

MAINE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

NEWSLETTER

A MAN OF HONOR

Joshua L. Chamberlain's Medal of Honor Returns to Maine

by Jennifer Blanchard

MY SENSE IS THAT HE'S A MAN kind of like my father.

A real Yankee, not one for putting himself forward or attracting attention. A person who needs to think—and think, and think—before acting. A person with a strong sense of what's right and just, but for whom doing the right thing—even if all that's required is looking up an address and putting a package in the mail—sometimes can feel like an awful lot to accomplish.

From my limited contact with the donor of Pejepscot Historical Society's recent, incredible, invaluable acquisition, Joshua Chamberlain's original Medal of Honor, that's my impression. A real Yankee. A man of honor. And now our newest best friend.

Pejepscot Historical Society, for those who don't know, owns and operates both the Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum and the Skolfield-Whittier House, both in downtown Brunswick. Since acquiring both historic homes in the early 1980s, PHS has worked hard to regain Chamberlain furnishings lost to auction or given away years before. We have furnished the home with what we know was there during the Chamberlains' time and, to a lesser degree, with items resembling or of the same period as what was there.

Joshua Chamberlain—governor of Maine, president of Bowdoin College—first won renown for leading the Twentieth Maine in a decisive bayonet charge at Little Round Top during the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg.



*Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain
wearing his medal.*

Pejepscot Historical Society has treasures like Chamberlain's saddle and the boots he was wearing when he was shot in the foot at Gettysburg. We have the buttons and epaulets from his uniform, cut off by his pacifist granddaughter Rosamond, his last surviving descendant, who couldn't abide war but kept mementos of her grandfather's service.

It was Rosamond who left her estate to a Unitarian church in Massachusetts. And it was at that church, our donor tells us, that he bought a few books at a book sale

several years ago. In the back of one, he found a treasure we at PHS hadn't ever imagined would one day take its place next to Chamberlain's saddle and boots and buttons: the original Medal of Honor issued to Chamberlain in 1893.

Now, I have learned a lot about Medals of Honor in the last few weeks. But when our donor first called PHS in late July or early August, all I knew was that Bowdoin College had Chamberlain's Medal of Honor. When the donor claimed that he was about to put Chamberlain's Medal of Honor in the mail to us—having already sent it once to an address that doesn't exist—I said, "Gosh, sir. I look forward to seeing what you've got, but . . . I'm pretty sure Chamberlain's Medal of Honor is at Bowdoin College."

Foolish me. And lucky me, for our donor insisted he knew better, that he had the real thing, and soon enough he sent it to us. The PHS Collections Committee took a look, agreed to accept it—whatever it might turn

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*Joshua Lawrence
Chamberlain's
original
Medal of Honor*



**Maine Archives and Museums
MAM Newsletter**

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Maine Archives and Museums

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The *Maine Archives and Museums Newsletter* is published on a quarterly basis as a benefit of membership in MAM, whose purpose is to develop and foster a network of citizens and institutions in Maine who identify, collect, interpret and/or provide access to materials relating to history and culture.

Contributions to the *MAM Newsletter* may be submitted to MAM. Contact information provided above.

To purchase copies of the *MAM Newsletter*, please contact MAM at the above address or phone number.

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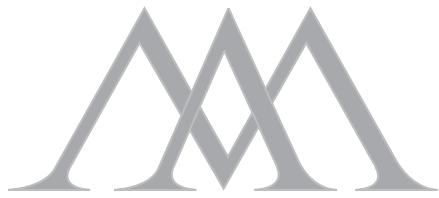
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NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2014

**Only submissions received by the Editor by December 30, 2013,
will be considered for publication.**

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News from the MAM Board

In June, the board conducted a planning exercise for a new five-year strategic plan, by identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The process continued at a retreat in Newport in September, attended by board members, other interested MAM members, and other invited guests. The goal is to develop a new strategic plan for adoption in January.

The board approved an Advocacy Plan that will guide efforts to promote and help protect MAM's member organizations and other organizations that collect, interpret, or provide access to historical and cultural materials. The MAM website also has a new advocacy section. Determining the economic impact of these organizations is part of the plan.

The board approved and voted to send to the membership a by-laws change to provide a mechanism for replacing officers who leave their position in the middle of a term. The current by-laws provide only for replacing the president before the end of his or her term.

The board approved MAM taking over the remaining duties associated with the Connecting To Collections Planning Grant that the Maine State Museum received from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. It is part of a national initiative to identify cultural heritage treasures and, ultimately, to protect them. Maine's group has developed a values assessment tool to help organization assess their collections. MAM voted to take over printing of the tool (a workbook) and to consider pursuing an implementation grant to continue the work.

The board also voted to participate in the TD Bank Affinity Program for non-profits that allows people with accounts at the bank to designate MAM as an affiliated account. TD Bank donates annually to MAM for every affinity account linked to MAM.

In addition, the board continues to monitor membership and the budget. Membership renewals are behind projections, but that may be a result of a change to a rolling membership year and the change to an automated renewal notice system that may have caused a one-time shift in when memberships are received. Another membership push is expected soon. •

Thank you, Conference Sponsors!

We had a great day of learning, listening, and networking at our annual conference: *Recharge Your Mission: Ideas to Ignite and Inspire*. Thanks to the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine, Orono, and to the Page Farm Museum and Hudson Museum for hosting. We are so grateful for the support of the following sponsors, as well as all those who presented and attended on October 29.

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MAM PROGRAM

Preservation Issues for Small Museums & Family Custodians

**Saturday, November 2
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Maine Historical Society
485 Congress Street, Portland**

We've had a fantastic fall workshop series so far, including our planning retreat and workshop at the Newport Cultural Center, a publicity and marketing workshop at the historic Bethel Inn, and of course, the conference. But it's not over yet! Join us in Portland in November for this workshop presented by Maine Historical Society and MAM in partnership with Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), a conference sponsor. This one-day technical workshop is designed for small historical organizations, small museums, and local historical societies as well as individuals who are the custodians of important family papers and heirlooms. It covers the agents of deterioration that affect collections (including environment, light, pests and pollutants), as well as best practices for storage and handling of archives and artifacts. Potentially hazardous collection items will also be discussed. Time is allotted for questions and participants are encouraged to bring items that are stable enough to travel along for discussion. Lunch is not provided. Cost: Maine Historical Society Members: \$55; Non-Members: \$65. To Register: call 207-774-1822 x215.

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A director can serve up to three successive two-year terms.)

