

# Bicentennial Boot Camp!



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MAM Annual Meeting  
November 10, 2017



Maine became the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
U.S. state

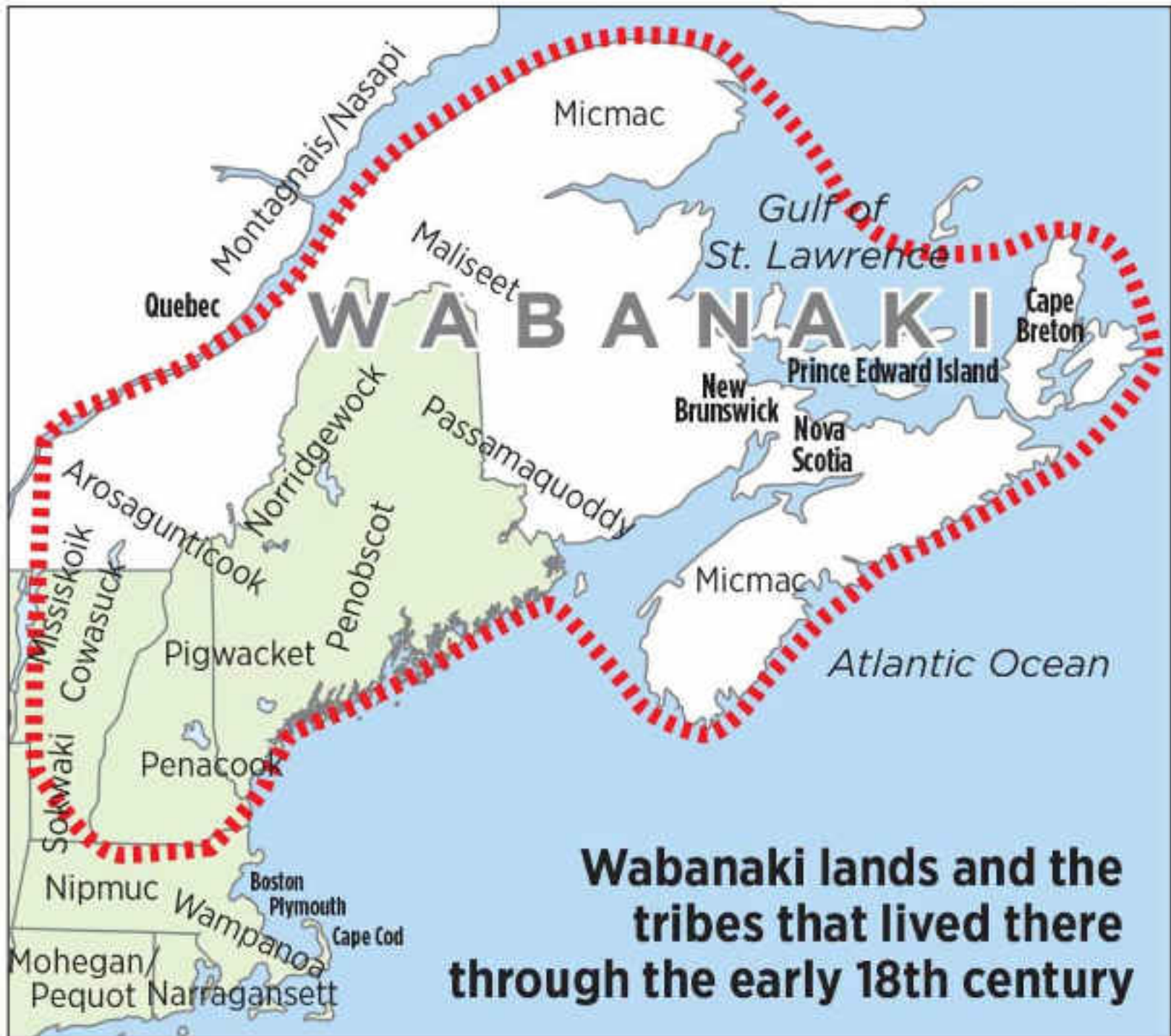
March 15, 1820

Moses Greenleaf, map (1820)

