Volumes 9-42, are fully text-searchable and available for download – more than 8000 pages! One can also download the separate index from the site and go to the specific page in question. Click on the Online Resources section of www.mainehistory.org and login with your username and password (or create an account if you don't have one).

Maine History is the only periodical devoted to scholarship on Maine history. It is published three times a year by the Maine Historical Society in cooperation with the Department of History at the University of Maine. This database contains fully searchable pages from Volumes 9 through 42. The name of the journal has changed over the years:

Volume 9 (1969) - Volume 12 (1973):
Maine Historical Society Newsletter;
Volume 13 (1973) - Volume 33 (1994):
Maine Historical Society Quarterly;

Volume 34 (1994) - Volume 42 (2006): *Maine History*.
Volume 43 and subsequent issues will be available as individual PDF files to members on the MHS website.

Genealogy Conferences:

A GREAT DEAL

Want to polish research skills and make connections with other genealogists? One great way is to attend a genealogy conference. Beginners often mistakenly think that conferences will be too advanced for them, but many lectures and workshops at these 1-4 day gatherings are geared toward them. Everyone who doesn't have experience with a particular kind of record or geographic area is a beginner. The more advanced genealogists will find sessions about new technologies and methodologies.

There are three main reasons to attend genealogy conferences:

The first is to learn – learn how to do research with certain record types, learn how to use genealogy software, and learn about the historic times when your ancestors lived.

The second is to network. It's a great way to meet other people who are researching their family's history. Close friends and family are not always interested in our research, but at conferences discoveries and excitement can be shared with enthusiastic people. Conferences are also a great way to meet the professionals, speakers, and authors of books who are always open to questions and give great advice.

The third reason to attend a conference is the exhibitions! Regional and national conferences have displays from book sellers, software and website companies, publishers, and genealogical and historical societies (Ancestry.com, The Master Genealogist, FamilySearch.org, Proquest, Quintin Publications, Genealogical Publishing Co., National Genealogical Society, Family Tree Magazine, New England Historic Genealogical Society, to name a few). There's an open invitation to chat with the professionals, in addition to getting great discounts.

Conferences are held year-round, regionally and nationally, so it's easy to find one nearby. For a list of genealogy conferences in New England, check www.mainehistory.org/genevents.

Kathy Amoroso
- Director of Digital Projects

22-26 April 2009
Manchester,
New Hampshire



New England Regional
Genealogical Conference
www.nerge.org



Main Street, Fairfield, ME circa 1920s. Businesses seen include the Star Theater, an early moving picture theater, as well as a bakery, pool hall, pharmacy, and electrical appliance store. The Kennebec River supplied Fairfield with water power for such industries as textiles, furniture, lumber, and paper. Courtesy of the Penobscot Marine Museum

Upcoming Exhibit...

MAIN STREET, MAINE:

Downtown Views from the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company Feb 12-May 31, 2009

This exhibit features remarkable scenes of life along Main Street in communities across Maine between 1910 and 1940. The images—which were made by employees of the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company, a producer of postcards—capture Maine in the midst of change: automobiles arriving in quiet rural outposts, horses disappearing from bustling small towns, and communities, as always, on the move. This exhibit was organized by the Penobscot Marine Museum.



*Enjoy
Christmas
with the
Longfellows*

A LONGFELLOW FAMILY CHRISTMAS, CIRCA 1850

Wadsworth-Longfellow House

House Tours

Children's Activities & Book Fair

December 1-December 30

12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. (Last tour leaves at 4 p.m.)

Tour the Longfellow House at Maine Historical Society this December and experience a traditional Christmas of the 1850s. The house will be decorated and open for tours daily from Monday, December 1 through Tuesday, December 30, 2008.

With poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Cambridge and his sister Anne Longfellow Pierce in Portland, family letters convey the yuletide celebrations of the mid-19th century. Warm quilts adorn the beds, children's games and other toys entertain, evergreens and ivy deck the halls, and a dinner of oysters, roast turkey and plum pudding awaits the Wadsworth Longfellow family and their friends this winter holiday.

Following the tour, guests are invited to enjoy Children's Activities and the annual Holiday Book and Gift Fair (opening Saturday, December 6) next door at the Maine Historical Society. Admission to the house includes entrance to the MHS Museum exhibit, 'Art of the People: Folk Art in Maine.'

Maine and the Space Age

A 16-story inflatable fabric bubble that seemed out of place among the mountains, ponds, and pine trees of Andover in western Maine drew some 25,000 visitors a year in the 1960s.