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

2013 Portland Museum of Art Biennial: Piece Work

*Exhibition at the Portland Museum of Art
through January 5*

The 2013 *Portland Museum of Art Biennial: Piece Work* is the eighth in an ongoing series of juried exhibitions showcasing new or recent work by living artists. Through a generous bequest by beloved Maine artist William Thon and his wife, Helen, the Biennial began in 1998 and has become a centerpiece of the PMA's exhibition calendar for artists, audiences, and arts professionals in the state of Maine and beyond. The juror for the Biennial is Jessica May, Curator of Contemporary and Modern Art, Portland Museum of Art. The 2013 *Portland Museum of Art Biennial: Piece Work* is made possible by the William E. and Helen E. Thon Endowment Fund, with additional generous support from Roger and Jane Goodell. Corporate sponsorship is provided by Norton Insurance & Financial Services and media sponsorship is provided by The Portland Phoenix. FMI: www.portlandmuseum.org / 207-775-6148.



**The Margaret Chase Smith
Federal Building**
*Exhibition at the Margaret Chase Smith
Library, through 2013*

To celebrate the renovation of the Margaret Chase Smith Federal Building in Bangor, the Margaret Chase Smith Library has made that the focus of its special exhibit for 2013. Five panels tell the story of the construction of the building in 1967, dedication to Senator Smith in 1984, renovation from 2009 to 2013, and commission of a new mural by Maine-born artist Tim Rollins paying tribute to her "Declaration of Conscience" denunciation of

McCarthyism in 1950. A sixth panel is a scaled-down version of a larger-than-life photograph of Senator Smith that will greet visitors in the lobby of the Federal Building. The exhibit will remain on display at the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of the year. Admission to the Library is free. For more information, check www.mcslibrary.org or phone 207-474-7133.

**Leonard and Merle Nelson
Social Justice Fund: Ahmed Alsoudani in
Conversation with Mark Bessire**
*Event at the Portland Museum of Art
Wednesday, November 6, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

Join *Redacted* artist Ahmed Alsoudani and PMA Director Mark Bessire in an evening of unedited talk about the artist's work, his childhood in Iraq, and his experience as an artist in Portland and New York. Alsoudani and Bessire met in Portland when Ahmed was a student at Maine College of Art (MECA). Alsoudani's work first garnered respect and attention

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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during his time at MECA; following that, Alsoudani went on to attend the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and later earned an M.F.A. at Yale School of Art. Bessire and Alsoudani have remained friends throughout Alsoudani's career, and during this evening the two will discuss Alsoudani's contributions to 21st-century art. Bernard Osher Foundation Auditorium. Free admission; reservations are recommended. *Ahmed Alsoudani in Conversation with Mark Bessire* is made possible by the Leonard and Merle Nelson Social Justice Fund at the Portland Museum of Art. FMI: www.portlandmuseum.org / 207-775-6148.

Fifth Annual Native American Film Festival

Screenings at the Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor

November 7 and December 5, 7-9 p.m.

The Fifth Annual Native American Film Festival is underway at the Abbe Museum. This year, the festival will focus on the changing representation of Native people in film, specifically as Native writers, actors, and directors gain more control over telling their own stories. The series opened Thursday, October 3 with *The Last of the Mohicans*. The second film, *Thunderheart*, is based on actual events on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. *Thunderheart* follows an FBI man with Sioux background who is sent to help with a murder investigation. While on the reservation the agent faces his own past and has to come to terms with his heritage. The American Indian Movement (AIM), whose members were deeply involved with the events chronicled, helped inform the story, and some of the actors in the film are members of AIM.

The film series will wrap up with *More Than Frybread* on December 7, a film that showcases Native storytelling in a mockumentary style film written, directed, and acted with an almost all Native cast and crew. *More Than Frybread* tells the story of twenty-two Native American frybread makers, representing all twenty-two federally recognized tribes in Arizona, who convene in Flagstaff to compete for the first ever, first annual, state of Arizona Frybread Championship! Each film experience stands on its own, but participants who attend the entire series will learn more about the progression of Native representation in film. Discussions about more recent representations, including *Twilight* and *The Lone Ranger* will help place these films in a larger context. FMI: www.abbemuseum.org / info@abbemuseum.org / 207-288-3519.

Museum Holiday Shoppers Day

*At Audubon at Gilsland Farm, Falmouth
Saturday, November 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

This is your opportunity to shop at a variety of museum gift shops all in one place and get into the holiday spirit. Among the participating museums are Tate House Museum, Maine Historical Society, Portland Landmarks, Portland Headlight, Maine Audubon, Falmouth Historical Society, Irish Heritage Center and the Portland Museum of Art. FMI: 207-781-2330 / www.maineaudubon.org/events.



The Polar Express

At the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad

Thanksgiving through Christmas

The Polar Express returns to the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum in Portland for a sixth season! Holiday decorations inside the train add to the festive atmosphere as guests on board meet the Conductor, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies served by our hot chocolate chefs, and listen to a reading of the story as they journey to the "North Pole." Santa will greet children aboard the train while passengers sing along to carols as they travel back to the train station! The Polar Express is the largest annual fundraiser for the museum. Tickets range from \$20-\$40, and trains often sell out, so reserve your seats today! To purchase tickets contact Porttix at www.porttix.com or 207-842-0800. FMI: www.mainenarrowgauge.org.



Ninth Annual Festival of Trees: The Holly and the Ivy

*Exhibition and Events at
the Dyer Library and Saco
Museum, November 29
through December 29*

Join us this holiday season for the ninth annual *Festival of Trees: The Holly and the Ivy*, on view at the Saco Museum November 29 through December 29. The gala preview party kicks off this dazzling seasonal event on Saturday, November 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$20 and are available at the Saco Museum. The full festival opens on Friday, November 29 at 5:30 p.m. with the Tree Lighting and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Admission to the Festival of Trees is free all month long, and there are extended hours for this winter favorite: Sunday-Thursday, Noon - 5 p.m.; Friday, Noon - 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other holiday events will be hap-

pening at the Saco Museum, so please check our website or our Facebook page! FMI: www.sacomuseum.org / 207-283-3861.

Copper Beech Tree Lighting

Event at the Portland Museum of Art

Friday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Venture into the PMA's Joan Burns Sculpture Garden during December's First Friday Art Walk for a wintery holiday tradition. Light candles and listen to the holiday choral music of the Vox Nova Chamber Choir in anticipation of the spectacular lighting of the PMA's Copper Beech tree. Music and caroling begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. Free admission! FMI: www.portlandmuseum.org / 207-775-6148.

Santa at the Scofield-Whittier House

*Family event at the Pejepscot Historical
Society, Saturday, December 7*

On Saturday, December 7, Santa Claus will visit with children at PHS's Skolfield-Whittier House. Special tours of the house, refreshments, and holiday shopping will be available. FMI: www.pejepscothistorical.org.

