MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT 山田

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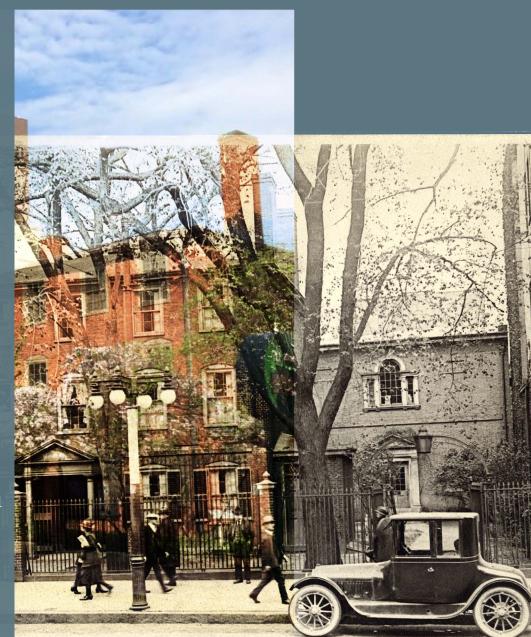
### MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

489 Congress Street | Portland, Maine 04101

207.774.1822 info@mainehistory.org

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Front cover: Wadsworth-Longfellow House campus, 1908, *MMN #11711*.



A contemporary view of Maine Historical Society headquarters on Congress Street in Portland overlayed upon a 1920 photograph.

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## MHS Celebrates 200

This year MHS commemorates a remarkable achievement that very few entities get to experience—the 200th birthday of a living, breathing, thriving organization. MHS has made it to this point through the vision, hard work, stewardship, and generosity of generation after generation of committed people people like you. We have made it to this point because MHS has managed to evolve, adapt, and look ahead. And I am sure that we have had plenty of good luck along the way.

As part of this special year, we're pleased to share an update on our progress and impact in the 2022 fiscal year, including activity from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

MHS navigated the constant changes of a post-pandemic world in 2021-22, and engaged in meaningful work that both celebrated MHS' past and set the stage for our future.

Launching in February, our 200th anniversary has featured exhibits, public programs, and communications focused on MHS' history, evolution, and unique role in our state's development and cultural landscape. Our in-person *Northern Threads: Two Centuries of Dress* exhibition initiative and Maine History Maker fundraising event surpassed attendance records and helped MHS reach new audiences. Staff continued work to preserve and share Maine's story through



Steve Bromage, Executive Director

collections care and digitization initiatives and celebrated another organizational accomplishment: the 20th anniversary of Maine's statewide digital history platform, Maine Memory Network.

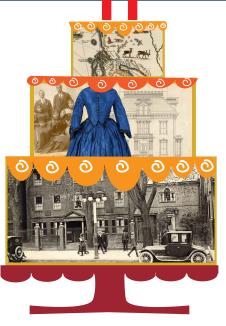
At the same time, MHS Board and staff worked diligently to lay the groundwork for MHS' Third Century. In June, the Board of Trustees adopted a new 2022-2027 Business Plan designed to transform MHS from a small yet mighty organization that consistently fights above its weight class, to one that has the



Eileen Skinner, Board Chair

capacity, resources, and presence to be a source of connection, inspiration, and perspective to all people who care about Maine.

As part of this multi-year effort, MHS began work with a national consultant to develop an Audience Engagement Plan that will guide our efforts; rebrand MHS to reflect the innovative, contemporary Maine organization we have become; and develop a new institutional website which will launch in early winter. We'll be sharing much more in the coming months.



Our members and donors helped MHS achieve another year of increased fundraising performance and make this momentum possible. We're inspired by their engagement, values, and generosity, and look forward to working together to deepen our impact in the years to come.

— Steve Bromage and Eileen Skinner



an Civil Warter clothing

"I loved the care and thought put into this exhibit. The clothing on display was interesting and beautiful. It was a delight to spend time at MHS and learn about the historical context of the clothing."– Visitor, May 2022

## Exhibitions

2021-22 was a banner year for MHS exhibitions, with the re-introduction of active in-person visitation of our Wadsworth-Longfellow House and Museum Galleries and corresponding online offerings.

#### Begin Again: reckoning with intolerance in Maine

Last year's signature exhibition invited community reflection and dialogue on issues of historical inequity and racism in Maine. The exhibit was later awarded an American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Award of Excellence, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.