Online exhibit,

“Maine’s Greatest Mapmaker,”

Osher Map Library, USM

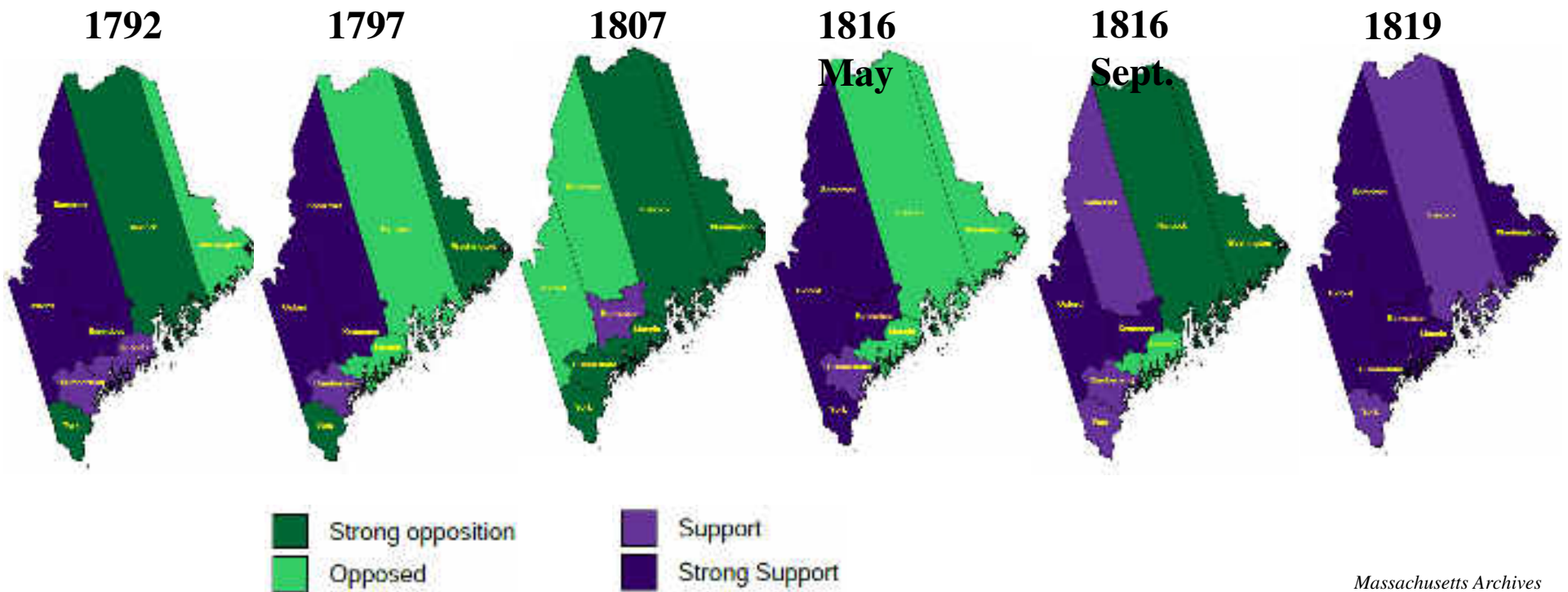


1) Were there “two Maines” even before statehood?