Art of Katahdin

*Book-signing at the Portland Museum of Art
Saturday, December 7, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.*

Free admission! Author and artist David Little will sign copies of *Art of Katahdin* during our Double Discount Weekend on Saturday, December 7. Bring home a signed copy of this beautiful book as a gift for the holidays . . . or for yourself! *Art of Katahdin* is available online and in the PMA Store: \$45 PMA members/\$50 non-members. FMI: www.portlandmuseum.org / 207-775-6148.

Christmas at the Mason House

Event at the Bethel Historical Society

Saturday, December 7, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

This highly popular annual event transports visitors back in time as they enjoy music and refreshments in the 1813 Mason House period rooms, which will be decorated in traditional mid-nineteenth century style and illuminated by candles. FREE! (Donations appreciated.) The Mason House is located at 14 Broad



Christmas at the Mason House

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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Street, Bethel. FMI: 207-824-2908 / www.bethelhistorical.org.

Festival of Trees Family event at the Rumford Falls Auditorium Saturday, December 14, 6 p.m.

The Rumford Historical Society is again participating in the Town of Rumford's annual Festival of Trees contest, under the guidance of member Gail Parent. It is hoped that the Society will again be the first-place winner, as it was in 2012: the first time the Society had participated! At the Rumford Falls Auditorium, 145 Congress Street, Rumford.



Mark McPheters attaches a Christmas ball to the Christmas tree at the Fairfield History House.

Christmas Open House At the Fairfield History House Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, 3-6 p.m.

The house, decorated for Christmas, will fea-

ture a display of railroad memorabilia. There is no charge for admission; refreshments will be served and donations will be accepted. FMI: www.fairfieldmehistoricalssociety.net / 207-453-2998.

Christmas Pot Luck At the Mexico Town Hall December 16, 5 p.m.

December 16 is the combined Rumford/Mexico Historical Societies' Christmas Party pot luck supper. All those attending are asked to bring a dish or dessert to share. Contributions of non-perishable foods are requested for our joint donation to the local food pantry. The Mexico Town Hall is located at 134 Main Street, Mexico. •

A Man of Honor

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out to be—and sent out the deed of gift paperwork. By the second week in August, we had the medal and the paperwork giving us ownership of it.

Then the real work began.

I asked our volunteer registrar, Dick Thompson, to have a look and do some research. I didn't believe he'd find much. But two hours later he came into my office, sat down with a grave look on his face, and said quietly, "Well. I think it might be the real thing." (Dick's also a very fine Yankee.)

As we discovered, Chamberlain was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1893, for his service at Gettysburg in 1863. In 1904, Congress redesigned the medal and told past recipients they could get the new version if they returned the originals. Recipients protested, being attached to their originals, and Congress relented, allowing vets to have two medals as long as they didn't wear both at once. What we had was the original, 1893 medal.

We talked and talked and looked at every marginally reliable web site we could find, looking for something to disprove the medal's authenticity. I started calling everyone I could think of (and trust to keep quiet), looking for any hole in the story or telling detail in the artifact that would suggest it came out of a gumball machine in 1975 rather than in the mail, to Brunswick, in 1893.

Colleagues at the Maine State Museum were the first to encourage me to get a little excited about our medal. I called Kate McBrien,

a former PHS curator and director, and met soon thereafter with her and with MSM director Bernard Fishman. Curator Laurie LaBar also checked in. All three of them were confident the medal was real.

I then started working contacts on the national level. Friends put me in touch with experts at the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution. I also sought out a historian with the Army's Awards and Decorations Branch—the authority, it turned out, to whom the Library of Congress and Smithsonian folks would have eventually deferred anyway. I emailed lots of images and answered lots of questions.

In the end, consensus: Against all odds, it seemed that Joshua Chamberlain's original Medal of Honor had indeed come home to Brunswick.

Museum folk will easily imagine all that came next (and during, and in the middle of the night, and still to the moment of my writing this). I thought about how to roll out the news (members and Chamberlain Museum guides first, then the local paper, then press release to as many outlets as possible); how to touch base with folks at the church in Massachusetts where the medal had supposedly been hidden in a book; how, when, and where to display the medal this fall (the Army has a number of guidelines for display, and some fundraising will be necessary for an appropriate case); where to store the medal when it wasn't on display; etc. I dealt with a premature Facebook posting by a member of the PHS board of trustees (who quickly realized his mistake and felt terrible about it) and counseled our small staff on how to respond to inquiries if any

should arise before the news truly became public. I worked closely with various key staff at Bowdoin, concerned that the news of a "new" Medal of Honor be seen as a good thing for both PHS and Bowdoin, given their ownership of the 1904 replacement medal. And on and on.

The process has been quite thrilling, at times, and a real education for me—a museum director with only a year and a half at this job for museum/public history training. It's exciting to see Pejepscot Historical Society mentioned on the evening news and in papers across the country. And it will be great to make a big deal out of the Medal of Honor again in the spring, when our museums open for the 2014 season and when we've put the medal in its permanent location.

But the best part has been that anonymous donor. He wants no attention—the act of getting the medal to Chamberlain's home was enough for him—but he did make a point of asking that his gift be recorded "in honor of all veterans."

We have, of course, respected this wish. And in this donor, we're so pleased to be reminded both that treasures of history are all around us—sometimes stuffed in the pages of a book on a church sale table—and that people of honor, anxious to do the right thing, can be as close as an unexpected phone call away.

The Chamberlain Medal of Honor will be on display during the Pejepscot Historical Society's special events for Veteran's Day. See p. 14 for details.

Jennifer Blanchard is the Director of the Pejepscot Historical Society. •

DISPATCHES

Our members report on news, awards and achievements from throughout the state.



David Moses Bridges, Passamaquoddy, and Steve Cayard laying the frame on the bark.

BAR HARBOR

The **Abbe Museum** recently hosted a month-long artist-in-residence project; during August and September, David Moses Bridges, Passamaquoddy, and Steve Cayard built a fourteen-foot birchbark canoe in the Abbe's courtyard. Hundreds of visitors watched and asked questions as these two expert craftsmen built ribs and a frame, unrolled and attached the bark and planks, lashed the bark to the frame with spruce roots, and etched beautiful designs into the sides. The canoe was launched at a special event for friends of the Abbe in early September. This canoe will now serve as an educational tool for the museum and many visitors to come! This program was made possible by a gift from David and Donna Reis.



