



Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Winter 2005/2006

Your website User ID
and password are good
on all MHS websites:

MAINEHISTORY.ORG

Including the members only area

MAINEMEMORY.NET

The online museum of Maine

LONGFELLOW.MAINEMEMORY.NET

*The website of
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(COMING SOON!)*



From Concept to National Leader: Five Years of the Maine Memory Network

Just a few months ago Maine Memory Network, the Society's statewide, online museum, added its 10,000th historical image. It's a significant number. It marks how far we've come since the project began over five years ago, and it suggests how committed we are to making Maine history accessible to all. This edition of the newsletter takes a look at what we've accomplished so far, with articles on:

- **A Little History:** How we started and who's noticing.
- **Reaching Maine:** 160 partners across the state have signed on.
- **The Very Stuff:** what you can find on the MMN.
- **In the Classroom:** teachers and kids have the best resources.
- **Great Maine Stories:** Special exhibits show the connections.



*The first splash page
of the Maine Memory Network,
introduced in 2001.
New website redesign coming soon.*



A SAMPLING FROM THE 10,000 IMAGES ON MMN:

- *Edna St. Vincent Millay, (1892-1950), MHS collection*
- *Purse of Pequawket Molly Ockett, made of moose hair, wool, and hemp, c.1785, MHS collection*
- *Flood of 1929, Skowhegan, contributed by Skowhegan History House*

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
THE 2004-2005 ANNUAL DONOR REPORT!**

A LITTLE HISTORY:

HOW WE STARTED AND WHO'S NOTICING

Back in 1997, the Maine Memory Network (MMN) was little more than an executive director's fantasy. Richard D'Abate had been impressed by the Library of Congress's online work and thought Maine ought to do something like it. The MHS board thought so too. In 1999 the State Legislature made it all possible with \$200,000 of New Century Program funding — an unprecedented initiative spearheaded by the Maine Cultural Affairs Council.

Dan Kaplan, now Director of Maine Memory, was soon hired to design and develop the site and its strategies. With the help of major federal grants key staff were eventually added—Fran Pollitt, cataloging, Steve Bromage, education, Kathy Amoroso, outreach, and Candace Kanes, content development, among others. This team, fully supported by hard work from the entire MHS staff, created the Maine Memory Network as it exists today.

The site went public in November 2001. In the next four years 160 historical organizations in every part of the state became contributing partners. Together with MHS, they added 10,000 catalogued images and documents, producing an historical database of unprecedented breadth and quality. As outreach to schools and communities began, visitation climbed.

Today nearly 60,000 people make use of MMN, and Maine Historical's leadership in the field of online history has been recognized by the National Telecommunications Information Agency, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the American Association of Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, and the Organization of American Historians, among others. Our work, however, has just begun.

REACHING MAINE

160 partners across the state have signed on

Since 2001, the Maine Memory Network has helped over 160 organizations put selected historical collections online: from the William Fogg Library in Eliot, to the Fort Kent Historical Society, to the West Quoddy Lighthouse Keepers Association, and a great variety in between. To date their contributions total 5,000 catalogued images, fully half of the database, covering Maine history from the earliest times to the present.

The benefits of being a contributing partner are many: free Internet presence, increased public attention, the ability to create online exhibits, and the opportunity to generate income. Partners also receive training, provided by the MMN Outreach Team. With traveling consultants in Presque Isle, Mount Desert, and Portland, the outreach team provides guidance on computers, scanning, cataloging, collections care, and copyright—in short, all the issues of concern to historical organizations large and small in the 21st century. These services are free to Maine organizations, and hundreds of prospective partners have taken advantage.

Ultimately, though, the true benefactor of the MMN Outreach Program has been the people of Maine. As our staff travels from historical society to library to museum, they realize the incredible wealth of knowledge that is being unlocked and made accessible for the first time. On MMN, the state's historical heritage is growing right before our eyes.



Testimonials from our Contributing Partners:

"This is a huge benefit for [us] since we do not have our own website and want M. L. McMillan to have a presence on the Internet." — *Michelle Harm, Hollingsworth Fine Arts*

"Having MMN ... has spurred us forward to properly store and catalog our material. We even hired an intern this fall to work on our archives and catalog our materials." — *Heather Haskell, Baxter State Park*

"...when I have had inquiries... I give them what information I can in the e-mail and then refer them to the MMN site for photos ... it's ...saved our Society time and money." — *Estella Bennett, Abbot and Monson Historical Societies*

"History and the items that document our history are meant to be shared. The Maine Memory Network is the best way to make the sharing of Maine history possible. It is a valuable resource to researchers and teachers."