The bubble, called the radome, housed a 340-ton, 7-story antenna – the first earth station or satellite communication station in the United States.

The antenna and its housing had to be so large because the Telstar satellite with which it communicated traveled on an elliptical orbit, which made tracking it challenging. The antenna had to be able to move in various directions with precision to catch the signal. Transmitting times were limited – about 20 minutes internationally in each two-plus hour orbit. Times improved with later satellites.

Andover became the home of the first U.S. earth station because of its proximity to Europe and the lack of interference from other microwave signals. When MCI bought the station from AT&T in 1987, Robert Ohneiser, MCI senior manager of strategic marketing, said, “Andover, Maine, in terms of frequency interference, is the quietest place on the face of the earth, and that’s why it was the first place for an earth station complex.”

Andover came to national prominence on July 11, 1962. On July 10, the first privately owned satellite, Telstar I, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida. At 6:29 p.m. on July 11, the antenna in Andover picked up and sent signals to Telstar, broadcasting the voice of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and sending an image of the American flag in front of the Earth Station to similar stations in France and England.

The era of satellite communications, including live international television, had begun with Maine at the forefront of the revolution.

It was such a significant event that all Maine telephone directories in 1962 featured an artist’s sketch of the Earth Station for Communicating by Satellite on the cover. In 1968, Bethel’s new high school was named “Telstar” to honor the role of the area in the space age.



Comsat radome receiver station, Andover, 1980



Horn antenna for receiving Telstar signals, Andover, 1962

The promise of satellite communications was immense, emphasized by the cost of the project: Telstar and the satellite ground stations cost AT&T more than \$30 million, plus \$3 million to launch the satellite. There was talk of limited live transmissions from the 1964 summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. Satellites might make news reporting more timely as magnetic tape would not have to be recorded at a breaking news event then flown overseas for rebroadcast.

All of that and more happened with communications satellites.

Telstar, people noted on the 40th anniversary of the first satellite transmission, had a greater effect on people’s lives than the manned space program. The radome and horn antenna were dismantled in 1985, and replaced with updated – and smaller – equipment. Maine’s prominence in the era of satellite communications was all but forgotten.

Candace Kanen

— *Maine Memory Network Curator*



Earth Station for Communicating by Satellites, Andover, 1962



Aerial view of Earth Station, Andover, 1962

All images contributed by
Maine Historical Society

SPOTLIGHT ON MAINE MEMORY NETWORK

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER

Portland Harbor Museum

— A Historical Mystery

Earle and Sylvia Angell of South Portland donated more than 500 glass negatives to the Portland Harbor Museum in 1992. Earle, an amateur historian, reportedly recovered some of the negatives from the trash.

Who took the photographs? Why were they in the trash? Where were some of them taken? The museum has worked to solve these mysteries – but has not arrived at a definitive answer.

Different theories have been advanced regarding the identity of the photographer or photographers. An examination of the various images and the styles of photography within the collection suggests that more than one photographer captured the images. Even with the mystery intact about the origins of the photos, they are valuable because they provide a visual record of life in and around Portland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Many relate to the maritime culture of Portland – but many other subjects are covered from architecture to domestic life. The photographs are documentary in nature, but are compositionally and aesthetically striking as well.

The glass plate negatives date from the 1870s to the 1910s, with the majority of the photos taken between 1890 and 1915 in Portland, South Portland, and Cape Elizabeth.



Willard Express, South Portland, ca. 1910. Charles Willard behind the wheel of a Model T Ford on Deake Street in South Portland. The car is loaded with Christmas presents. A sign on the side identifies it as the “Willard Express.”



Fort Preble, South Portland, 1901. A view of the southernmost mouth of Portland Harbor, looking toward the tents and buildings of Fort Preble in the background. The fort, built in 1808, served as a guard to the main channel of the inner harbor. In the foreground is the current location of Southern Maine Community College, where the Portland Harbor Museum also is located.



The Moulton Boys, Cushing’s Point, ca. 1900. Albert, Bryant and Manning Moulton at Cushing’s Point near what is now Bug Light Park in South Portland, with their dog and horse-drawn cart. All three boys became doctors. Bryant became a psychiatrist and Albert and Manning ophthalmologists.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER PROFILE: PORTLAND HARBOR MUSEUM

www.portlandharbormuseum.org

MISSION: Portland Harbor Museum educates both young and old about the local and global significance of Portland harbor in history and culture. The museum staff engages young people by offering free admission, classroom visits, teacher lesson plans, and museum tours. The museum’s lectures, excursions, oral history programs, and annually changing exhibits instill knowledge and civic pride in Mainers and visitors.