Valentine Collections Wing under construction at the Bethel Historical Society

BETHEL

Construction is well underway on the "Mary E. Valentine Collections Wing" at the **Bethel Historical Society**. Financed mainly by a \$200,000 bequest from the estate of Miss Valentine, a devoted member and dedicated volunteer who died in 2012, the two-and-a-

half story structure will replicate the exterior of the nineteenth-century summer kitchen/shed ell of the Society's Robinson House, which was removed many years ago. Inside, the twenty-by-forty-foot wing will offer critically needed storage space for the Society's extensive museum collections, as well as for materials used in the development of various exhibits at the Robinson and Mason houses. As part of a directed capital campaign, the Society has begun raising the additional funds needed to complete the collections wing project—scheduled for the spring of 2014. The Bethel Historical Society is located at 10 Broad Street, Bethel. FMI: (207) 824-2908 / www.bethelhistorical.org.

BUXTON

The **Buxton-Hollis Historical Society** has moved into its "new" library and museum: the 1912 Bar Mills Elementary School, 100 Main Street (Route 4A), Bar Mills, Buxton. Staff and volunteers continue to be very busy rehabilitating the building and have almost finished the downstairs and part of the structural/outside work. The Society is open every Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon (through October), and by appointment. Contact at 207-929-1684 (leave message) or www.buxtonhollishistorical.org.

HINCKLEY

The **L.C.Bates Museum** is very pleased to be the recipient of two 2013 Museums for America grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grants will implement new second-grade "Naturalists" programs and continue the preservation of the museum's unique and historic ornithology mounts. These projects will build the capacity of the museum to use its resources to support local school and family education. The conservation project will



Conservator Ron Harvey teaches a Very Young Naturalist, Kaitlyn, to clean a bird, in this case an owl puppet.

bring conservator Ron Harvey to the museum to preserve 51 unique bird mounts and provide a spring preservation workshop.

Also at the **L.C. Bates Museum**, the hard work and planning of Museum Committee member Robin Duperry developed and implemented the museum's first, and to become annual, Transportation Day in August. The day included early cars on the museum lawn for visitors' inspection, a well-informed tour guide dressed for the 1950s, transportation hunts in the museum exhibitions and children's games and activities. Racing model cars delighted all the children, young and old. See photo in Seen & Heard, p. 12.

PRESQUE ISLE

Presque Isle Historical Society, in partnership with Northern Maine Community College, Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library, and Presque Isle Middle School, has been awarded a "Local & Legendary: Maine in the Civil War" grant (see p. 8 for more information about this grant initiative). This program is supported, and made possible by a grant from the **Maine Historical Society** and **Maine Humanities Council**, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This will be a year-long effort and will include an online exhibit on **Maine Memory Network**, a one-man interactive play for a high-school audience on the decision many men who served in the Civil War had to make as to whether to return home or go elsewhere, four readings on various Civil War materials with the community, and much more. (*Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*)

SKOWHEGAN

John Taylor, the Museum Assistant at the **Margaret Chase Smith Library**, has been named the new Maine National History Day (NHD) State Coordinator. NHD promotes the teaching and learning of history to teenagers in Maine and throughout the country. Each year, through a combination of creativity and scholarship, students present their historical research in the form of papers, exhibits, performances, web sites and documentaries in state and national competitions. The 2014 state competition will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the **University of Maine** campus in Orono. Visit the website (<http://umaine.edu/history/national-history-day/>) or contact John Taylor at john.m.taylor@maine.edu to make a donation to support the program or for more information on how your organization can help promote Maine National History Day. •



Local and Legendary Grant Program Funds Five Community Teams, Invites New Applications

by Larissa Vigue Picard

Last year, Maine Historical Society and Maine Humanities Council received a joint National Endowment for the Humanities grant for a collaborative three-year Civil War project commemorating the sesquicentennial. The project involves two main components: annual statewide symposia on various aspects of the War, and a community grant program for ten Maine towns and cities.

Fourteen months into the project, one symposium has taken place—this past April in Portland, attended by 175 people—and the first cohort of five community teams is four months into their year-long investigation and celebration of their Civil War history. Over the year, each team will plan and execute a multi-event community read, build an exhibit on Maine Historical Society's Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net), and help create a custom performance piece on some aspect of the town's Civil War story.

The community team model is founded on a trio of organizations: a library, a historical society or other history-based organization, and an educational institution or group, although teams are welcome to include additional partners. The goal is to create sustainable, intergenerational, civic partnerships and community conversation while sharing local Civil War history and collections with a wider audience. Teams receive a \$2,000 grant to support project activities.

This year's five participating communities include:

- **Belfast**, a partnership between the Belfast Free Library, Belfast Historical Society, Belfast Senior College, and the afterschool program, the Game Loft. The team's Maine Memory exhibit will share the story of the recently-returned Civil War quilt. The community read will use Michael Shaara's *Killer Angels*,

supplemented by *Gettysburg: The Graphic History of America's Most Famous Battle and The Turning Point of the Civil War*.

- **Gorham and Windham**, a two-town collaboration involving both towns' historical societies and libraries, a Windham Middle School class, and the Gorham Arts Alliance. While the towns are operating as independent teams, they share the history of the Oriental or "Gambo" Powder Mill, which produced 25% of the Union gunpowder during the Civil War. The teams have chosen the young adult novel, *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, set in Maine and at Gettysburg, as their community read.
- **Portland/Westbrook**, partnering Portland's Friends of Evergreen Cemetery and Maine Masonic Civil War Library and Museum, with My Place Teen Center and Walker Memorial Library in Westbrook. The team will tell the story of Maine Masons in the Civil War and is also using *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* as their community read.

- **Presque Isle**, which brings together the Presque Isle Historical Society, Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library, Northern Maine Community College, and Presque Isle Middle School. Their community read will use a series of four books: *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, *This Republic of Suffering*, *A Vast Army of Women*, and *Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers*.

To stay up to date with the teams' progress, such as when community read activities will take place, visit Maine Historical Society's Maine Memory Network "(Re)Living History" blog at <http://mainechp.wordpress.com/>. *continued on page 10*



Belfast librarians Betsy Paradis and Brenda Harrington view the community's prized Civil War quilt at the Belfast Historical Society.



The Gambo Wheel Mill remains, at the historic Gambo Mill site along the Pesumpscot River between Gorham and Windham, are slowly being reclaimed by nature.



Kim Smith, of Presque Isle Historical Society, holds up the city's fragile Civil War enlistment record.



Remembering the *Double Eagle II*

by Kimberly Smith

The Double Eagle II readies for launch from Merle Sprague's field in Presque Isle, Maine on August 11, 1978.