— *Bobbie Bowler, Monmouth Museum*

THE VERY STUFF

Though Maine Memory Network represents sophisticated technology, its real importance is the access it gives to content — to the materials that help us understand who we are and where we've been. Today you'll find 1,000 fully transcribed letters and journals, 300 maps, 500 postcards, 1,000 works of art, 6,000 photographs, and 400 museum objects, as well as business records, sketches, woodcuts, broadsides, clothing, tools, architectural and mechanical drawings, audio recordings, and much more. Each item comes with descriptive information and all handwritten documents are fully transcribed.



Painting by George H. Bailey of the Portland Light Infantry Muster. It is jointly owned by MHS and the Maine State Museum.

Maine Memory Network are easy to access. Simply go to the search page of www.MaineMemory.net, where you can search by keyword, or browse through a host of topics from Arts & Entertainment, to Famous People, to Nature & Geography. You can also use the Album tool to create and save your own personal archive of images — you can even make your own slide shows! MMN is an invitation to historical and personal discovery.



Above: This clipper ship, the Portland, was painted by J or I Tudgay, c 1850, MHS collection.



Left: Portrait of opera singer, Madame Lillian Nordica, painted c. 1878 by Hermann Schmiechen. The WWI liberty ship SS Lillian Nordica was christened in her name. She was born in Farmington and her birth home is now a museum, where this portrait resides. Contributed by the Nordica Memorial Association.

You'll find the photographs and diary of John Dunn's trips to the Moosehead Lake region in the 1880s (he was an early amateur wildlife photographer); or a letter from Civil War soldier Meshach P. Larry, a blacksmith from Windham; or an 18th century Indian treaty; or thousands of other items covering every aspect of human affairs in Maine. But perhaps the exciting thing is that we've only begun to scratch the surface of our collections — at Maine Historical and across the state.

The historic items on the

IN THE CLASSROOM

When we began the Maine Memory Network five years ago, we knew it held enormous potential for teachers and students across the state. Easy access to vast numbers of primary documents meant there could be a whole new approach to making history meaningful. That promise has come true, and MMN, along with the Society's Education Department, is now providing Maine teachers with some of the best classroom resources available. These include new learning tools, specialized websites, document packages, lesson plans, curriculum materials, and an ambitious Education Outreach program that provides in-school training and technical support.

A particularly important new addition to MMN is *Finding Katahdin: An Online Exploration of Maine's Past*. This 500-page teacher's resource and activity guide, available only on MMN, was designed to accompany *Finding Katahdin*, the state's newest Maine history textbook created by University of Maine Press. Substantive, engaging, thorough, and complete with its own carefully selected digital archive of primary documents, this guide is the most comprehensive approach to teaching Maine history ever offered.

But we've discovered that MMN's educational value also transcends technology. It can be a catalyst for creating bonds between local schools and their communities. For instance, an MMN pilot project in Skowhegan brought 7th and 8th graders from the Middle School together with members of Skowhegan History House to scan documents and create a joint approach to local history. In Portland a group of 18 "at-risk" 8th graders from Lyman Moore Middle School undertook an intensive 3-month study of the waterfront that included extensive fieldwork, interviews, and creation of online exhibits. MHS has recently been awarded a grant from Jane's Trust to continue this work and create a replicable model for local collaboration around the MMN.

To see a showcase of collaborative local history projects created by Maine elementary, middle, and high schools please visit *The Community Gallery* in the *For Schools* section of the Maine Memory Network. These projects demonstrate the Society's potential for mobilizing community interest, for enhancing K-12 education, and for serving the entire state of Maine.

GREAT MAINE STORIES

Special exhibits show the connections.



Above: Alfred Auger of East Poland was depicted as the young St.-Jean-Baptiste in this oil painting from the 1890 Lewiston celebration. Contributed by the Franco-American Collection.

Right: Wreck of the Annie C. Maquire, Dec. 24, 1886. The rocky coastline of Cape Elizabeth has sent many vessels to their watery graves. MHS collection.



MMN is now the home of over 50 interpretive exhibits-with new ones added regularly. These exhibits help make the connections we all need to deepen our understanding of Maine's past. They recall events great and small, sketch famous lives, celebrate anniversaries, or just reveal the hidden corners of history. (By the way, if you'd like to receive monthly email updates with links to new exhibits see instructions below.)