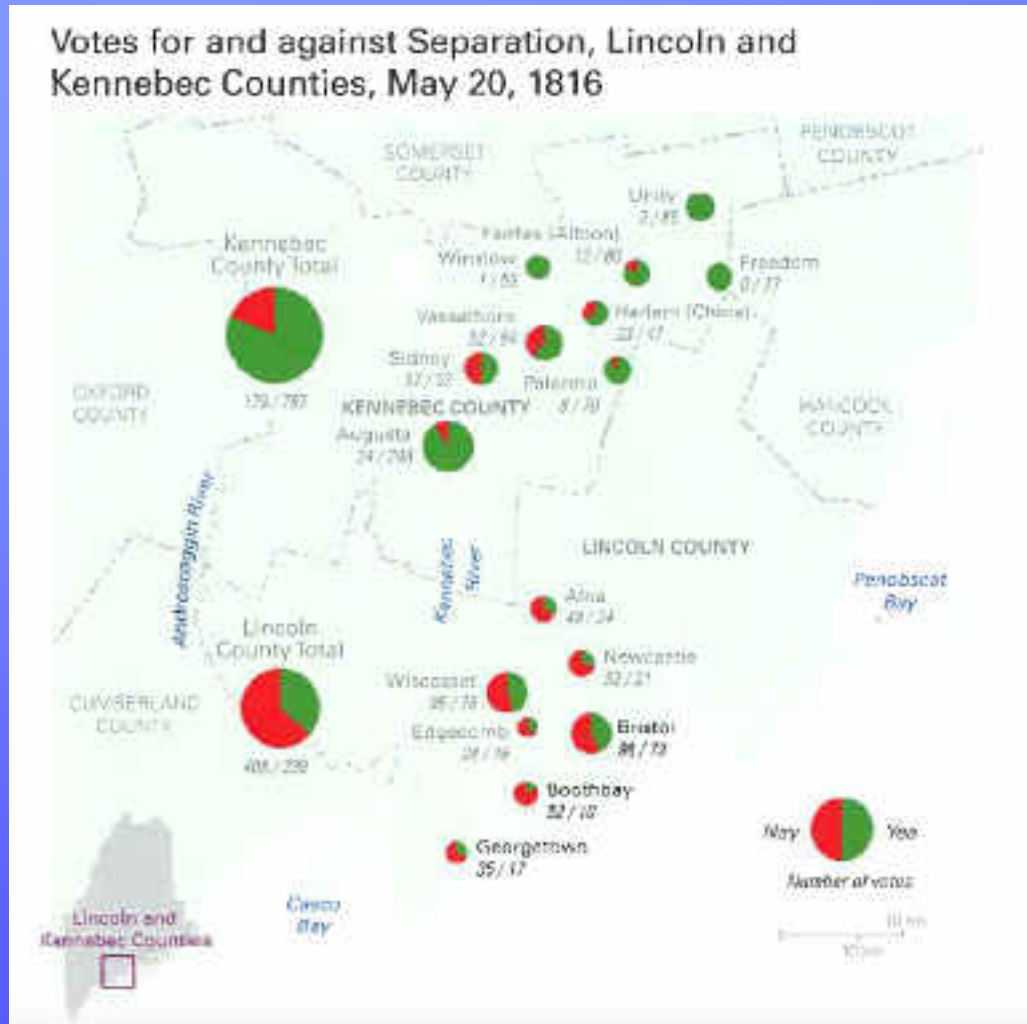
# Six Maine Separation Elections, 1792-1819

## County-Level Voting Data



Massachusetts Archives  
Massachusetts Legislative Documents  
Portland Gazette  
Bangor Register