#### Northern Threads: Two Centuries of Dress at Maine Historical Society

Our current, two-part exhibition opened in March 2022 and features never-before-seen historic clothing from MHS' 3,000-piece collection. Themed vignettes from Part One (1780-1889) examined Maine's role as a bustling seaport and how people accessed fashion, with Part Two (1890-1980) continuing conversations about clothing's impact on the environment, community, and cultural norms.

## The Advent of Green Acre, A Bahá'í Center of Learning

Influenced by Abdu'l-Bahá, Sarah Jane Farmer established the Green Acre conferences in Eliot, Maine in 1894. The exhibition explored concepts of world peace, religious freedom, health, and social justice.

#### Passing the Time: Artwork by World War II German Prisoners of War in Aroostook County

A fascinating look at artwork created by German POWs at Camp Houlton in the 1940s from the collections of the Aroostook County Historical & Art Museum.

#### Sagadahoc County through the Eastern Eye: Selections from the Penobscot Marine Museum

An exhibit of early 20th century postcard photographs by the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company of Belfast, Maine from the collections of Penobscot Marine Museum.

#### Maine Historical Society in Pictures: Exploring our First 200 years

A unique complication of images of MHS' five historic locations, along with leaders who steered our organization though pivotal times.

## Representing every particular: John Martin's 19th century fashion illustrations

Bangor shopkeeper John Martin's journal illustrations and comments were paired with images of clothing from MHS' collections, to reflect how art imitates life.



## THE ADVENT OF GREEN ACRE





"A knowledge of history is not just helpful, but essential to manage the complicated social and economic relationships among human beings and between the nations those human beings govern."-Harold Pachios, award acceptance remarks

Stan (1)

## Maine History Maker

n May, MHS honored civic leaders Severin Beliveau and Harold Pachios at our annual Maine History Maker celebration at the University of Southern Maine. The event raised \$120,000 and attracted 250 guests, making it MHS' most successful History Maker to date.

Severin and Harold grew up in strong Franco and Greek Maine families at a time when discrimination against immigrants, Catholics, and other ethnic groups was rampant. Over their careers, their hard work and personal examples helped open



doors to civic participation in Maine by immigrants and other communities who didn't previously have a seat at the table.

Our special evening included digital storytelling celebrating the honorees' Maine roots, establishment of Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau & Pachios, and advocacy for Mainers in politics. Guests enjoyed live entertainment, remarks, and a panel discussion featuring an emerging generation of new Mainers who follow in their footsteps.

The professional digital package of the live program, pre-recorded videos, and interviews are available for purchase at mainehistorymaker.org.



Clockwise L-R: Honorees Beliveau, Pachios, and family members; New Mainers Panel featuring PDG Muhamiriza, Marpheen Chann, and Cesarie Nindorera; Severin Beliveau and family; Harold Pachios and family

## **31** virtual programs. **3,030** attendees.



"Online programming has made it possible to broaden our perspective and engage with a diverse selection of contributors sharing expertise on social issues, legal history, and artistic expression from not only Maine but from all parts of New England and beyond."

-Kathleen Neumann, MHS Curator of Education & Public Programs

## History Online

MHS engaged audiences in a wide range of Maine topics with an active schedule of free, online programming in 2021-22.

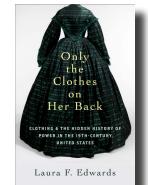
Our programming featured three series: Begin Again, MHS Celebrating 200 Years, and Northern Threads.



June 22, 2021 Black Politics in Portland A talk with Bob Greene



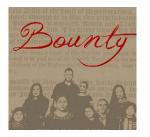
Aug. 19, 2021 The Know-Nothings Menace: When Hate, Fear, and Prejudice Ruled Maine and America A Talk with Matt Barker



Sept. 16, 2021 Only the clothes on her back Talk with Laura F. Edwards



Oct. 21, 2021 Trans & Nonbinary Adventures in 19th century New England A Talk with Jen Manion



**Nov. 10, 2021** *Bounty* A film screening with the Upstander Project.



Nov. 17, 2021 The Wreck of the Steamship Portland: Rediscovering the Titanic of New England A Talk with Dr. Calvin Mires