With the help of scholars and knowledgeable writers, exhibits are drawn from Maine Memory Network's vast database. This gives us unheard-of freedom to bring together images and documents from museums across the state, without those items ever having to leave their home collections. Maine Memory Network is, in fact, reinventing the concept of the museum in the digital age. Here you can find virtual records of physical shows that have gone forever, such as MHS's own "Amazing Maine Stories," and "Umbazooksus: The Maine Woods Remembered." Other organizations have also contributed: "How Sweet It Is," from Pejepscot Historical; "In Time and Eternity," from the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum; and "La St. Jean in Lewiston-Auburn" from the Franco-American Collection, among others.

But making online exhibits is not just limited to organizations. You can do it too with MMN's easy-to-use album tool. Registered users can collect historic items in their personal albums, annotate and organize them, then e-mail their creations

to family, friends, and colleagues, or even post them on a website. This feature has become especially important to kids in Maine schools-and it's great fun!

To receive new MMN Exhibits and other news, just go to myAccount > Personal Profile section of the site; scroll and check Accepting Mail from MaineMemory.net. That's it!

Historic Images Make The Perfect *Holiday Gift*

**20% DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS
IN DECEMBER**



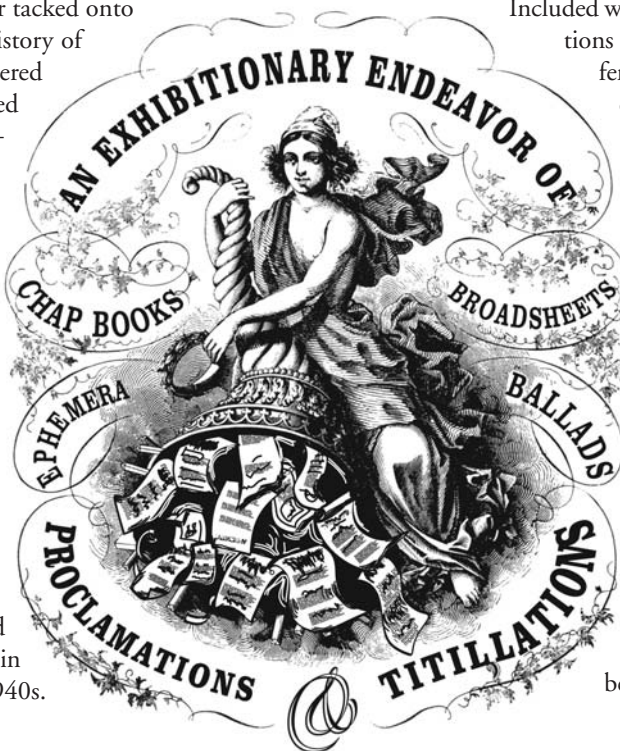
Image #6302, Snowshoe Train: members of the Hicks family making a sled out of their snowshoes, photo c. 1900, MHS collection

- Visit VintageMaineImages.com
- Select an image you'd like in an 8x10 printed photograph
- Order online or by calling Image Services, 774-1822, ext. 217, or
- Visit the Museum Shop and browse through our new in-store kiosk.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING FEBRUARY, 2006

Nailed to fences, glued to walls, or tacked onto street posts — from the earliest history of Maine, printed posters have cluttered our environment and bombarded us with messages of all types — politics, tragedies, war and peace. These truly ephemeral objects — beautiful in their own way — express a persistent human need to spread the word and inform (or influence) the reader.

A Riot of Words — Broad­sides and Ballads, Posters and Proclamations, a new exhibit opening on Friday, February 9, 2006, will present one of the Maine Historical Society's more unusual library collections from the 19th and early 20th centuries. It will draw from nearly 1,000 posters and broadsides from Maine that range in date from around 1700 to the 1940s.



Included will be advertisements of patented inventions such as kerosene lamps, self-fastening fences and other devices; declarations of war; the tragic news of lost ships, murders, and robberies; warnings of the evils of alcohol; and more. This collection illustrates the way Maine people used this ephemeral media to communicate news, political views, commercial opportunities and moral values.

These objects serve as documents of daily life in Maine communities and reflect the changing aesthetic and technology of the period. These same needs and interests are active today and represented by photo-copied sheets plastered on walls, bulletin boards and lampposts.

To cure the winter doldrums, this will be a must see for all.

SALUTING AND SEEKING MHS LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The MHS library has been blessed with many long-term volunteers who have provided countless services to visitors and the library archives. This is a special month for one of them, Barbara Mildram Thompson. Barbara turns 90 on Nov. 28th and has volunteered in the library for 17 years, serving as acting registrar and cataloguer at times. She met the computer challenge by learning the system to make cataloguing cards. She has sorted manuscripts and even the Library Director's "office collection," clearly a major puzzle. We thank you, Barbara, for those many years of faithful service.