Exreme sports are all the rage today. The popularity of extreme sports goes beyond the adrenaline rush and cheap thrills. These sports, developed for the most part over the last few decades, fascinate the general populace because the participants willingly attempt to cheat death—a definite possibility with the chosen activities. Many of the participants are not even true athletes by the strict definition of the word. Rather, the participants so enjoy their sport that the rewards outweigh fear of the potential consequences. This year is the 35th anniversary of the launch of the *Double Eagle II*, the first successful transatlantic balloon flight. Events such as this and its predecessor, Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic, were perhaps some of the original extreme sports.

In 1978, three hot air balloon pilots (Larry Newman, Ben Abruzzo, and Max Anderson) attempted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in a hot air balloon. This was the fourteenth known flight attempt to cross the Atlantic. Some of the previous adventurers have never been found. Five are known dead, including those on the two flights never found. In addition to risking possible death or drowning at sea, the pilots risked frostbite and oxygen deprivation due to the high altitudes.

The flight lifted off from Presque Isle, Maine on August 11 at 8:43 p.m. Over 8,000 were on the field that evening to watch lift-off—amazing, since the population of Presque Isle today is only approximately 9,700.

The *Double Eagle II*'s lift-off site in Northern Maine was chosen for numerous reasons: The pilots were adamant about lifting off

from the United States; weather reports indicated that the closer to Canada for lift off the better; and, in addition, the proximity of Presque Isle to Canada would save them one night's travel. This was even more important, as the *Double Eagle II* had to lift off without a fully inflated helium envelope due to the lateness of the hour.



The monument sits on the original launch site and was dedicated on August 11, 1981. The metal replica was made by the metal fabrication students of Northern Maine Community College.

The *Double Eagle II* had a \$70,000 price tag. The envelope was black and silver neoprene and nylon. The silver at the top of the balloon was chosen specifically to reflect the sun and help stabilize the helium as it heated up. The black on the bottom was specifically to absorb the heat from the ocean water at night when the water temperature was warmer than that of the air. It held 160,000 cubic feet of helium, stood 112 feet high (approximately 11 stories), and when fully inflated was 65 feet in diameter. The design of the gondola was special as well. It was twin-hulled like that of a catamaran with



A close-up of the monument today.

a fifteen-foot mast and an 800-square-foot sail in case they went down over water. It measured 15 x 7 x 4 ½ feet and was named *The Spirit of Albuquerque*. The gondola was later acquired by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

One hundred thirty-seven hours and six minutes later, the *Double Eagle II* landed in Miserey, France at 7:49 p.m. Western Europe Summer Time on August 17, 1978, making it the first balloon to successfully cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Distance traveled: 3,107.61 miles

Lowest Altitude: 3,500 ft

Highest Altitude: 24,950 ft

Unbeknownst at the time, two of the three pilots had accidentally thrown their passports overboard. Upon arrival in France, the pilots were required to clear French Customs, and the US Embassy in Paris immediately issued them new ones.

continued on page 10

Local and Legendary Grant Program

continued from page 8

The application period for the 2013–2014 cohort will open January 2, 2014. The deadline for applying is March 3, 2014, with awardees notified by the end of March. Participants in the second cohort communities will attend the May 2014 statewide symposium in Bangor and a July 2014 orientation at Bowdoin College, and they will work on the project from August 2014 through April 2015.

Communities interested in participating should visit www.mainehumanities.org or www.mainememory.net/cwgrants to learn more and download application materials. Or contact **Larissa Vigue Picard** at Maine Historical Society at 207-774-1822 x215, lvpicard@mainehistory.org; or Janet Lyons with Maine Humanities Council at 207-773-5051, janet.lyons@outlook.com.

Larissa Vigue Picard is the Community Partnership Coordinator at the Maine Historical Society. •

Remembering the *Double Eagle II*, continued from page 9

The name *Double Eagle II* obviously implies there was a *Double Eagle I*. The *Double Eagle I* made an unsuccessful transatlantic attempt in 1977, intending to duplicate Charles Lindbergh's flight to Paris in 1927 in his "Spirit of St. Louis." The crew of the *Double Eagle II* was disappointed that they landed in Miserey, some 60 miles short of Paris. However, because of the trip to the Embassy, they did get some "Lindbergh" flavor. Pilot Larry Newman won a draw amongst the three pilots to stay overnight in the same bed that Charles Lindbergh slept in at the Embassy. As the pilots headed up the steps of the Embassy, they were approached by Jacqueline Citroën. At the time of Lindbergh's landing in Paris in 1927, Jacqueline, then a small child, handed Lindbergh a bouquet of flowers. In keeping with the tradition, she wanted to be the first to greet this team. She invited them to dinner at the home of her son, Count André de Saint-Sauveur, the Vice President of the French Ballooning Federation. The crew was later flown home on the Concorde SST, courtesy of Air France.

A monument to the historic flight was erected on the site of lift-off in Presque Isle, Maine, and one was later dedicated at the landing site in France as well. Presque Isle's monument is a metal representation of the balloon itself, created by the metal fabrication students of Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute (now Northern Maine Community College). The French monument is set on a base of limestone quarried in Presque Isle and shipped to France for that purpose.

The pilots later received the Congressional Medal of Honor for this historic flight. The monument is one of 40 sites included on Presque Isle Historical Society's monthly city-wide historic tour aboard Molly the Trolley. For more information on this historic site or any other sites included on the tour, please contact Presque Isle Historical Society at www.pihistory.org, 207-762-1151, or pihistoricalsoc@hotmail.com.

Kimberly Smith is the *Resource Developer of the Aroostook County Action Program and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Presque Isle Historical Society.* •

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Victorian Calling Cards

by Gregory Cuffey

An interesting feature in some of Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's more elegant vehicles is a calling card holder. Calling cards began in England and were an important part of introductions, invitations, and visits. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Americans followed this Victorian tradition of using calling cards. They used them in calling upon their friends, relatives, and business acquaintances. This was proper etiquette for men and women of middle and upper classes to screen those who were socially undesirable.

Most gentlemen and women kept a ready supply of calling cards with them to distribute upon visits. Their calling cards were fairly simple in design. They gave the caller's name, often including the name or logo of his or her favorite interest, or organization.

There were many rules and traditions that went along with the use of these cards. In its simplest form, when calling upon a friend, you would give your card to the servant answering the door. The servant would be holding a silver tray and the card would be placed upon it. If the person one was calling upon was home, the servant would take the card to them and they would come meet you. If the person being called upon was not home, the servant would leave the card for when they returned.

Generally, upon the person's first visit to a home, he or she would simply leave a card and then depart. If the new acquaintance wished to formally visit with him or her, he or she would send a card in return. If no card was sent, or the return card was sent in an envelope, this was a sign that the new acquaintance did not wish for a personal visit to occur.