COLLECTIONS: The museum possesses an extensive collection of artifacts, photographs, paintings, models, and documents relating to the maritime culture of Casco Bay and Portland harbor. Liberty ship materials – from photographs to oral histories, worker paraphernalia to memorabilia – are plentiful. The museum owns timbers, ship parts, and artifacts from the clipper ship Snow Squall. The museum’s small collection of paintings includes two large works that originally hung in the Fort Williams chapel. The museum also owns a growing collection of artifacts relating to the steamer Portland.

EXHIBITIONS: The museum’s current exhibit, *Discover Portland Harbor*, is on display at 510 Congress Street in Portland. In addition, an exhibition of then-and-now photographs, displayed at Ocean Gateway, features images from The Angell Collection.

EXHIBIT HOURS:
510 Congress Street, Portland:
Monday through Saturday, 11:00 – 4:00.

CONTACT:
Mark R. Thompson, Executive Director
207.799.6337
Director@PortlandHarborMuseum.org

Maine Historical Society

MISSION

The Maine Historical Society preserves the heritage and history of Maine: the stories of Maine people, the traditions of Maine communities, and the record of Maine's place in a changing world. Because an understanding of the past is vital to a healthy and progressive society, we collect, care for, and exhibit historical treasures; facilitate research into family, local, state, and national history; provide education programs that make history meaningful, accessible, and enjoyable; and empower others to help preserve and interpret the history of our state.

Thanks to Donors 2007-2008

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their generous support over the past fiscal year in helping fulfill this mission. We are enormously grateful for each and every gift. Every dollar helps in the important work to collect, preserve, and share Maine's cultural heritage. Individual giving levels represent cumulative unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund, supporting membership contributions, and the annual gala for the period from 10/1/2007 – 9/30/2008. Please note that gifts to the Centennial Library Renovation and Expansion Campaign will be recognized in a separate document at the conclusion of the campaign.

The 1822 Society

Maine Historical Society is the third oldest state historical society in the United States, founded in 1822, just after Maine separated from Massachusetts. Its founders included the first governor of the state, the first chief justice, the president of Bowdoin College, the father of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and many other prominent citizens. Their sense of the importance of history was formed by the American Revolution and the struggle to create a new nation (still a fresh and momentous historical fact) and by the desire to identify Maine's special and particular role in the greater American story. Their decision to create MHS was affirmed by early gifts to the collections from figures like Aaron Burr, Daniel Webster, and Parker Cleveland, friends of Goethe, and intellectuals throughout Europe and America.

Among the many friends who have supported the Maine Historical Society this past year, we want to pay a special tribute to the members of The 1822 Society: the circle of donors today whose extraordinarily generous unrestricted gifts provide the bedrock of MHS's ability to preserve history, engage minds, and connect Maine.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(Gifts of \$5,000 or more)

Diana B. Bean
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Margot P. Close
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*Minnesotan's John and Alice
 Dunn on a canoe camping
 expedition to Moosehead Lake,
 ca 1904. From the Collections
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*In recognition of those individuals
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Tues-Sat 10-4
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Dec. 25, 26.
Closed Jan & Feb

Longfellow House

December Hours: Mon-Sun 12-5
(Last tour at 4:00)
Closed 2:00 Dec. 24,
All Day Dec. 25, 31
Closed January through April

Museum

December Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5
Sun 12-5:00
Closed 2:00 Dec. 24,
All Day Dec. 25, 31
Exhibit closes Dec. 30

Museum Shop

December Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5
Sun 12-5:00
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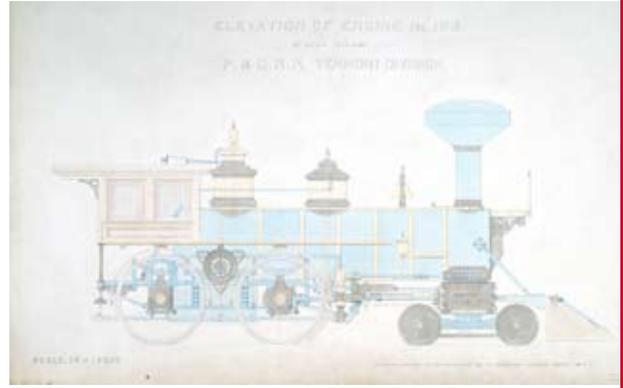
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Tel: (207) 774-1822
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