*Barbara Mildram Thompson,
faithful MHS library volunteer.*

Another of our exceptional volunteers, Jane Shapleigh Edgecomb, recipient of the Elizabeth Ring Service Award in 2004, has maintained the Obituary Scrapbooks and Index since 1997. This work is an essential tool for family history research. Jane is seeking a well-deserved retirement from this labor of love, and the library is looking for someone to replace her. This work can be done from someone's home, with an update onto the Research Library database about once a month.

Please call Jamie Kingman Rice (774-1822, ext. 219) in the Research Library if you can help.

VETERAN OF TWO WORLD WARS

Tells Story in Letters

Although World War II is now more than 60 years in the past, its influence can still be felt throughout the worlds of politics and culture. Many veterans of that war continue to tell their stories today, and most of us have at least one relative who served and whose own experience has become part of the shared history of his or her family.

The William Barnes Jordan Sr. collection (coll #2150), donated by his son, William B. Jordan Jr. of Portland, consists of correspondence between Jordan Sr. and his wife, some service papers, and a few newspaper clippings. This absorbing collection brings to vivid life one man's experience serving in a military hospital in England during World War II.

William Barnes Jordan Sr. (1897-1970) grew up in South Portland, flew and saw active service in World War I, and entered school after the war, receiving his DMD (dental degree) in June 1923 from Harvard University Dental School. In the same year he married Martha Ella Weeks (1899-1983), also of South Portland. The couple had three children: Nancy, William Jr., and Martha.

Dr. Jordan opened his dental office at 704 Congress on Aug. 4, 1923. Licensed to practice in Maine and Massachusetts, he held positions in exodontia and oral surgery. He also had staff privileges at Maine General Hospital, Farrington Hospital, and the State Street Hospital in Portland, Maine, and was a life member of the American Dental Society and the Maine Dental Society. At least one of his patients was a Maine notable—in one of his letters, referring to a visit to the troops by Senator Ralph Owen Brewster, he mentions that the Senator "...remembered me as I had extracted a tooth for him once."

On May 6th, 1942, Jordan reenlisted in the Army as a Major in the Dental Corps, in a unit raised largely in Portland. In 1943 he was promoted to Lt. Col. He served in England at 67th General Hospital for the majority of his Second World War active service. After his discharge from active duty on June 11, 1945, Dr. Jordan returned to private practice at 704 Congress, where he worked until his retirement in 1968.

The majority of Dr. Jordan's letters used a format called "Victory mail," otherwise known as V-mail. This ingenious method of micro-filming letters written on preformatted paper took up vastly less space than actual mail on military transports, thus freeing up more room for war materials. Upon arrival, the microfilmed letters were developed (at about a quarter of the original's size) and delivered.

A man of exceedingly dry humor and a mischievous bent, Dr. Jordan fills his lively missives with wistful reminiscences about fishing, boating, gardening, and hunting at home in Maine and amusing anecdotes about his attempts to engage in the same activities in England. He corresponded almost daily to his wife Martha back home in Cape Cottage, and his detailed, well-written observations on the lifestyles of the English and the hardships of the war provide insightful commentary on the culture and context of the time.

Although World War II may not seem all that far in the past, we do not yet have comprehensive documentation of the Maine experience during that time—not to mention the other wars of the 20th century. Collections such as the William Barnes Jordan Sr. letters are valuable for the unique first-person insights they provide, and we would love to help preserve and make available more such records. If you or any family members served in a war and have letters or materials relating to that service, we would love to hear from you.

Shop the MHS Holiday Fair in December

NEW ITEMS:

- homespun pillows (\$7.95 - \$15.95)
- redware pitcher, 11" (\$39.95)
- holiday cross stitch (\$29.95)
- globes (\$6.95 - \$8.95)
- tin stars in 4 sizes (\$2.95-\$14.95)

BOOKS INCLUDE:

- the new *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and His Portland Home*
- *Creating Portland* edited by Joseph Conforti
- *Shades of Hiawatha*
- *John James Audubon Writings and Drawings*

REMEMBER THE MHS MEMBER 10% DISCOUNT!





William Barnes Jordan Sr. (1897-1970)

Jan. 14, 1944

"We have a new epidemic started here in the hospital. It is called 'channel fever'. Now that the time for making the big crossing is drawing close hand more afflictions have sprung up than were ever heard of before. All kinds of gags are being worked. Had to have a diagnostic name for them and thats it."

May 1, 1944

"The nice warm days remind me as you say of being down on the beach fixing up the boat. As I look back at those days I cannot help but realize how wonderful it was and how little we appreciated such a peaceful setting. Now look at the mess of things and what a hell of a fight we have got on our hands to get back just such things as that-I for one will know what they mean when I am doing them again."