You can see antique calling cards, historic carriages, and so much more at Skyline Farm in North Yarmouth. Skyline Farm is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to transform Skyline Farm into a community resource as a living carriage museum with an antique carriage and sleigh collection, while also preserving the farm's open space and historic buildings for recreational and educational use. Skyline Farm is a community-based organization providing educational and recreational programs based on the role of horse-drawn transportation in the cultural, social and economic development of New England. For more information, visit www.skylinefarm.org.

Gregory Cuffey is the president of Skyline Farm. •



Oral History and Folklife Research, Inc. Announces Formation of New Nonprofit

Giving voice to history and preserving treasures is the mission of a new nonprofit organization formed this summer. The Maine-based Oral History and Folklife Research organization will develop and design oral history projects and folklife studies in Maine, New England and beyond. Folklorist and oral historian Keith Ludden, the founder of the organization, says the organization will work with communities, schools, and local organizations to explore history through the eyes and voices of those who lived it.

"If we want our communities to be strong and successful, and if we want the power to chart our own course," says Ludden, "we must know who we are, and one of the best ways to know who we are, is listening to the stories that are told in communities."

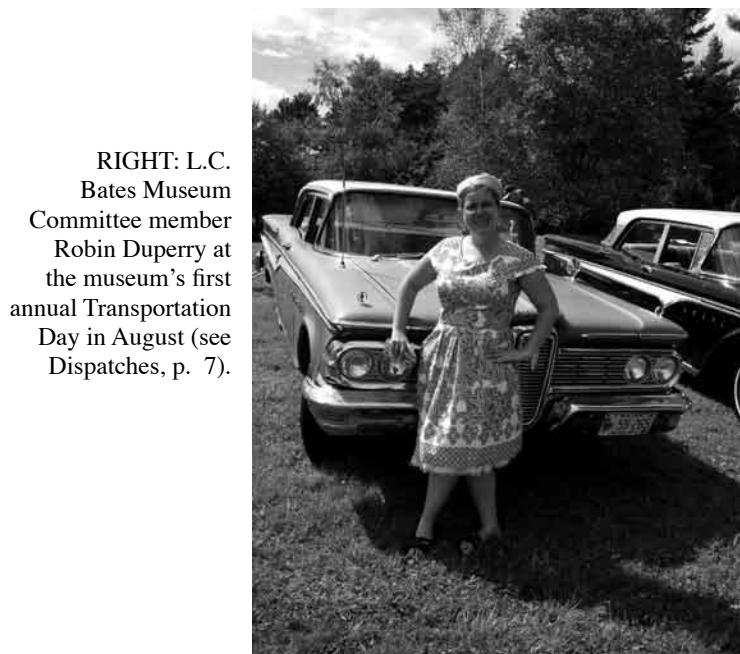
Ludden, a former public radio journalist and graduate of Western Kentucky University's intercultural and Folk Studies program, is joined in the venture by Molly Graham, of Portland, Maine. Graham is a professional oral historian and archivist. She graduated from the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies and holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston. Ludden has most recently conducted interviews among workers at the nation's last sardine packing plant in Prospect Harbor, Maine, and Graham recently served as oral historian for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

For more information, or to contact OHFR, Inc, visit oralhistoryandfolklife.org, e-mail kjludden@roadrunner.com, or call 207-458-1377.

SEEN & HEARD



LEFT:
George Neptune,
Passamaquoddy,
lashes bark to the
frame of a traditional
birchbark canoe
created at the
Abbe Museum this
past summer. See
Dispatches, p. 7.



RIGHT: L.C.
Bates Museum
Committee member
Robin Duperry at
the museum's first
annual Transportation
Day in August (see
Dispatches, p. 7).



LEFT: Campers at one of
the L.C. Bates Museum's
six week-long summer
day camps focusing
on nature, art and/or
astronomy for young
children.



ABOVE & BELOW: From the latest in robotics and brain-wave technology to the simplicity of hammers and nails, Museum L-A's second annual Lewiston-Auburn Mini Maker Faire on Sept. 28 offered hundreds of people of all ages the opportunity to experience Maine's creativity, ingenuity and innovation.



BELOW: Bruce Buxton was the volunteer auctioneer for the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society's Box Lunch Social Fundraiser, which was held in August at the beautiful Brewster Mansion in Buxton and hosted by Sandy and Beverly Atkinson.



OPPORTUNITIES

NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Who Cares: Why Museums are More Important Now than Ever

November 13-15, Newport, Rhode Island NEMA's 55+ conference sessions this year are the best of the best—loaded with strategies, tips, and techniques for every type of museum and museum professional: directors/trustees, collections, administration/management, exhibitions, marketing/development, facilities, academic, and more. Plus, this year NEMA offers a special focus on museum education, with an intensive track of more than 16 sessions covering a wide variety of trends and issues. FMI: www.nemanet.org. ALSO: Are you going? Want to carpool? Contact MAM's President, Jessica Routhier, at jrouthier@maine.rr.com.

NEW GRANT PROGRAM AT THE IMLS!

The Sparks! Ignition Grant program is a special funding opportunity within the IMLS National Leadership Grant program, which supports projects that address problems, challenges, or needs of broad relevance to museums and libraries. These small grants encourage organizations to prototype and evaluate specific innovations in the ways they operate and the services they provide resulting in new tools, products, services, or organizational practices. You may propose activities or approaches that involve risk, as long as the project results—be they success, failure, or a combination thereof—offer valuable information to the museum field and the potential for improvement in the ways museums serve their communities. Grants are between \$10,000 and \$25,000 with no cost-sharing requirements. Deadline is December 2, 2013. FMI: www.imls.gov.

PRESERVATION TRAINING AT NEDCC

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) offers convenient and affordable preservation training programs, including new one-hour webinars called "Brown Bag Sessions" on topics such as care and handling of photographs, metadata

standards, and digitizing personal collections (This one is FREE for Preservation Week 2014!) NEDCC's 2-hour webinars delve deeper into more complex topics such as mold outbreaks, copyright for digital projects, and preserving your digital portfolio. (Don't miss the FREE webinar on writing your NEH Preservation Assistance Grant, Feb 18, 2014.) Hands-on workshops take place at the Center in Andover, Massachusetts, as well as at locations including New England historical societies and other venues. FMI: www.nedcc.org or contact Jessica Bitely, jbitely@nedcc.org, 978-470-1010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MAINE ASSOCIATION OF NON-PROFITS

SkillBuilder workshops, designed in partnership with experienced professionals from both the private and nonprofit sectors, provide participants with the tools, knowledge and practical skills they need to make meaningful contributions to their organizations and the nonprofit community. For more information or to register, visit www.nonprofitmaine.org.