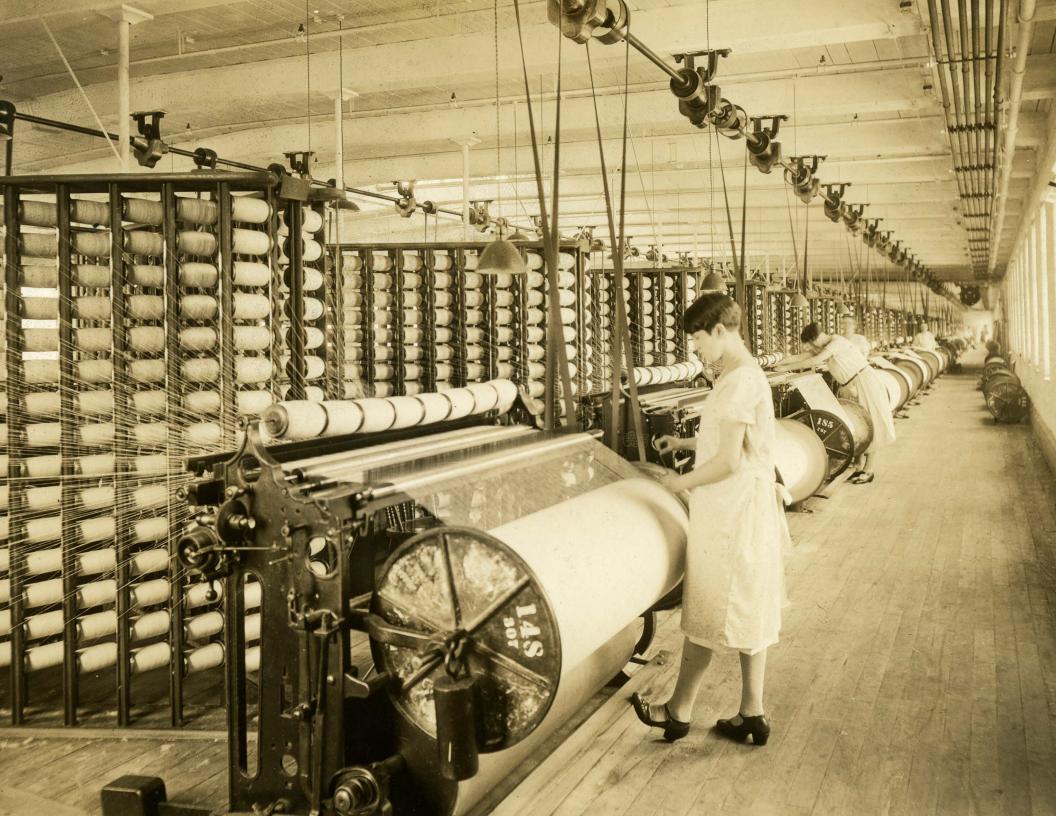
Feb. 2, 2022 Faces of Statehood: Photographs in the Maine Historical Society Collections A Talk with Earle Shettleworth, Jr.



Mar. 22, 2022 Unpacking the Past: Fashions from the Maine Historical Society Collection A Talk with Jackie Field



Apr. 13, 2022 Dress Codes: How the Laws of Fashion Made History Book Talk with Richard Thompson Ford



## Maine Memory Network at 20

I n late 2021, MHS celebrated the 20th anniversary of Maine Memory Network (MMN). MHS' statewide digital platform, MMN brings to life thousands of artifacts, photographs, and exhibits from hundreds of contributing libraries, historical organizations, and individuals across the state. With increasing annual usage, it continues to connect a wide variety of audiences to Maine people, places, and stories in unexpected ways. Showcasing our region's diverse history, MMN reminds us that every Mainer's story matters.

Since its early days, Maine Memory Network has connected more than 4 million people to Maine history with 25 million page views.

Left: High speed warping at Pepperell Mills, Biddeford, ca. 1925, *Collections of McArthur Public Library, MMN # 29106* Right: Black evening dress line sheet, Paris, ca. 1931, *MHS Collections, MMN #111081*. Far Right: Farmington High School Football Team, 1909, *Farmington Historical Society, MMN #27452* 

> Digitization of Mildred Burrage's Parisian line drawings on MMN inspired MHS' current exhibit, "The Cosmopolitan Stylings of Mildred and Madeleine Burrage."





features personal reflections from people across Maine like Maurice Paquette, who recorded memories of growing up in Biddeford and working at Pepperell Mills.



Group portrait of the 1909 Farmington High School football team contributed by the Farmington Historical Society. MMN contains tens of thousands of items from over 300 contributing partners.

Guests view special collections at the Brown Research Library during MHS' 200th Anniversary Open House, June 2022.