Votes for and against Separation, Lincoln and Kennebec Counties, May 20, 1816

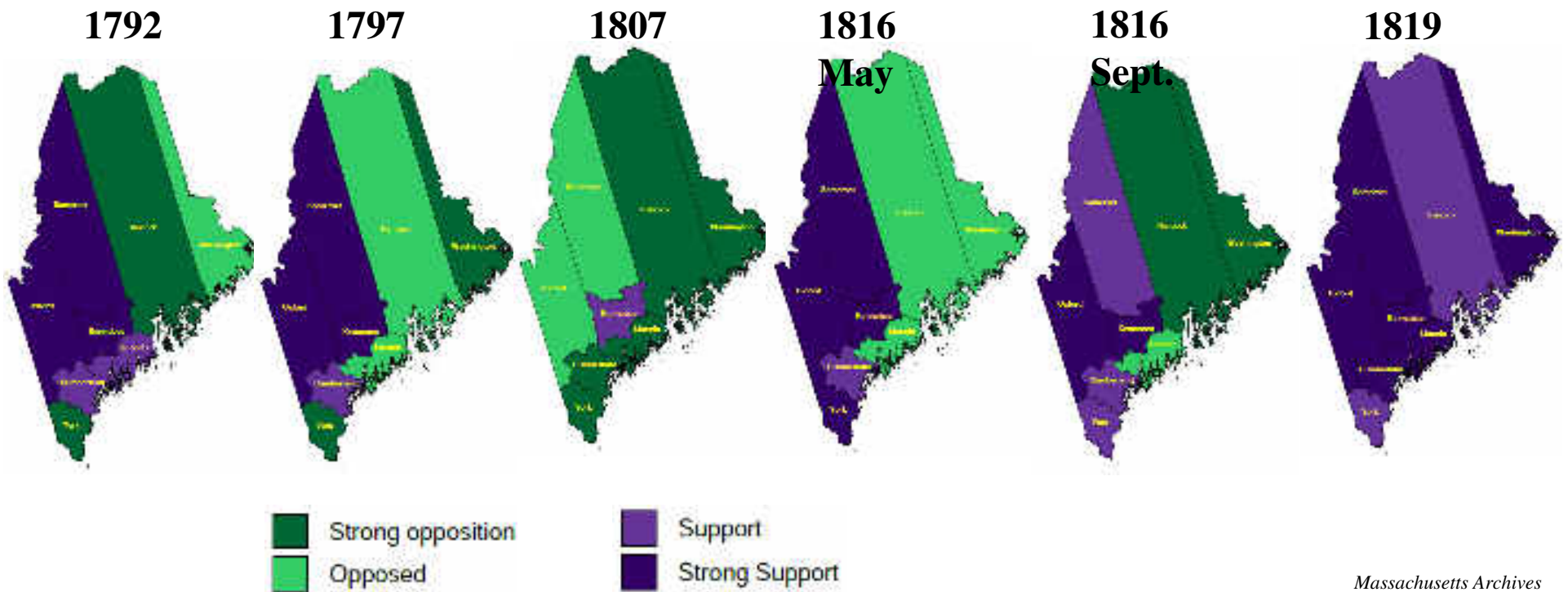


# May 1816 Vote Lincoln and Kennebec Counties

*Historical Atlas of Maine, plate 20 (detail)*