Facilitative Leadership

Wednesday, November 13
9 a.m. to noon

Presenter:

Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions

Cost:

MANP Member: \$50 • NonMember: \$100

Iris Network
189 Park Avenue, Portland

Strategic Planning: A Must in Turbulent Times

Wednesday, November 20
9 a.m. to noon

Presenter:

Gary Stern

Stern Consulting International

Cost:

MANP Member: \$50 • NonMember: \$100

Iris Network
189 Park Avenue, Portland

Project Budgets for Grant Proposals: From Planning to Reporting

Wednesday, December 4

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Presenter:

Bill Bayreuther, CFRE

Cost:

MANP Members: \$80 • NonMembers: \$160

Iris Network
189 Park Avenue, Portland

Volunteer Recruitment + Management: Building a Support Network

for a Good Cause

Tuesday, December 10

9 a.m. to noon

Presenter:

Barbara Kates, consultant

Cost:

\$50 MANP Members • \$100 NonMembers

Buker Community Center
22 Armory Street, Augusta, ME 04330

Your Board Members as Messengers: Selecting and Training Powerful Ambassadors

Wednesday, December 11
9 a.m. to noon

Presenter:

Stephanie Cotsirilos

of Starboard Leadership Consulting

Cost:

MANP Member: \$50 • NonMember: \$100

United Way of Greater Portland,
One Canal Plaza, Ste. 300, Portland

CENTRAL KENNEBEC HERITAGE COUNCIL

The Central Kennebec Heritage Council will meet at the Fairfield History House on Thursday, December 19, at 9 a.m. The Council is a consortium of museums and historical societies in the central Kennebec region. The Fairfield History House is located at 42 High Street, Fairfield. FMI: www.fairfieldmehistoricalssociety.net / 207-453-2998. •

Please also see p. 8 for information about the *Local and Legendary Civil War* grant initiative offered by the Maine Historical Society and Maine Humanities Council in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Maine Civil War Trail Continues!

As they say, it's not over until it's over! In an effort to remember and honor Mainers' contributions to the Civil War, 23 museums and historical societies in Maine collaborated to create the Maine Civil War Trail in 2013. From Kennebunk along the coast to Castine, inland to Bangor, Livermore, and Augusta, to the western lakes and mountains, each partnering organization mounted a special Civil War-themed exhibit this year and offered a variety of Civil War-related programs to complement the Trail exhibits. And there is still time to be part of it, including a chance to see the Pejepscot Historical Society's newly-discovered Joshua L. Chamberlain Medal of Honor (see p. 1).

The Trail was organized by Fifth Maine Regiment Museum Curator Kim MacIsaac* with assistance from Charlie Burden, who organized the Maine Folk Art Trail in 2008. It is supported by generous grants from the Davis Family Foundation, Maine Community Foundation's Community Building Fund, the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, Daughters of Union Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans, Third Maine Infantry, Fifth Maine Regiment Museum, and many private donations. FMI: www.maineCivilWarTrail.org.



Sharpshooter
by Winslow Homer

John Haley's Civil War

*Exhibition at the
Dyer Library and Saco Museum
through November 10*

Do not miss the last days of this must-see Civil War exhibition at the Saco Museum! *John Haley's Civil War*, a collaboration between the University of New England's department of History and the Saco Museum, chronicles Saco native John Haley's experience in the Civil War from 1862-1865. The exhibition features words written by John Haley and displays his handwritten

Civil War journals. In 1892, Haley became the second librarian of the Dyer Library, a position he held for the next 22 years of his life. This exhibition was funded, in part, by a major grant from the Maine Humanities Council. FMI: www.sacomuseum.org / 207-283-3861.

Winslow Homer's Civil War

*Exhibition at the
Portland Museum of Art
through December 8*

In conjunction with the Maine Civil War Trail, the Portland Museum of Art presents an exhibition of Winslow Homer's wood engravings drawn from its permanent collection. Widely regarded as one of America's greatest artists, Winslow Homer first gained national recognition for images of the Civil War that he produced for the popular magazine *Harper's Weekly*. As an artist-correspondent "embedded" with Union troops, he humanized the conflict with pictures that examined soldiers' daily life in camp and the war's impact on women and the home front. This exhibition showcases Homer's unique vision of modern warfare and keen eye for social commentary. Funded in part by the Maine Humanities Council. Corporate sponsorship is provided by TD Bank and media support is provided by WCSH 6 and *Down East* magazine. FMI: www.portlandmuseum.org / 207-775-6148.

In the Field & On the Homefront: Bethel During the Civil War

*Exhibition at the
Bethel Historical Society
Ongoing*

In response to numerous requests, the Bethel Historical Society's will extend its exhibition, *In the Field & On the Homefront:*



Civil War
exhibit at
the Bethel
Historical
Society's
Robinson
House

Bethel During the Civil War, through 2014. Located on the first floor of the Society's Robinson House, the display honors the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and is the Society's contribution to the Maine Civil War Trail project. Using rarely seen artifacts and images from the organization's permanent collection, as well as items loaned by BHS members and friends, the exhibit explores the effects—profound and poignant—of the Civil War on the western Maine town of Bethel, once known as "the Athens of Oxford County." Although the war years resulted in the loss of many of Bethel's loyal sons, they also witnessed the town's development as an important inland Maine center of commerce, industry and tourism. The Bethel Historical Society is located at 10 Broad Street, Bethel. FMI: (207) 824-2908 / www.bethelhistorical.org.

Annual Meeting

*At the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society
November 2, 2013, 6:30 p.m.*

We will explore the many ways in which the Civil War impacted the communities of Buxton and Hollis. The program will include the transition from before to after the War, relying heavily on personal family experiences, oral and written histories, and pictures. Refreshments will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, hot mulled cider—and—HARD TACK! The Buxton-Hollis Historical Society is located at 100 Main St., Bar Mills, Buxton. FMI: 207-929-1684 (leave message) / <http://www.buxtonhollishistorical.org>.

Veteran's Day at the Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum

Special hours

November 8-10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pejepscot Historical Society in Brunswick will open its Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum for special Veterans Day Weekend hours November 8-10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with tours on the hour. The recently discovered Chamberlain Medal of Honor (see *A Man of Honor*, p. 1) will be on display. See www.pejepscothistorical.org for more details.

* On October 6, Kim MacIsaac announced her retirement from the Fifth Maine Regiment Museum after 20 years of service. Kim will continue to serve MAM as the Regional Representative for Portland and the Casco Bay Islands. Congrats and good luck to Kim as she begins this new chapter!

MAINE ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

Be a part of Maine Archives & Museums!