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# Library and Collections

upporting the evolving needs of scholars, researchers, and the public, Library and Collections initiatives continued at a rigorous pace, including 102 new items added to the permanent collection. Activity highlights include:

#### Maine Architecture and Landscape **Design Database**

MHS completed the first phase of a major digitization project to provide public access to thousands of historic Maine architectural and landscape design commissions. New acquisitions include Maine architect Carol Wilson, and renowned landscape architect and historian Patrick Chassé. The project was made possible with lead support from the Leon Levy Foundation and Maine Olmsted Alliance, and generous corporate sponsorships. Learn more at architecture. mainememory.net.

#### North Map

MHS sent one of its most significant cartographic collections to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Massachusetts for conservation. Named after its lead surveyor, John North, the North Map is nearly nine feet long and four feet wide and contains the names of individual settlercolonialists, land holders, and place names written by hand. View the map at "Plan of a tract of land lying 15 English miles on each side of Kennebeck River," 1751 on Maine Memory Network (MMN #110867.)

#### **Livesay Collection**

A complement to his premier Early Maine Imprint Collection donated in 2011, former MHS Board chair Chris Livesay transferred a significant amount of printed materials and manuscript from the Colonial era through statehood, including early newspapers, books, and ephemera. A notable example includes a request for returned personal property after the Burning Falmouth in 1775.

#### Penobscot Chief's Collar and Cuffs

The Penobscot Nation Museum, with additional resources from MHS and the Maine State Museum, purchased an exquisite Penobscot Chief's hand-sewn beaded collar and cuffs, which had been in private collections for more than 100 years. The partnership is an example of decolonization in practice—and appropriately so, knowing Penobscot peoples regard a Chief's collar and cuff as infused with power to inspire collaboration and trust.

Collections staff celebrate the happy return of the North Map to the MHS Riverside Collections Management Center.

#### Maine History Journal

Maine History, Maine's premier peer-reviewed publication devoted to scholarship on the history of our state is published in partnership with the University of Maine's Department of History. Provided to all MHS members, Maine History back issues are also on UMaine's Digital Commons. So far, it has been downloaded 44,159 times from 1,691 institutions in 166 countries.



Penobscot Chief's Collar and Cuffs, Collections of the Penobscot Nation Museum.





## Awards

#### MHS was pleased to present awards to the following individuals at its 2022 Annual Meeting in June.

#### Neal W. Allen, Jr. History Award: DONALD SOCTOMAH

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of Maine History

Donald Soctomah (Passamaquoddy) serves as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Passamaquoddy Tribe. A historian, educator, author, film maker, civic leader, and long-time MHS collaborator, Donald is renowned for his contributions to Maine history.

#### James Phinney Baxter Award: DR. CATHERINE M. BURNS

In recognition of the best article published in Maine History this year

Catherine Burns is a historian specializing in U.S. History. Katie's *Maine History* article, "'It May Be Questionable': Granger v. Avery and the Redaction of Article X, Section 5 from the Maine Constitution," explores the 1876 redaction of Maine's obligations to Wabanaki communities from the state's constitution.

#### Elizabeth Ring Service Award: VIVIAN CUNNINGHAM

In recognition of unselfish dedication and service to the Society

Vivian Cunningham is a Maine College of Art & Design student in the fashion program, who came to MHS in 2021 as MHS' historic clothing intern for the two-part exhibition *Northern Threads*. Vivian hand crafted dozens of custom mannequins, repaired clothing, and supported exhibit preparations.

#### Elizabeth Ring Service Award: CHRISTIAN LAMONTAGNE

*In recognition of unselfish dedication and service to the Society* 

Christian LaMontagne worked as an intern on the Architecture and Landscape Design Project. A recent graduate from Bowdoin College, Christian is a year-round Long Island resident and licensed lobsterman. His appreciation for architectural nomenclature helped MHS add nearly 500 Coombs Firm drawings to Maine Memory Network.