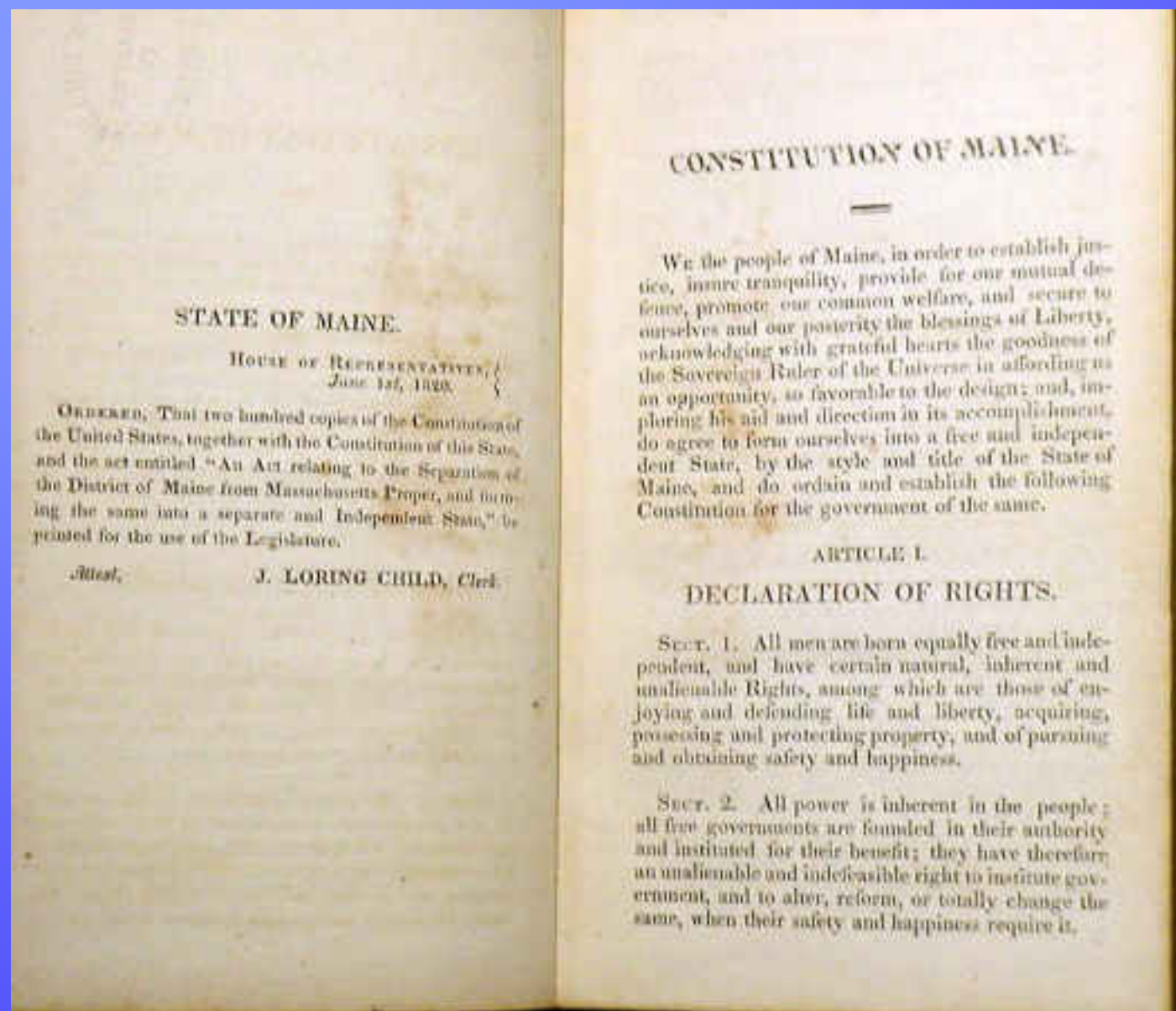
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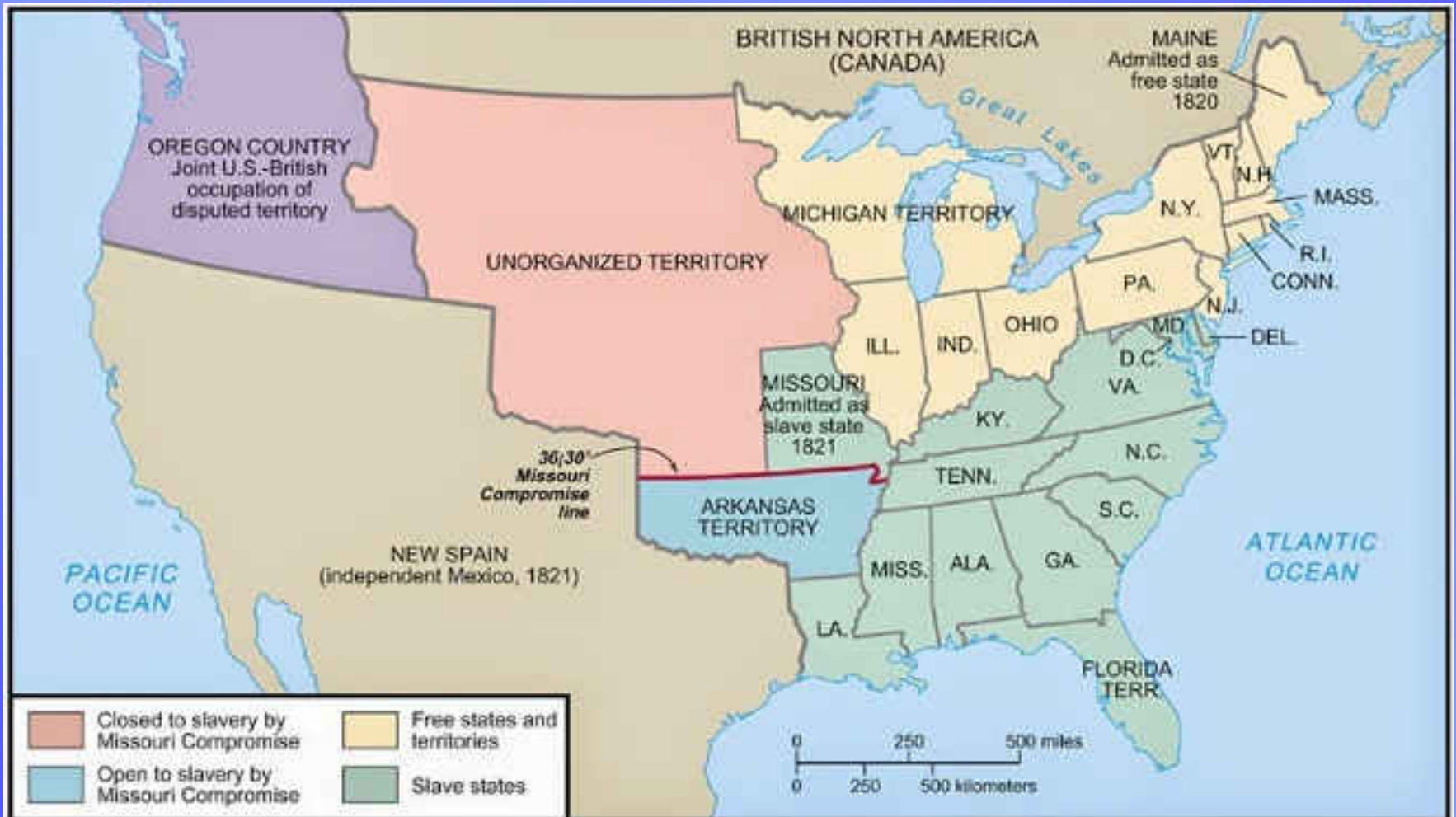
Massachusetts Archives  
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# Maine State Constitution, 1819-20