Dec. 15, 1944

"...it is a small country pub with beer and cider for sale. Sometimes you can get a thimble full of whisky or gin if the old dragon who runs the place has had pleasure of eating a couple of people during the day. This dame called "The Dragon" is an old blister with a face like a topographical error. She hangs a lighted cigarette on her lip and never removes it until she begins to spit out sparks."



MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated 1822

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Deborah S. Reed, President
Philip H. Jordan Jr., 1st Vice President
James M. Richardson, 2nd Vice President
James F. Millinger, Secretary
Robert P. BaRoss, Treasurer

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Peter G. McPheeters	Charles D. Whittier II
Lincoln J. Merrill Jr.	Nicholas H. Witte
Margaret Crane Morfit	

STAFF

Administration

Richard D'Abate, Executive Director
Sara Archbald, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Jacqueline Fenlason, Director of Finance & Administration
Cynthia Murphy, Finance: Human Resource Assistant
Leslie E. Hahn, Director of Development
Diana Fish, Membership Coordinator
Jamie Fors, Membership Assistant
Jane Foden, Marketing/Public Relations Coordinator
Steven Atripaldi, Facilities Manager

Education

Stephen Bromage, Director of Education/Programs
Carolyn Collins, Education Coordinator
Sarah Margolis-Pineo, Education Assistant

Library

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William D. Barry, Library Reference Assistant
Stephanie Philbrick, Library Reference Assistant
Nancy Noble, Archivist/Cataloger
Robin Woodman, Photo Services Coordinator
Matthew Barker, Library Assistant
Jamie Kingman Rice, Library Assistant

Museum

John Mayer, Curator of the Museum
Holly Hurd-Forsyth, Registrar
Melissa Spoerl, Museum Store Manager
Robert Kemp, Visitor Services Coordinator

Maine Memory Network

Daniel Kaplan, Director
Candace Kanes, Historian
Kathleen Amoroso, Outreach Coordinator
Frances Pollitt, Cataloger Photo Curator
Stephanie Heatley, MMN Content Developer
Rick Asam, Outreach - North
Patricia Leland, Outreach - Downeast

WINTER HOURS
Maine Historical Society

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

Wadsworth-Longfellow House
7 days/week, Mon-Sun 12-4:00
Closed Dec. 25
Open 10-2:00 Dec. 24 & 31
Closed January through April

MHS Museum
December Hours:
Mon-Sat 10-5:00, Sun 12-5:00
Closed for January
Opens Feb. 9: Mon-Sat 10-5:00

Museum Shop (ext. 208)
Through December 31
Mon-Sat 10-5:00, Sun 12-5:00
Open 10-2:00 Dec. 24 & 31
Closed Dec. 25
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

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Portland, ME 04101

Websites:
www.mainehistory.org
www.mainememory.net
www.vintagemaineimages.com

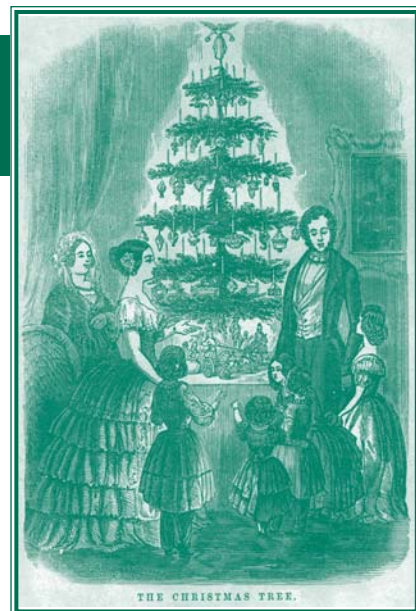
LONGFELLOW CHRISTMAS
2005

Tour the Wadsworth-Longfellow House this December and enjoy the holiday season as it may have been celebrated in the 1850s. The house will be decorated and open for tours daily from Friday, December 3rd through Thursday, December 30th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. (The house will be closed on Christmas day, and open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.)

A New Tradition: The Origins of the Christmas Tree is the theme for this year's annual holiday event at the restored childhood home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Christmas trees were largely unknown in this country until a mid-nineteenth century engraving of Queen Victoria and her family celebrating the holidays around a tree sparked a craze for the festive centerpiece that continues today. This year, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House features its own tree and is decorated to reflect Christmas in the 1850s. Come take a tour and step back into a time when customs we take for granted were brand new!

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

Public tours from 12:00 to 4:00 every day.
\$7 adults, \$6 seniors/students, \$3 children 5-17, members free
Group tours available



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
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