## Board & Staff

#### STAFF

Kathy Amoroso, Manager of Information Technology John Babin, Visitor Services Manager Bill Barry, Project Historian Mia Becze, Membership & Events Specialist Steve Bromage, Executive Director Henry Caiazzo, Digital & Project Archivist Brittany Cook, Reference Assistant Patricia Cousins, Graphic Designer Gail Dodge, Curatorial Assistant & Digital Technician Steve Landry, Facilities Manager Tilly Laskey, Curator Tiffany Link, Research & Manuscript Librarian Joyce Mongeau, Museum Store Buyer & Visitor Services Associate Cindy Murphy, Office Manager Kathleen Neumann, Curator of Education & Public Programs Nancy Noble, Archivist & Cataloger Nicholas Noyes, Librarian Emeritus Jennifer Polisner, Advancement Operations Specialist Jamie Rice, Deputy Director Joanna Satalof, Digital & Metadata Archivist Andrew Smaha, Chief Financial Officer Christina Traister, Director of Institutional Advancement Elaine Tselikis, Communications & Grants Manager Isabel Turk, Library Assistant Sofia Yalouris, Image Services Coordinator & Collections Technician Abby Zoldowski, Collections Manager & Registrar

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#### Sofia Yalouris digitizing architectural drawings



## Financials

The FY22 budget, ending June 30, 2022, focused on maintaining existing staff resources and matching programmatic output despite the natural conclusion of temporarily restricted grants and public program stresses caused by the pandemic. The balanced budget reflected a staythe-course approach from the previous year and was supported by \$217,000 in PPP pandemic funding.

We are pleased to report that MHS outpaced its financial goals. Revenue exceeded budget due to strong performance in fundraising, Image Sales, Museum Admissions, and the Maine History Maker event. MHS was also the recipient of a large, unrestricted bequest. Total revenues were \$2,543,585, up 43.5% from the previous year. Subtracting the bequest, operating revenue was up 13.4%.

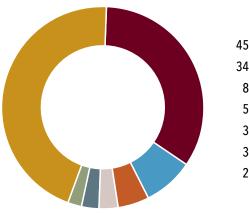
With market ebbs and flows and many global forces in play, the MHS Finance & Investment Committee monitored endowment portfolio performance closely. Like most organizations, our total endowment took a hit in FY22, ending down in value by 16.5%.

Meanwhile, MHS successfully launched its 200th anniversary year without deferring any planned projects. The staff worked hard to continually track, communicate, and adjust projections and spending throughout the year. Total operating expenses were \$2,087,229, inclusive of special project expenses approved mid-year.

In addition, MHS commissioned a Business Planning Committee to methodically research new and existing growth opportunities and create an operational roadmap for the next five years. The resulting, Board-approved 2022-27 Business Plan will ensure MHS has the institutional and programmatic capacity to thrive in its third century.

#### Andrew Smaha, Chief Financial Officer

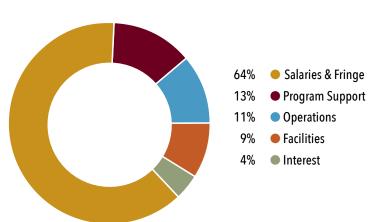
#### FY 21-22 TOTAL INCOME \$2,543,585

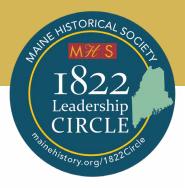


# 45% Contributions and Grants 34% Board-approved Investment Funds 8% Rental Income 5% Membership Dues 3% Admission and Program fees 3% Museum Store 2% Image Research & Archivel Convictor

2% Image, Research & Archival Services

#### FY 21-22 TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,087,229





#### **1822 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

MHS is deeply grateful to the following 1822 Leadership Circle members and donors of \$1,000 or more for their generous support between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

#### PLEASE NOTE

\* Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the annual report. We would appreciate notification of any errors or omissions to correct our records. If you'd like us to make changes for future reports, please contact mbecze@mainehistory.org.

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#### Gary W. Woolson Sofia Yalouris

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MHS extends gratitude to the following supporters with total giving of \$100 - \$999 between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 and to our many members whose gifts fuel our mission to preserve and share Maine's story.

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a the reader

William North of Duanesburgh in the State of New york Inquire do tertify and dectare that I am well acquainted with the hand writing of my father John hole formerly of Georges in the county of director in Massachusette Seguire and that have not any doubt that the above certificate dated 16" December 1/51 written and subscribed by him, the same appearing to me quite similar to the conting in his last hill and in other papers in my populion which have always been considered ashis hand wire ting

Commente of Mapachusette Support So. September 16 1800 William North Leg above nam & personally appeared and having the above Deposition read to him subscrited and was duty surver to The same it being taken at request. of the fer of the henne ack patent in perfecties remembrane MIC Shorin stated Before is Themes Dawes Jun MAINEHISTORICALSOCIETY 489 Congress Streetrum mi Don niion

Portland, Maine 04101

Lib 10 Fol 80 Werren Rice- W

Line olnfs Receinto 28. 1808 & the above Deposition of Millian North was enternaine history. org Deero for sold kounty

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