## 2) Slavery and Maine? National Crisis, 1819-1821



**THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE, 1820-1821**

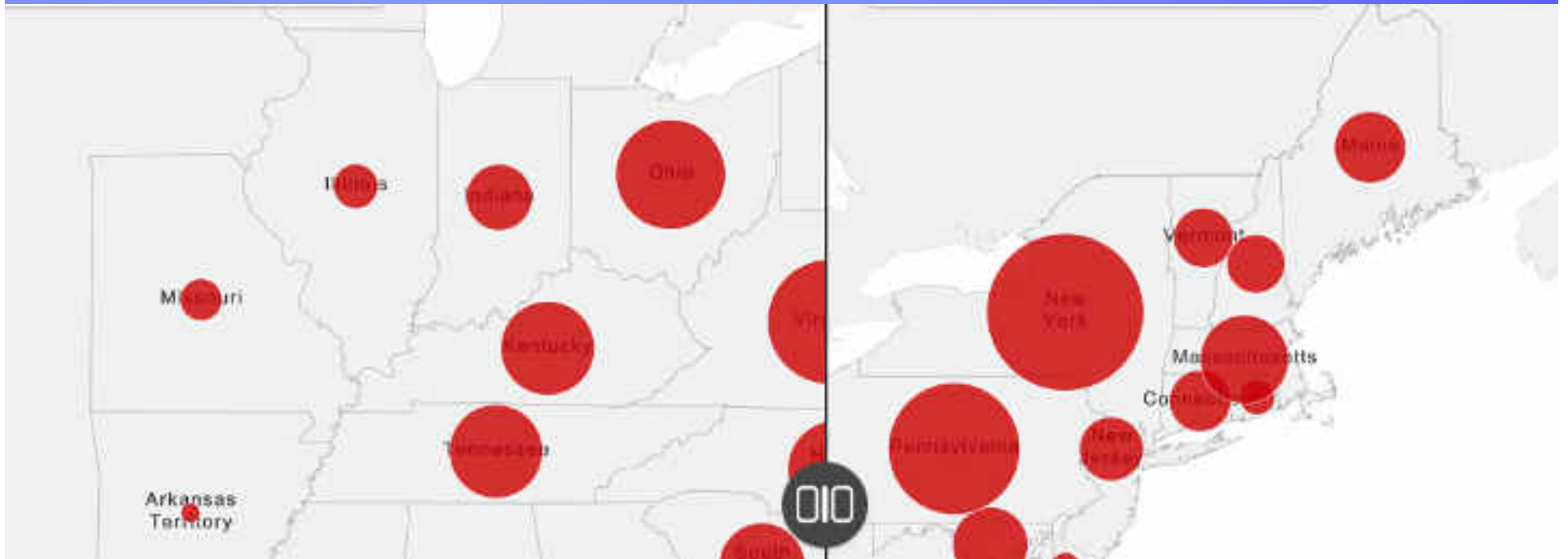
Thomas Jefferson to  
US Congressman  
John Holmes of  
Alfred, Maine,  
April 22, 1820