Maine Archives & Museums (MAM) is the only professional association representing museums, archives, historical societies, and other collecting institutions in the state of Maine. Our purpose is to develop and foster a network of citizens and institutions in Maine who identify, collect, interpret, and/or provide access to materials relating to history, living collections, and culture.

Our vital services to Maine's cultural community include:

- Quarterly newsletter, in print and on-line
- Annual Conference
- Annual professional development workshops through the state
- Listings on our website
- Valuable member discounts on archival products at a variety of vendors
- Research and advocacy

Our members are Maine's collecting institutions (museums, libraries, historical societies, archives) as well as students, volunteers, paid and unpaid professionals, other cultural organizations, affiliated businesses, and the inter-

ested public. The support and participation of our members enable MAM to provide ever-expanding services to Maine's community of collecting institutions. By working together, we strengthen our collective resources and realize our shared mission.

Membership Categories and Dues

All members receive:

- **Quarterly newsletter sent by mail**
- **Reduced rate for MAM conferences & workshops**
- **Member rate for ads in MAM's newsletter**
- **Discounts at Gaylord, Brodart, and University Products (e-mail MAM for information)**
- **Free event and job listings in MAM's newsletter and on MAM's website**
- **Regular e-mail updates from MAM**

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Annual budget \$15,000 or less	\$25
Annual budget \$15,001 – \$50,000	\$40
Annual budget \$50,001 – \$100,000	\$50
Annual budget \$100,001 – \$500,000	\$75
Annual budget over \$500,000	\$150

Additional benefits for Institutional members:

- Member rate for *all* staff and volunteers to attend MAM conferences and workshops
- One free listing on "Find a Museum/Archive" feature on MAM's website
- E-mail updates from MAM delivered directly to up to four institutional e-mail addresses

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Consultant (single-member firm)	\$25
Partnership (two-member firm)	\$40
Corporate (multiple employees)	\$75

Additional benefits for Business members:

- Member rate for *all* staff to attend MAM conferences and workshops
- One highlighted listing on "Service Provider" feature on MAM's website
- E-mail updates from MAM delivered directly to up to four company e-mail addresses

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Basic/Student*	\$25
Patron	\$75
Benefactor	\$150

Additional benefits for Individual members:

- Member rate to attend MAM conferences and workshops (one reduced rate with Basic membership, unlimited for Patron and Benefactor)

Member Information

Membership Type (See Membership Categories & Dues section; please check one):

- Institutional (for non-profit, collecting organizations)
 Business (for commercial or for-profit businesses that support the field)*
 Individual (for individuals **not** representing a non-profit, collecting organization)

Check one: New member Renewing member

Which membership is right for me? MAM encourages all organizations to become Institutional members because it provides benefits for the organization as well as staff and volunteers; dues are based on the organization's annual operating budget. MAM welcomes individual memberships for those who wish to join as an individual in addition to their organization's membership or for those unaffiliated with an institution and not serving as paid consultants.

Contact Name _____ Contact E-mail _____

For Institutional and Corporate Members

You may provide e-mail address for up to three staff/volunteers (in addition to the contact listed above) to receive on-line communications directly from MAM.

Institution/Business/School (NOTE: all student membership applications must be accompanied by a copy of a valid Student I.D.)

Mailing Address _____

City/Town, State, Zip _____

(_____) Contact Phone _____

Website _____

Membership Category: _____ **Dues enclosed \$** _____

Example categories: **Institutional under 15K, Corporate, Patron** (see Membership Categories & Dues section)

Please make your check payable to Maine Archives & Museums and mail with this form to MAM, PO Box 46, Cumberland Center, ME 04021, or register on-line and pay with a credit card at www.mainemuseums.org.

Business Members: Please select up to three categories for the "Service Provider" feature on our website.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Educational Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources/Pensions/ Retirement | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Design, Fabrication & Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and Public Relations | | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/Development Consulting |
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What's your specialty? Check up to 10 boxes below for your listing in the Find a Museum/Active search feature on www.mainemuseums.org.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Living History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> Local History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> Logging or Lumber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archive | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College & University | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register of Historic Places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic History | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire/Police | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Reenactments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forts | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic House | <input type="checkbox"/> Shakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
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Maine State Museum Wins Two National Awards for *Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives* Exhibition

by Sheila McDonald

On September 20, 2013, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) presented the Maine State Museum with two prestigious awards for its recent exhibition project, *Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives*. Maine State Museum Director Bernard Fishman accepted the awards on behalf of the Maine State Museum at the annual AASLH national conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Maine State Museum in Augusta was one of 88 recipients nationwide to receive an Award of Merit in the AASLH Leadership in History Award program. Now in its 67th year, the Leadership in History Award program is the nation's most distinguished recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

In addition to the Award of Merit, the AASLH Leadership in History awards committee selected the Maine State Museum to receive a 2013 History in Progress award. Given entirely at the discretion of the awards committee, the History in Progress award is an additional distinction for an Award of Merit winner whose nomination is recognized as highly inspirational, shows exceptional scholarship, or is outstanding in terms of funding, forming partnerships or collaborations, providing creative problem solving, or displaying unusual project design and



inclusiveness. Only five History in Progress awards were given among the 88 Award of Merit winners this year.

"We are honored to receive these awards for our *Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives* project," commented Museum Director Bernard Fishman. "A particular point of pride for us is the special History in Progress distinction. The museum assumed some risk in taking on the difficult story of the Malaga Island community. Presenting that dramatic and heart-rending episode in Maine's history through our exhibit and related programming was a real departure from past public programs here at the museum. The special nature of the award and the significant popularity of the exhibition remind us that we were right to take that risk, and that the new dimensions and values expressed by the exhibit should help inform our future work."

Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives was a one-year exhibition that closed at the Maine State Museum on May 25, 2013. The exhibition's historical photographs, artifacts, and documents told the story of the poor, mixed-race, sometimes controversial community that lived on the 42-acre island off the Phippsburg mainland. The exhibition also presented information about the most notorious event in the island's history, which occurred in 1912 when, amid pressures of economic change and contemporary ideas about social reform, the State of Maine evicted Malaga Island's residents from their homes.

Although the museum's *Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives* exhibition is no longer on view, in-depth educational material about the story of the Malaga Island community remains available on the museum's website, www.mainestatemuseum.org, for free use by teachers, students and the general public.

A beautifully illustrated publication, *Malaga Island, Fragmented Lives*, by exhibition curator Kate McBrien, also continues to be available at the Maine State Museum Store. The store is open during regular museum hours or can be reached at 207-287-2938.

Sheila McDonald is the Deputy Director of the Maine State Museum. •