Monticello 16 Apr. 20 (197)

I thank you Dear Sir for the copy you have been so kind  
as to send me of the letter to your constituents on the Missouri question. It  
is a perfect justification to them. I had for a long time ceased to read  
newspapers or pay any attention to public affairs, confident they were  
in good hands, and content to be a passenger in our boat to the shore for  
which I am not distant. but this momentous question, like a fire bell in the  
night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as  
the knell of the Union. it is truer indeed for the moment, but this is a  
republic only, not a final sentence, a geographical line, coinciding with  
a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up  
to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new violation  
will mark it deeper and deeper. I can say with conscious truth that there is  
not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would to relieve us from  
this heavy oppression, in any practicable way. therefore of that kind of pro-  
-perty, for so it is misnamed, is a bagatelle which would not cost us a second  
thought, if, in that way a general emancipation and expatriation could be  
effected; and, gradually, and with due sacrifices, I think it might be. but  
it is we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely  
let him go. justice is in one scale, and self preservation in the other. if one  
thing I am certain, that as the passage of slaves from one state to another  
would not make a slave of a single human being who could not be without it,  
so their diffusion over a greater surface would in be their individually happier  
and proportionally facilitate the accomplishment of their emancipation by  
dividing the burden on a greater number of co-adjutors. an objection too  
from this act of power would remove the jealousy excited by the undertaking  
of Congress to regulate the condition of the different descriptions of man com-  
-posing a state. this certainly is the exclusive right of every state which nothing

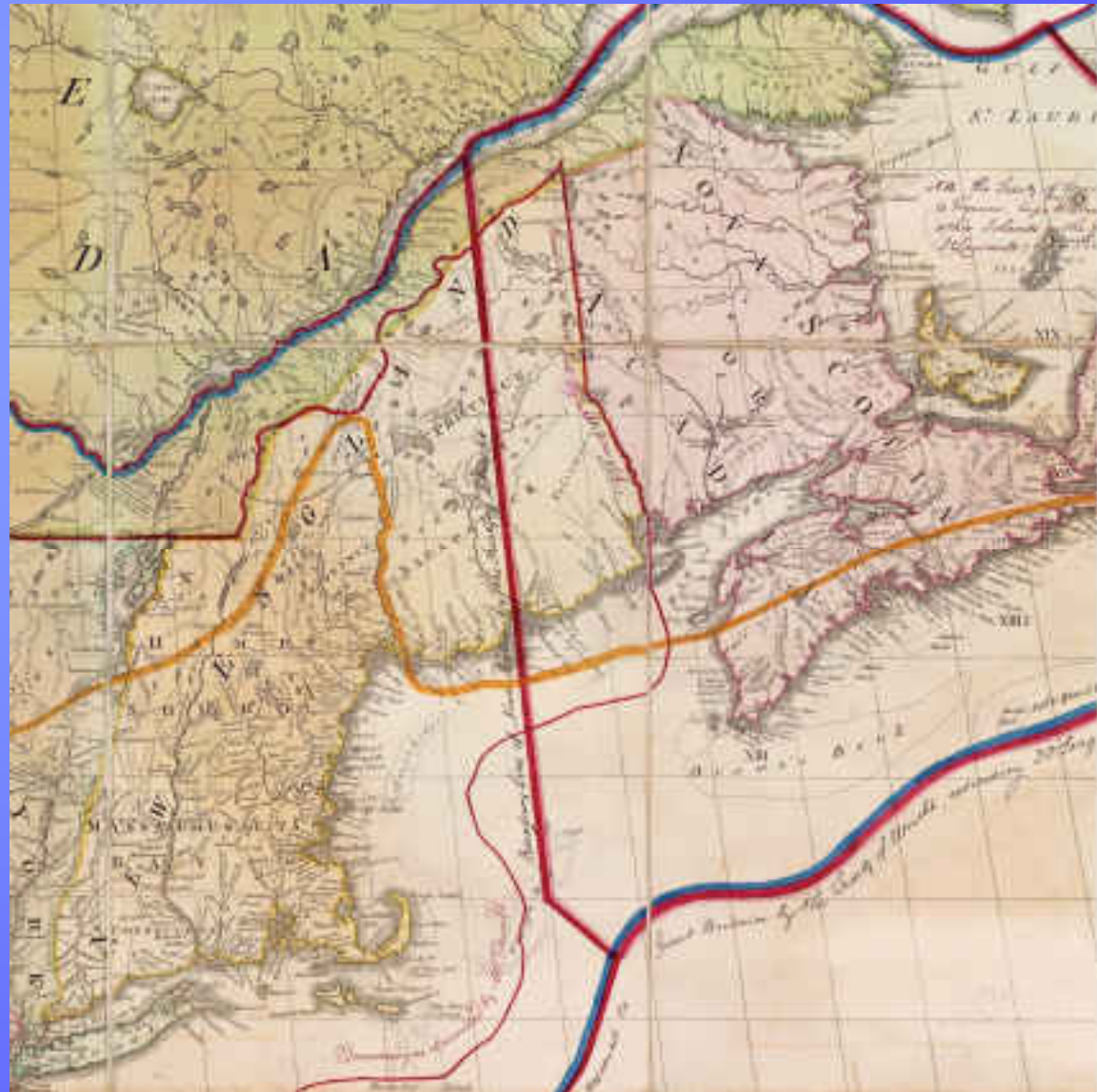
31720 John Holmes esq.

# Comparing Maine & Missouri: State Populations in 1830



### 3) Where to Draw the Border?

Mitchell Map  
(4<sup>th</sup> ed, 1775)  
Treaty of Paris  
1783



# International Uncertainty & Local Turmoil

Boundary Claimed  
by the United States,  
1821–1842



Boundary Claimed by  
Great Britain,  
1821–1842



Boundary Proposed by  
King of Netherlands,  
1831



Boundary of Webster-  
Ashburton Treaty,  
1842



*Historical Atlas of Maine, plate 21 (detail)*

4) What did statehood mean for Wabanaki sovereignty?



# Tribal Diplomacy and Politics



*Historical Atlas of Maine, plate 23 (detail)*

# Wabanaki Political Rights



- Tribal representatives, 1820-2015
- federal voting rights, 1924
- Maine implementation, 1953-1967

Lucy Nicolar: first Penobscot to vote in a federal election (1954)





# How should we commemorate the state bicentennial in 2019-20?

Download bicentennial resources at the  
UMaine Humanities Center website:  
[umaine.edu/mhc/me-bicentennial](http://umaine.edu/mhc/me-bicentennial)

email Liam  
[riordan@maine.edu](mailto:riordan@maine.edu)